

American activity obtained from the Spaniards, would go to France; for England, which has not the same means and which pays higher duties, could not supply those goods at so low a rate.

But should France, on the other hand, resolve to keep the island, a great proportion of the capitals of the commerce of New-Orleans, which are especially in the hands of the English and Americans, will naturally take the course which the United States shall fix, and that must be a rival place of commerce with New-Orleans, which being rid of the vexations consequent upon a military government, at a distance from the sovereign, will draw, in spite of all the disadvantages of its situation, the whole commerce of which the other is at this day the centre.

The boundaries established between Spain and the United States, and very lately between the English and Spanish possessions, have deprived the inhabitants of Louisiana of their share of the Fur trade, which it must be confessed was not, nor could ever be, very important, as the peltry of the South are of but little value, the few skins are of no importance to commerce, as may be seen in the tables of importation of New-Orleans. Goods are ever to be transported from the Mississippi in the United States, that way.

In these considerations I have kept no account of the pains, expences, and loss of men, which are inseparable from new settlements in a marshy country, and a burning climate; the invasion of Indians; the insurrection of slaves; the insubordination of the troops; the abuses committed by officers, remote from the sovereign's vigilant eye. All these inconveniences united, or only a few of them, are enough to stop an undertaking, and ruin a settlement. A ve-

ry important observation is, however, to be made, and that is of some weight. Many of those who will carry their families to Louisiana, observing that the lands are as cheap on the American side, will prefer settling there, even in time of peace; some, because they will prefer the government of that country, others by caprice, others through spite, or to rid themselves from a military government, such as that of Louisiana must necessarily be. That wish must be general in the case of a war between France and England, for admitting that the latter maintains her naval superiority (as I have already proved in another place she must, unless France changes her commercial system in order to establish it upon more liberal principles,) the mouth of the Mississippi will be blocked up, and the planters in the French colonies will be reduced to the greatest distress, while those of the United States, will derive from the war the greatest benefit.

Then it will be, that a great part of the capitals brought from France to Louisiana, will pass into the United States, where are found farms, already cleared, for one half of what it would have cost a French planter to clear his; because an American, familiarized from his infancy to the use of axe, has acquired a dexterity and a muscular strength which are never obtained by a man used to other business.

The experience of the past is wholly in support of these observations. Though settled for one century, Louisiana has never prospered under either the French or the Spanish government. And one half of the commerce of New-Orleans is now carried on with American capitals, under the guarantee of their treaty with Spain. As soon as the French will plant a rival colony, that commerce will be carried on in any other