

meant to be included in Louisiana. Besides there may still be a more natural reason, why the boundaries of Louisiana were not primarily more clearly pointed out, than an apprehension of the consequences arising from an illegal usurpation. The grant to Crozat was the effect of a chimerical imagination, and made at a time when the French were entirely ignorant of the nature and extent of the country they were about to settle, as will evidently appear from a slight inspection into the patent; and that they did not even mean to confine themselves to any particular boundaries as evidently appears from the reservations contained in it. And what renders the assertion less plausible and absurd is, that agreeable to the report of the commissaries after the treaty of Utrecht, the western frontier of Canada is limited by the river Utawawa, which falls into the river St. Laurence, near Montreal; and, even according to the modest limitation of French hydrographers *, it included only the great lakes. I will acknowledge the possession of Canada might secure our northern colonies of Nova Scotia, and New England; but, it is evident, at the first view, it could not in the least benefit the colonies of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, the two Carolinas, and Georgia.

Agreeable to a late calculation it appeared that the northern colonies of New England and New York, have very near as many inhabitants as all the southern colonies put together. We have likewise been told that the single province of New York has upwards of fifty forts to defend it against an enemy, and that it can muster as many combatants as all the southern colonies to-

* This is agreeable to Lahontan, and most of the French writers, &c. M. de Lisle bounds one part of Louisiana by Pennsylvania and New-York; and according to Le Lieur Louisiana may extend even to the North Pole.

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