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If the French thought it so well worth their while to fortify and cultivate, the barren colony of Canada, how much more pains will they take with Louisiana, where all their expence will be amply repaid by its vast fertility; and where a little indultry will have such great effects, as to render it one of the most important colonies in the world. The river St. Lawrence is froze up for near three quarters of the year; but Louisiana has many bays and mouths of rivers on the Gulph of Mexico, which are always open, and where capacious harbours may be made. In short, we cannot possibly form too high an idea of the vast importance of this country; and we shall undoubtedly in a few years (if we leave it in the hands of the French) repent our not insisting, that the first article of the peace should cede *all North-America* to Great-Britain. An attentive consideration of the late negotiation, will plainly tell us, that, had the French thought of making peace at all, we might have got such a cession made, instead of others less important to us. But even if their ministry had refused to agree to such an article at first, we should never have thought of making peace without it*.

And

* " — This was one of their great reasons for being so intent upon securing the Mississippi, and driving the Spaniards from about it at Pensacola in 1719, because they say, " This navigation to Louisiana, will further procure us a free (or forced) resort to the two famous ports of the Gulph of Mexico. Viz. the Havana and Vera Cruz." (*Second voyage of La Salle*, p. 188.) And we may see by the quantities of gold and other Spanish commodities, taken in their ships from the Mississippi in the last war, that they have not only found a way to the Spanish ports from thence already, but likewise to the mines of Mexico; to which they have an open road, and a secure trade commonly followed by them from the Mississippi. The French no sooner went to this river after the peace of Utrecht, than the first thing they attempted was this trade to the Spanish mines. For this purpose, they immediately sent a ship to Vera Cruz, and a convoy over land to the mines of St. Barbe. — It is but two hundred and eighty leagues from New Orleans to those mines; which is but a small way for the French to go for gold and silver, when they go so constantly all over North-America upwards of one thousand leagues for a few beaver skins — This is a grand object which the French have in view, which makes them so intent upon securing all those vast countries they call Louisiana; which not only leads to, but must command the adjacent mines of Mexico — It plainly appears from hence, as well as from all other accounts, that their views are not only the security of Canada, but of Louisiana, which must give them the command of the Spanish mines, whenever they find it proper and convenient; besides the whole trade and commerce of that continent in time. — This their settlement on the Mississippi, if not taken notice of, is likely to turn to as great an account to them in time, as they conceived it might in 1719. They are not only convenient here to go to the mines of Mexico to which they have a good road already opened by land, and begin to carry on a considerable trade there; but if they encrease and strengthen here, as they must soon do in so fine and extensive a country, while they have such a superior force adjoining to this in their islands, they must by means of these two so easily joined together, and constantly supporting one another, soon be able to reap all the profits of the Spanish treasures in America, if not to seize them; a thing that all Europe is concerned in surely, as well as Britain! — All those things have been meditated for many years, but they are now come to a crisis, and we must prevent them *now or never*. If the French have over-run all those countries, and made themselves

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