

be 600,000 livres. It is true, that if peace continue, and if, in opposition to expectation, the colony should prosper, the rich planters will make a great consumption of French goods, but that of the slaves will ever be very small, or their labor without profit, because, as I have already observed, being employed to cultivate articles which the islands can more easily supply for every demand, and the sale of which is confined, by increasing the quantity, they will only lessen the prices of those commodities which it is essential for France to keep high, because she possesses the most fertile islands. I know there is an opinion entertained by many, viz. That French goods, in their way to the Mississippi, will find a market in the western part of the United States. The most complete ignorance of the navigation of that river could alone have given rise to such an opinion, which is likewise grounded on the ignorance of the wants of the inhabitants. It is certain that the wines of France are not fit for climates as hot as those they must cross before they arrive in the Western States; that they are still less suited to the means and taste of the inhabitants, who are more accustomed to their own liquors such as cider, beer, whisky, and peach brandy, the latter, with time, becomes superior to the best French brandy; so that, instead of receiving those articles through Louisiana, they might themselves supply the colony with them. As to the articles of glass and earthen ware, they are made in every part of the Western States, where the raw materials are every where found. The demands for China ware are small, but if they were large, French ware is too dear to hurt the sale of China.

Large iron works are also wrought on the spot, and English hard ware has so well-known a superiority over

the French, that the latter would certainly remain unsold, if both were exposed at market. The only articles which might, perhaps, be introduced into the country, would be silks, cambricks, and a few other articles of luxury. But even all these can never pass through the river Mississippi. The dangerous navigation of the Gulph, the long and extensive distance to go against the current, the large capitals of the English and American merchants at Philadelphia, and the great improvements which are made every day in the roads and inland navigation, will cause land carriage to be preferred as far as the Ohio, and other rivers, whence they are carried to the settlements, easily and cheaply. It is a well known fact, that dry goods have been carried from Philadelphia to New-Orleans by land, by that route in preference to sea carriage. It is, therefore, visionary to believe that goods from France will be carried that way; whilst the enterprising English, who have the right of navigating that river, and the prejudices of the Americans in favor of their manufactures, never attempted to introduce their goods that way, because they well know that they are more easily brought by Philadelphia and Baltimore. But should France be desirous of introducing, that way, more bulky articles into the Western States, and accustom the inhabitants to their wines and manufactures, it could only be by putting *New-Orleans into their hands, with the reserve, that it shall ever be a free port for French vessels and goods, without being subjected to any other duties, than those paid by the Americans.* By this means the American merchants, settled at New-Orleans, may be interested in their commerce; instead of going to England, their capitals will go to France; the latter will have all the advantages of a colony without the expence of supporting it, and the money, which