

and slaves, which they then sold to the settlers; these last sold the peltries again to the Spaniards at Pensacola, or the vessels which occasionally came from France, and they employed these slaves in clearing the ground, or sawing planks, for which they found a market sometimes at Pensacola, more frequently at Martinique or St. Domingo. They obtained from these colonies in exchange, sugar, tobacco, cacao and French goods when there had been a long delay in receiving them direct. 1716-25.

They also carried to Pensacola, where the Spaniards had cleared no land, vegetables, Indian corn, poultry, and in general, all the products of their industry which their less ingenious and less laborious neighbors needed. All this brought in a little money, with which they purchased what they were obliged to obtain from abroad: it was not enough to enrich them, but they had quite an easy life. They had also learned that the country would produce tobacco, indigo, cotton and silk, but there were no hands for all these crops; there was no one in the colony who could aid them, or who thought of encouraging them; they did not even know the method of cultivating these plants.

Moreover, the colony was by no means solidly established, so that there was always a fear that the King would abandon it, and all the care and pains they might take would be lost. Many even retired elsewhere, and others remained only because they lacked means to go. It is astonishing that Mr. Crozat, when acquiring the domain of Louisiana with the exclusive right to trade for twenty-five years, did not inform himself of the real state of things, so as to form his plans on these necessary data: but it is quite ordinary on these occasions to distrust the very persons from whom the most correct information can be obtained, and whose experience fits them most to second a new enterprise. It is feared that they will sacrifice the new proprietary's interests to their own, and men do not reflect that the surest way to succeed in such affairs is to interest those who are most versed in it,