

1716-36. France without risking the loss of all the expenses of outfit. 2. That the English were coming very near the French, who cantoned on the Maubile River and Dauphin Island, where the lands are worthless, left open to the English all the banks of the Micissippi, where nothing prevented their settling, and then penetrating to New Mexico and New Biscay: this was a general complaint among intelligent persons. 3. That the indifference manifested in France for Louysiana was inexplicable. Mr. Crozat did not hesitate to aver that if the advantages to be derived from it were considered, there was no colony which it was more important for the state to preserve and extend. The maritime commerce, said he, is almost reduced to nothing. Yet it is only by the voyages of merchantmen in time of peace that sailors are formed, whom the King can employ in his naval forces when war is declared. Hence it is, as a general thing, important to extend navigation, and by the different settlements which might be made in Louysiana, there is hope, if the work is seriously begun, that the commerce of that country will in a few years employ a considerable number of ships. So well are the English convinced of the importance of the Louysiana colony, that it is only necessary to ask the Marshal d'Uxelles what he heard them say at Utrecht about our settlement on the Micissippi. Their conduct since that time justifies day by day what the memoir put forward on this point. 4. And this is Crozat's worst complaint, and at the same time his reply to the objections made him that after undertaking with the King to colonize Louysiana and establish there all kinds of trade, of which he admitted it was capable, it was nevertheless in a worse condition than when he took control of it. He complained that they had refused to register his Letters Patent in the Council of that province; that all parties opposed it, and that this opposition was fomented by the officers, accustomed to trade with the Spaniards.¹

It was apparently in the endeavor to bring the troops to

¹ Dumont, *Memoires Historiques*, ii., pp. 6-7.