

previous establishments that at present they can hardly be taken into account without, however, their being despaired of for ever.

I think the Fur trade carried on there is one of the least advantageous in Canada, but I do not know this for certain.

I place the hope of obtaining buffalo hides from there on the same footing as the expectations from the mines, at the most.

I consider it very necessary that Louisiana be placed in a position to procure flour and other necessaries of life from places nearer than illinois.

Finally, I think that for a very long time to come illinois will yield no real revenue to the King nor considerable fortune to private individuals, but, on the contrary, it will cost the King a good deal to have that country settled.

But I am very far from concluding from all this that that little colony should be dropped; I think on the contrary that the King should sacrifice something to maintain it:

*Firstly*, so as not to lose what has already been put in it;

*Secondly*, because it is one of the best placed barriers that can be opposed to the ambition of the English to prevent their penetrating into our trading countries and even into Mexico;

*Thirdly*, because if that country were well settled it would make us formidable to all the nations in the lower part of the Mississippi river;

*Fourthly*. because bread, meat, and other produce will attract Savages there whose alliance and trade will be of use to us;

*Fifthly*, If, in this war for instance, there had been in the illinois country 400 or 500 men capable of bearing arms, not only would our small posts of Ouabache and other places not have been disturbed, but we should have led into the heart of the finest English Colonies the very nations that have attacked us.

And with reference to this it is proper to observe that we must not flatter ourselves that our Colonies of the interior, especially that of Louisiana can ever be on a par as regards wealth with the neighboring English Colonies, or even carry on any very lucrative trade, because—with the exception of furs whose quantity is limited, and the profits on which will decrease more and