

I also Think (and it is quite apparent) that, as it is Situated on the banks of the Mississippi river, this argument of convenience had some weight in the arrangement made by the Court in that respect. In any case if the Settlement deserves any Consideration, it owes it entirely to this change of arrangement. Until then, owing to its being too far from Canada to receive the necessary aid from it, it had remained in a State of languor verging on ruin, and it has acquired vigor solely through its direct relations with New Orleans since 1717. It is true that at the first Glance this Consideration does not seem calculated to raise an obstacle to the execution of the project in question, but it proves at least that—inasmuch as in consequence of the situation of the Illinois country Communication between it and Louisiana is beyond Comparison much easier than with Canada—it is also more advantageous to it and even absolutely necessary for the Successful carrying on of its Trade. The same reasons as regards utility and Convenience that had induced His Majesty to incorporate Illinois in the Government of Louisiana in order to help the Company, still exist in favor of that Colony, And although it may appear a matter of indifference to the State whether the Trade of the Upper country should Flow to Canada or here, it is nevertheless Certain that the alternative cannot be a matter of indifference to Louisiana. As it is more sparsely settled and its Trade is far less considerable than that of Canada, it is more necessary for it to take advantage of all the branches that can Contribute to its productivity. Moreover it is in a better position to gather the fruits of the chief objects that maintain the Trade of the post in the Illinois country, and that can in nowise Suit Canada owing to the length of the Road (it is Estimtaed to be over 800 Leagues) and to the various portages on that route which would make their conveyance impracticable. I refer to the heavy furs only, because flour which is a great resource to us here could have no outlet on the other Side. Now it must be observed that those two articles Constitute nearly all the Trade that can be carried on with Illinois; Because the fine furs that are supposed in