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An Account of LOUISIANA.

(Continued.)

The Cabildo is an hereditary council of twelve, chosen originally from the most wealthy and respectable families. The governor presides over their meetings. Their office is very honorable, but it is acquired by purchase. They have a right to represent, and even to remonstrate to the governor, in respect to the interior government of the province. The police of the city is under their controul and direction. In it they regulate the admission of physicians and surgeons to practice. Two members of the Cabildo serve by turn monthly, and take upon themselves the immediate superintendance of markets, bakers, streets, bridges, and the general police of the city. This council distributes among its members several important offices, such as Aguazil Mayor, or high sheriff, Alcalde Provincial, procureur general, &c. The last mentioned is a very important charge. The person who holds it is not merely the king's attorney, but an officer peculiar to the civil law. He does not always prosecute; but after conviction he indicates the punishment annexed by law to the crime, and which may be, and is mitigated by the court. Like the chancellor in the English system, he is the curator and protector of orphans, &c. and finally, he is the expounder of the law the defender of the privileges belonging to the town, province or colony, and the accuser of every public officer that infringes them.

The Cabildo is also vested with a species of judicial authority, for which, & for a further elucidation of its constitution, and the functions of the officers springing from it, see the Appendix No. 1.

The Intendant is chief of the departments of finance and commerce, and exercises the judicial powers already mentioned. He is entirely independent of the governor, and no public monies can be issued without his express order. The land office is under his direction.

The Contador, Treasurer and Interventor, are officers subordinate to the Intendant. The first has four clerks under him, and keeps all accounts and documents respecting the receipts and expenditure of the revenue, and is therefore a check upon the intendant. The treasurer is properly no more than a cashier, and is allowed one clerk. The Interventor superintends all public purchases, and bargains. The administrador is also subordinate to the intendant, and with a number of inferior officers, manages every thing respecting the custom house. Every clerk in these offices receives his commission from the king.

The Auditor is the king's counsel, who is to furnish the governor with legal advice in all cases of judicial proceedings, whether civil or military.

The assessor's functions are similar to those of the auditor, and are properly applicable to the intendant's department.

Both of the officers last mentioned are also the counsellors of some of the other tribunals, as before intimated.

A secretary of the government and another of the intendency.

A surveyor general.

A Harbour master.

A store keeper, who takes charge of all public moveable property.

An interpreter of the French and Spanish languages, and a number of other inferior officers.

All appointments in the province with a salary of more than thirty dollars per month are made by the king, and most of those with a lower salary by the governor or intendant as belongs to their respective departments. There are no officers chosen by the people.

The salaries and perquisites of the principal officers are as follows:

	p. salary	p. perquisites.
Governor annually,	6,000	2,000
Intendant,	4,000	none.
Auditor,	2,000	2,000
Contador,	2,000	none.
Assessor,	1,200	1,000
Treasurer,	1,200	none.
Administrador,	1,200	none.
Sec. of government,	600	2,000

The commandants of districts receive each 100 dollars from the king annually, unless they are possessed of a military employment or pension.

Taxes and duties.

Instead of paying local taxes, each inhabitant is bound to make and repair roads, bridges, and embankments through his own land.

A duty of six per cent. is payable at the custom house, on the transfer of shipping. It is ascertained upon the sum, the buyer and seller declare to be the [illegible] real consideration. As no oath is required from either, they seldom report more than half the price.

The following taxes are also payable in the Province.

Two per cent. on legacies and inheritances, coming from collaterals and exceeding 2,000 dollars.

Four per cent. on legacies, given to persons who are not relatives of the testator.

A tax on civil employments, the salaries of which exceed 300 dollars annually, called *media annata*, amounting to half of the first years's salary. By certain officers, it is to be paid in two annual instalments, and by others in four. The first person appointed to a newly created office pays nothing, but the tax is levied on all who succeed him.

Seven dollars is deducted from the sum of 20 paid as pilotage by every vessel entering or leaving the Mississippi; but the treasury provides the boats, and pays the salary of the pilots and sailors employed at the Balize. The remainder of the 20 dollars is thus distributed:— To the head pilot 4—to the pilot who is in the vessel 4, and 5 to the crew of the row-boat, that goes out to put the pilot on board, or take him ashore.

A tax of 40 dollars per annum for licences to sell liquors.

A tax on certain places when sold, such as those of Regidor, Notary, Attorney, &c.

But the principal tax is that of six per cent, levied on all imports and exports according to a low tariff. The proceeds of which nett about 120,000 dollars, whilst all the other taxes are said not to yeild more than 5 or 6000 dollars annually.

Expences and debt.

The expences of the present government, comprehending the pay and support of the regiment of Louisiana, part of a battalion of the regiment of Mexico, a company of dragoons, and one of artillery, which form the garrison of the country, including Mobille; the repairs of public buildings and fortifications; the maintenance of a few gallies to convey troops and stores throughout the province; Indian presents and salaries of officers, clergy, and persons employed for public purposes, amount to about 650,000 dollars. A sum in specie, which does not generally exceed 400,000 dollars is annually sent from Vera Cruz; but this, together with the amount of duties and taxes collected in the province, leaves usually a deficiency of one hundred or one hundred and fifty-thousand dollars, for which certificates are issued to the persons who may have furnished supplies or to officers and workmen for their salaries. Hence a debt has accumulated, which, it is said, amounts at present to about 450,000 dollars. It bears no interest, and is now depreciated 30 per cent. The latter circumstance has taken place not from want of confidence in the eventual payment of the certificates; but from the uncertainty of the time when, and the want and general value of specie. The whole of this debt is said to be due to the inhabitants, and to American residents. It would have been long since paid off, but for a diversion of the funds, destined for that purpose, to different and external objects.

Imports and Exports.

The productions of Louisiana are,—sugar, cotton, indigo, rice, furs and peltry; lumber, tar, pitch, lead, flour, horses and cattle. Population alone is wanting to multiply them to an astonishing degree. The soil is fertile, the climate salubrious, and the means of communication between most parts of the province certain, and by water.

The following has been received as a sketch of the present exports of Louisiana, viz.

	Dollars.	
20,000 bales cotton 3 cwt. each at 20 cents per lb.	1,344,000	increasing.
45,000 casks sugar 10 cwt. each, at 6 cents per lb.	302,400	ditto.
800 do. molasses, 100 gallons each.	32,000	ditto.
Indigo, - -	100,000	diminishing rapidly.
Peltry, -	200,000	
Lumber, - -	80,000	
Lead, corn, horses cattle, uncertain,	--	
All other articles, suppose,	100,000	
	2,158,000	

According to official returns in the treasury of the United States, there were imported into our territory from Louisiana and the Floridas, merchandise to the following amounts, in the several years prefixed:

	Dollars.
In 1799 to the value of	507,132
1800 - -	904,322
1801 -	956,635
1802 - -	1,006,214

According to the same authority, which makes the total of the exports to amount to 2,158,000 dollars, the imports, in merchandize, plantation utensils, slaves, &c. amount to two and an half millions, the difference being made up by the money introduced by the government, to pay the expences of governing and protecting the colony.

According to the returns in the treasury of the United States, exports have been made to Louisiana and the Floridas, to the following amount in the years prefixed:

In 1799 to the value of
3,056,268 in foreign articles.
447,824 in domestic do.

Dollars 3,504,092

In 1800 { 1,795,127 in foreign articles. 240,662 in domestic do.

Dollars 2,035,789

In 1801 { 1,770,794 in foreign articles. 137,204 in domestic do.

Dollars 1,907,998

In 1802 { 1,054,600 in foreign articles. 170,110 in domestic do.

Dollars 1,224,710

It is to be observed that if the total of the imports and exports into and from these provinces (of which the two Floridas are but a very unimportant part, with respect to both,) be as above supposed, viz.

Imports,	2,500,000 dollars
Exports,	2,158,000
Making together	4,658,000

The duty of six per cent. ought alone to produce the gross sum of two hundred seventy-nine thousand four hundred and eighty dollars, and that the difference between that sum and its actuals nett produce, arises partly from the imperfect tariff by which the value of merchandize is ascertained, but principally from the smuggling, which is openly countenanced by most of the revenue officers.

Manufactures.

There are but few domestic manufactures. The Acadians manufacture a little cotton into quilts and cottonades; and in the remote parts of the province the poorer planters spin and weave some negro cloths of cotton and wool mixed. There is one machine for spinning cotton in the parish of Iberville, and another in the Opelousas; but they do little or nothing. In the city, besides the trades which are absolutely necessary, there is a considerable manufacture of cordage, and some small ones of shot and hair-powder. There are likewise in, and within a few leagues of the town, twelve distilleries for making taffia, which are said to distil annually a very considerable quantity; and one sugar refinery, said to make about 200,000 pounds of loaf sugar.

Navigation Employed in the Trade of the Province.

In the year 1802 there entered the Mississippi two hundred and sixty-eight vessels of all descriptions, eighteen of which were public armed vessels, and the remainder merchantmen, as follows, viz.

	American.	Spanish.	French.
Ships,	48	14	
Brigs,	63	17	1
Polacres,	—	4	
Schooners,	50	61	
Sloops,	9	1	
Total	170	97	1

Of the number of American vessels, twenty three ships, twenty five brigs, nineteen schooners, and five sloops came in ballast, the remainder were wholly, or in part laden.

Five Spanish ships and seven schooners came in ballast. The united tonnage of all the shipping that entered the river, exclusive of the public armed vessels, was 33,725 register tons.

In the same year there sailed from the Mississippi two hundred and sixty-five sail, viz.

	American.	Tons.	Spanish.	Tons.
Ships,	40*	8,972	18	3,714
Brigs,	58	7,546	22*	1,944
Schr's.	52	4,346	58	3,747
Sloops,	8	519	3*	108
Polacres,	—	—	3*	240
	158	21,383	104	9,753

French.	Tons.	Total.		Tons.
Schr's. 3	105	Americans	158	21,383
—	—	Spanish	104	9,753
		French	3	105
		Grand total,	265	31,241

* One in ballast.

The tonnage of the vessels which went away in ballast, and that of the public armed ships, are not included in the foregoing account—these latter carried away masts, yards, spars, pitch, tar, &c. at least 1000 tons.

In the first six months of the present year, there entered the Mississippi 173 sail, of all nations, four of which were public armed vessels, viz. two French and two Spanish, whose tonnage is not enumerated.

	American.	Tons.	Spanish.	Tons.	French.	Tons.
Ships,	23	5,396	14	3,080	5	1,002
Brigs,	44	5,701	20	2,173	8	878
Polacres,			3	480	2	436
Schr's.	22	1,899	18	1,187	7	488
Sloops,	4	278	3	167		
Total,	93	13,264	58	7,087	22	2,804

Total of Ships.		*Total of Tons.*
American,	93	13,264
Spanish,	58	7,087
French,	22	2,804
Grand Total,	173	23,155

In the same six months there sailed from the Mississippi one hundred and fifty-six vessels, viz.

	American.	Spanish.	French.
Ships,	21	18	2
Brigs,	28	31	1
Polacres,	-	4	-
Schooners,	17	26	5
Sloops,	2	1	-
	68	80	8

Coasting Trade.

There is a considerable coasting trade from Pensacola, Mobille, and the Creeks and Rivers falling into, and in the neighbourhood of Lake Pontchartrain, from whence New-Orleans is principally supplied with ship timber, charcoal, lime, pitch, and tar, and partly with cattle, and the places before named are supplied with articles of foreign growth and produce in the same way from Orleans. The vessels employed are sloops and schooners, some of which are but half decked, from eight to fifty tons; five hundred of which, including their repeated voyages, and 13 gallies and gun boats entered the Bayou St. Jean last year. There is likewise a small coasting trade between the Atacapas and Opelousas, and New-Orleans, by way of the Balize, which would much increase, if there was any encouragement given by government, to clear away a few obstructions, chiefly caused by fallen timber, in the small rivers and creeks leading to them.

CONGRESS.

Debate in the SENATE, on the LOUISIANA TREATY.

Wednesday, November 2.

" *An act authorizing the creation of a stock, to the amount of eleven millions two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for the purpose of carrying into effect the Convention of the thirteenth of April,* 1803, *between the United States of America and the French Republic, and making provision for the payment of the same,*" under consideration.

On the question shall the bill pass:

Mr. WHITE, moved that the further consideration of the bill be postponed until the second Monday in December next, stating as the ground of the motion he had the honor to make, that the question was then involved in much difficulty and doubt—He could not accede to the immediate passage of the Bill—that by the day he had named the Senate would be able to act more understandingly on the subject, as it would then probably be ascertained whether we are likely to obtain the quiet possession of New Orleans and Louisiana under the Treaty or not; and there would still remain a great sufficiency of time to make the necessary provisions, on our part, for carrying the treaty into execution if it should be deemed necessary.

The motion for postponement being stated.

Mr. White—rose and made the following remarks:

Mr. President, By the provisions of the Bill before us, and which are thus far in conformity with the words of the treaty, we have until three months after the exchange of ratifications and the delivery of possession to pay this money in; Where then is the necessity for such haste on this subject? it seems to me to be anticipating our business unnecessarily, and perhaps unwisely; it is shewing on our part a degree of anxiety that may be taken advantage of and operate to our injury; and that may serve to retard the accomplishment of the very object that gentlemen seem to have so much at heart. It is not at present altogether certain that we shall ever have occasion to use this stock, and it will be time enough to provide it when the occasion arises, when we see ourselves in the undisturbed possession of this mighty boon, or wherefore are we allowed these three months credit after the delivery of possession? The ratifications have been already exchanged—the French officer who is to make the cession is said to be at New-Orleans, and previous to the adjournment of Congress, we shall know with certainty whether the First Consul will or can carry this treaty faithfully into operation. We have already passed a Bill authorizing the President to take possession, for which I voted, and it will be time enough to create this stock and to make the other necessary arrangements when we find ourselves in possession of the territory, or when we ascertain with certainty that it will be given to us.

But, Mr. President, it is now a well known fact, that Spain considers herself injured by this treaty, and if it should be in her power to prevent it, will not agree to the cession of New-Orleans and Louisiana to the United States—She considers herself absolved from her contract with France, in consequence of the latter having neglected to comply with certain stipulations in the treaty of St. Idelfonso, to be performed on her part, and of having violated her engagement never to transfer this country into other hands. Gentlemen may say that this money is to be paid upon the responsibility of the President of the United States, and not until after the delivery of possession to us of the territory; but why cast from ourselves all the responsibility upon this subject and impose the whole weight upon the President, which may hereafter prove dangerous and embarrassing to him? Why make the President the sole and absolute judge of what shall be a faithful delivery of possession under the treaty? What he may think a delivery of possession sufficient to justify the payment of this money, we might not; and I have no hesitation in saying that if in acquiring this territory under the treaty, we have to fire a single musket, to charge a bayonet, or to lose a drop of blood, it will not be such a cession on the part of France, as should justify to the people of this country the payment of any, and much less, so enormous a sum of money. What would the case be, Sir? It would be buying of French authority to make war upon Spain—it would be giving the First Consul fifteen millions of dollars to stand aloof until we can settle our differences with his Catholic Majesty. Would honorable gentlemen submit to the degradation of purchasing even his neutrality at so inconvenient a price? We are told that there is in the hands of the French prefect at New-Orleans a royal order of his Catholic Majesty, founded upon the treaty of St. Idelfonso, for the delivery of possession of this territory to France; but which has never been done; the precedent conditions not having been performed on the part of France. This royal order, it is probable will be handed over to our commissioner, or to whoever may be sent down to receive possession—We may then be told that we have the right of France, as she acquired it from Spain, which is all she is bound by her treaty to transfer to us—we may be shewn the Spaniards, who yet claim to be the rightful owners of the country, and be told that we have the permission of the First Consul to subdue, or drive them out, and, according to the words of the treaty, to *take* possession. Of our capacity to do so I have no doubt; but this we could have done,