

ADM 1/4360/[58-65]
Bathurst to Ross
(cont)

(5)

Authorities which may be constituted, & to cooperate with them in repelling the attacks of the Common Enemy.

You will discountenance any proposition of the inhabitants to place themselves under the Dominion of Great Britain;— and you will direct their Disposition towards returning under the protection of the Spanish Crown, rather than to the attempting (to) maintain (which it will be much more difficult to secure substantially) their independence as a separate State:— and you must give them clearly to understand that Great Britain cannot pledge herself to make the Independence of Louisiana, or its restoration to the Spanish Crown, a *sine qua non* of Peace with the United States.

If the Services Good Will & active Cooperation of the Inhabitants be acquired, you will be relieved from the necessity of maintaining a large Garrison in New Orleans:— But having regard to the supposed unhealthiness of the Climate, you will not at any rate, place there a more numerous Garrison than is absolutely necessary, & of this Garrison the two Black Regiments which will be placed under your Command should form a part, unless any local objections should make this inexpedient.

It must be remembered that the occupation in force of any position which would effectually command the Embouchure of the Mississippi without obliging you to Garrison New Orleans, or expose your Troops to its unhealthy Situation, would secure the Main object of the Expedition, would enable us to maintain as much or as little Intercourse as we may think expedient with the inhabitants of Louisiana, & would not expose us to the charge, at a Conclusion of Peace, of