



The Cession of Louisiana to Spain (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By William R Shepherd

Forgotten Books, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from The Cession of Louisiana to Spain Resent appreciation of the value of the Louisiana territory, and the estimate put upon it by France and Spain while they were its actual possessors, afford one of the most remarkable contrasts in history. The willingness of Spain to exchange the tract for a petty kingdom in northern Italy, the readiness of Napoleon to surrender it for a quite insignificant sum of money, and the consternation felt in the United States itself over the gigantic landslide from beyond the Mississippi, are too well known to need further comment. These conditions of mind will, at any rate, bear profitable comparison with the spirit of France in 1762 when ceding Louisiana to Spain, and with the feelings of that country in accepting it. Save as a matter of policy,¹ France displayed the utmost indifference as to the fate of its American colony. To both powers Louisiana was not merely destitute of intrinsic value, it entailed a positive deficit.² Its alienation would confer an advantage upon the donor, and entail a...

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