

During the years of war immediately preceding the peace of Ryswick, Louisianaian colonisation was quite lost sight of by the French ministry; but the country being attractive, several of the Canadians who visited it at intervals on their own account, were induced to stay, and by degrees they formed two trading settlements; one near the embouchure of the Mississippi, the other on the Mobile: thence they commereed with the French Antilles.

Probably the reports reaching France that these settlers were thriving, now induced the court to take up the dropped project of systematically colonising the country. The Spaniards, who had exulted over the failure of La Sale, and assuming that the whole southern territory of North America was theirs, got the start of the French authorities; and, after taking or re-taking possession of it, with the accustomed ceremonials in their king's name, practically vindicated their claim by founding a colony on the Bay of Pensacola, at the western extremity of Florida. But they had not long settled in that locality, when M. d'Iberville appeared upon the scene.

After his return from Hudson's Bay in 1697, this navigator earnestly applied to the French ministry to be employed in an expedition to Louisiana; upon which two ships were put at his disposition, with orders to search for and chart the sea-outlets of the Mississippi. Accompanied by Messrs. de Sauvole and de Bienville, he sailed from La Rochelle, in September 1698; driven into Brest by contrary winds, he set out again late in October, and reached San Domingo early in December. Leaving that island, Jan. 1, 1699, he reached the shores of Florida in 26 days. He essayed to anchor at Pensacola, but being repelled, he passed

and quiet adaptation of his genius to untried circumstances; for a sublime magnanimity, that resigned itself to the will of Heaven, and yet triumphed over affliction by energy of purpose and unfaltering hope, he had no superior among his countrymen. He had won the affection of the governor of Canada, the esteem of Colbert, the confidence of his son (marquis de Seignelai), the favour of Louis the Fourteenth. After beginning the colonization of Upper Canada, he perfected the discovery of the Mississippi, from the Falls of St. Anthony to its mouth; and he will be remembered, through all time, as the Father of Colonization in the great central Valley of the West."—BANCROFT: *History of the United States*, iii, 173-4.—B.