

Returning with great difficulty against the fierce current of the Mississippi, swollen, it is probable, at this season, with floods, the French experienced much annoyance from the attacks of the treacherous Quinipissas, whose hostility they had already tasted in coming down. Having slain several of these assailants, the adventurers; emulating the savage custom of their foes, scalped the bodies, and carried off the usual ghastly trophies of Indian warfare. This ferocious practice, indeed, seems always to have had a singular fascination for men once thoroughly committed in hostility with the savages. Near half a century later, if the old ballad may be trusted, we find the English (and especially their chaplain, the Reverend Mr. Frye,) indulging a similar taste at a battle on the frontier of Maine; and, indeed, at a much later date, our backwoodsmen were frequently in the habit of emulating, in this respect, the most barbarous tribes which they encountered.

CHAPTER III.

EXPEDITION OF LA SALLE BY SEA IN QUEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.—HE MISSES THE ENTRANCE.—LANDS AT THE BAY OF ST. BERNARD.—FOUNDS A COLONY.—MISFORTUNES AND DISCOURAGEMENTS.—HE SETS FORTH OVERLAND FOR CANADA.—HIS DEATH.—FATE OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE EXPEDITION.—OF THE COLONY OF ST. LOUIS.

HAVING arrived at Quebec, La Salle, unable to obtain the requisite means for following up his grand discovery, again embarked for France, and again preferred his suit at the court of Versailles. Four vessels, one a large frigate, were placed at his command, and with a brother and two nephews, seven priests, a number of artisans and volunteers, with a hundred soldiers, and sufficient crews, in all two hundred and eighty souls, on the 24th of July, 1684, he sailed from La Rochelle for the mouth of the Mississippi. The sullenness and mutinous disposition of Beaujeu, the captain of the frigate, at an early day, produced loss and trouble to the expedition, and eventuated in its entire discomfiture. Arriving in the Gulf of Mexico, the voyagers searched in vain for the expected outlet. "Nothing is