

days of straitened means which followed did but unite our hearts more closely, and our children are, mayhap, all the better for having been reared with simple tastes. Moreover, I cannot feel that I did them injustice, since there is left for them the fine tract of land upon Le Détroit which my brother De la Mothe gave me, free of the right of homage, and for which I have the written concessions, duly signed and witnessed.

Now, too, our fortunes are much improved by reason of the fact that the rich lands near Lake Pontchartrain wherewith Governor Bienville requited my services are close to the site whereon he has founded the city to be named La Nouvelle Orleans, in compliment to the Regent of France; for ended are the glorious days of the Sun King.

On this plantation we now live. For a time I could not cultivate it, owing to a lack of laborers; but the company having brought over a cargo of blacks, I bought a score of them, and since then have given attention to such crops as the government will permit us to raise, — namely, rice, indigo, tobacco, and cotton.

Thus in this southern country we have prospered. Our home faces the river; never, I think, would I be happy in a habitation whence I could not look out upon a stretch of beautiful water. All through the summer night the mocking-bird sings entrancingly among the magnolia and orange trees that surround the dwelling, — a long, low structure of timber and adobe, or sun-dried brick, with a roof of grasses, wherein are interwoven the tendrils of many blossoming plants, so that often it is all abloom, like a parterre.

Around the cypress pillars of the gallery twine