

of Louisiana.—To effect this design, four vessels were put at his disposition : two ships of war, one of 40 and one of 6 guns ; with a hired privateer ship and a trading vessel. The number of persons embarked did not reach 500 in all, including the crews ; and among the passengers were eight missionaries and several gentlemen. The squadron, which was commanded by M. de Beaujeu, sailed from La Rochelle, July 24, 1684. As it proceeded, quarrels began between the commodore and La Sale, subsiding into a mutual aversion, perilous to the expedition. One of the ships was captured by the Spaniards of San Domingo. The others, led away by uncomprehended currents, and having faulty nautical instruments on board, overpassed their destination by many leagues. La Sale suspecting that the embouchure of the Mississippi was some way behind, would have turned helm ; but Beaujeu, a vain and jealous man, impatient of La Sale's authority over him, refused to obey ; and continued his western course, as blindly as obstinately.

On the 14th February, the squadron reached Matagorda bay, Texas ; when La Sale, who knew not that he was 120 leagues distant from the Mississippi, ordered the captain of the privateer to disembark the people under his charge. Pretending to do so, he ran his vessel upon reefs,\* where it was wrecked, and part of the cargo lost, including the warlike and other stores of the expedition.

Instead of censuring the privateer's-man, Beaujeu took him on board his own vessel, to screen him from La Sale's vengeance ; and when asked to supply as many stores as he had on board, for partially replacing those lost, he refused to do so under frivolous pretexts ; finally, on the 14th of March, he stood out to sea, leaving the colonists to their fate, on an unknown and desert shore.

La Sale, thus put to his shifts, set some of his people to cultivate the ground to obtain subsistence for all ; and, along with a few artisans, began to construct a fortlet for defence against the savages. When near completion, he began to form another, on a height, two leagues higher up a stream afterwards known as the *rivière des Vaches*. This fastness he called Fort St. Louis. But

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\* Joutel (one of the colonists) : *Journal historique*.