

country. The same night her cables were cut by a party of gay young Frenchmen, excited by wine, and she drifted down the stream.

After his departure, the citizens convened, and dispatched envoys to the French court with fresh remonstrances against their expatriation, but in vain; and in July, 1767, they learned with consternation that the Spanish captain-general, O'Reilly, (an Irishman by birth, a Spaniard by choice,) with a force of about five thousand men, had entered the Mississippi. Before such an overwhelming demonstration, the feeble province had no resource but submission; and deputies were accordingly dispatched with it to O'Reilly. That perfidious commander received them with much courtesy, and assured them both of amnesty for past offences, and a mild and paternal government for the future. Nevertheless, he cherished a deadly hatred against the French, which, superadded to natural arrogance and cruelty, was not long in making its murderous manifestation.

Taking on himself all the state and mock royalty of a petty sovereign, he soon had under arrest a number of the most prominent citizens in the state, especially those connected with the late demonstration of resistance. Lafreniere and four others, after the travesty of a trial, were sentenced to be hung; but were finally executed by shooting—a fate which they met with much courage and magnanimity. Six others were sentenced to imprisonment for life or for a term of years, and were presently consigned to the dungeons of the Moro, at Havana. In open infraction of the treaty, the tyrant then proceeded arbitrarily to change the form of government, which, by that instrument, had been assured to the province, and to substitute the laws of Castile for those of France. The people, unable to resist these oppressions, rendered a sullen submission. The greater part of the wealthy and enterprising portion of the population had already taken refuge in St. Domingo, whence, a few years afterwards, the tide of fugitives, driven by servile insurrection, was destined again to flow to Louisiana. This emigration was finally stopped by an order of the governor, lest his territories should be utterly depopulated. In 1770, he took his departure, and the province was annexed to the captain-generalship of Cuba. His successor in the administration, Nuzaga, governed kindly and well, and the colony, though restricted in its commerce, enjoyed some degree of prosperity.

It only remains to notice the final transfer of this valuable territory, together with the brief reestablishment of its French nationality. By the treaty of 1800, Spain had agreed to restore Louisiana to