

CHAPTER VII.

ARRIVAL OF ULLOA AS SPANISH GOVERNOR: HIS OBSTINACY
 AND EXPULSION FROM THE COUNTRY.—ARRIVAL OF O'REILLY:
 HIS PERJURY AND CRUELTY.—FIVE CITIZENS EXECUTED.
 —TYRANNY OF O'REILLY.—GREAT EMIGRATION FROM
 LOUISIANA: THAT PROVINCE RECEDED TO FRANCE;
 SOLD BY NAPOLEON TO THE UNITED STATES.

A YEAR after the treaty, D'Abbadie, the governor of Louisiana, had received orders from his court to surrender that province to any Spanish officer empowered to receive it; yet, singular to state, whether from policy or mere carelessness, two more years elapsed before any such claimant appeared. The unfortunate colonists were beginning to cherish the hope that they might yet be spared, when the return of Milhet, with an account of his failure, and the reception of a letter from Don Antonio de Ulloa, announcing his arrival as Spanish governor, (1766,) put an end to these fallacious expectations. The citizens, exasperated at being thus involuntarily transferred to a foreign power, now resolved on opposing it to the extent of their feeble ability; and Lafreniere, the attorney-general, encouraged this spirit of resistance, citing the example of the English North American colonies, then just involved in controversy with the mother-country. It was strenuously demanded of the council that they should warn Ulloa to quit the country. That officer, who had landed, with only two companies of infantry, at New Orleans, did not for some time, it seems, aim at any thing more than a species of toleration of his presence there. The force he brought was large enough to excite odium, but not awe in the people; and the yellow fever, which now for the first time made its appearance in New Orleans, and which was ascribed by the citizens to the coming of these intruders, increased the popular ill-will. As yet Ulloa had produced no credentials of authority to the French officials, and the council, pressed by public opinion, at length, in 1767, demanded that he should present them or quit the country. With true Spanish obstinacy, not having sufficient force to compel obedience, he preferred to defer, and embarked on board a vessel of his own

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