

River, the Arkansas, and the Missouri, nearly to the Rocky Mountains, in search of gold, but found no sure signs of any.

D'Iberville having revisited France, late in 1701, got command of three ships of war, in which he returned to Biloxi, with orders to strengthen and extend the settlements already formed, and labour to prevent the British from entering the country. A four-bastioned fort was erected at Mobile. After a survey of the territory, D'Iberville sent a report to Paris, and recommended that emigrants should be sent in numbers, husbandmen especially. Finding that he had made a bad choice for his trading capital, he caused the settlers at Biloxi to remove to Mobile.

By degrees the French population increased, under the fostering care of D'Iberville; but their protector's career was now near its close. A life of incessant toils, in peace and war, had worn out his constitution. He fell ill of yellow fever in 1702; and, when convalescing, had to return to Europe. Ever restless, he proposed, to the king, to attack the fleets of Virginia and Newfoundland. The means of doing so were assigned to him at first, and then diverted to other purposes. He fell seriously ill again, and had not quite recovered when he offered to capture Barbadoes, with other West India Islands, and sweep from the American waters all British trade. M. Ducape had previously offered to take Jamaica: the plans of the two were now conjoined. They were tried in 1706, but proved abortive. D'Iberville, indeed, captured Nevis, took prisoner and carried away the governor and the colonists, 7000 negroes, and a great booty, landing the whole in Martinique, to the great enrichment of that French island.

When about to seek out the British convoys according to promise, he was smitten a second time with yellow fever and died, July 9, 1706, aged 44 years. This hero, as redoubtable a captain on sea as on land, was born at Montreal in 1662, being one of several sons, all more or less distinguished, of Charles le Moyne, Seigneur of Longueuil, near that city. The family was of Norman extraction.

Two years after D'Iberville's death, M. Dion d'Artaguetto came to Louisiana as a kind of royal intendant, his prescribed duty being to labour for the advancement of the industry of the colony. Under his superintendence, all things retrograded; yet, all the