

French as colonists. Still the court of the Escorial made complaints to that of Versailles against the colonisation of any part of what was called the "Spanish Indies"; but the family relations between the two royal families becoming closer, no further notice was taken of the alleged encroachments.

A great number of Huguenots (so were the French Protestants nicknamed by their catholic fellow-countrymen) had settled in Virginia, Carolina, &c., after their expulsion or flight from France. They were received, as they deserved to be, for valuable colonists. In Massachusetts, they were allowed to send members to Assembly. They founded several cities, now flourishing. Others of them, preferring to live among their compatriots, even in enforced exile, petitioned Louis XIV to let them settle in Louisiana, intimating that they would be submissive to his will in all things else, if their religious rights were not interfered with; but His Majesty, in answer to M. de Pontchartrain, said, he "had not driven the Protestants out of his kingdom with an intent that they should form a republic in America." They renewed their request, during the Orleans regency, and the refusal was repeated.

Meanwhile, D'Iberville ascended the Mississippi as far as the Natchez' country, where he intended to build a town. While he was with the Tensas' tribe (neighbours of the Natchez) a violent storm arose. A thunderbolt struck the idol temple of the Tensas and set it on fire. Forthwith the savages howled dismally, tore their hair, rubbed their faces and bodies with clay, invoking the Great Spirit the while. Mothers brought their babes, strangled them, and threw the bodies into the flames. Seventeen of those innocents were thus sacrificed, despite the efforts of the French to prevent it.\*

After a short stay in the country, D'Iberville returned to Biloxi, where he fixed his head-quarters. He wrote to Paris, to ask that freedom of trade should prevail in the colony. The country was reported to abound in the precious metals, which turned out to be an illusion. A vein of copper was discovered, but it was found too far off to be profitably worked. Parties ascended the Red

\* *Relation, ou Annale véritable, &c., 1699-1721, by Penicaut: Paris Documents, Series 2.*