

which loaded the people with the exactions of trade-tariffs. The Spanish in Mexico shut their ports against the colony also, although Jachereau de St. Denis (Canadian) made skilful efforts to prevail on them to come to easier terms.

In this extreme adversity, the Natchez Indians, with some others, tried to destroy the French, but they were humbled and compelled to build a fort in their own territory to be placed under control of the French. This fort was the beginning, in 1715, of the city of Natchez.

It was at this time that Jean Law invented the system of issuing paper money redeemable in gold. In order to find the gold to redeem these promises of pay, he proposed to develop the wealth of the colony. The treasury of France, which had become exhausted of coin long ago, was relieved by Law's system. In 1717 he founded the "Company of the West," on a capital of 100 millions, and obtained from France, Switzerland and Germany colonists to cultivate the banks of the Mississippi. De l'Espinay (Canadian) was appointed governor and Hubart "commis-saire-ordonnateur." Besides, Biloxi, Isle Dauphine, Mobile, Natchez and Baton Rouge (on the Mississippi), several other places were occupied, and Bienville in 1717, with a company of laborers, laid the foundations of New Orleans, named in honor of the Duke of Orleans, then regent of France. De Pailloux was made governor of the new town, which in 1722 became the seat of government.

Great vigor was instituted for the purpose of colonizing rapidly the country and developing its wealth. Bienville continued to be governor-general and director of the company in America, de Pailloux was major-general Digne de Boisbriand (Canadian) commandant among the Illinois Indians, and Diron, inspector-general of troops. From La Rochelle, in 1717, 800 colonists had set out, among them Le-page Duprats, the historian, and many gentlemen and retired officers. The gentlemen and officers came with the expectancy of obtaining seigneuries like those in Canada. Jean Law, as said before, obtained the dukedom of Arkansas on the river of that name, which he peopled with 1500 Germans and settlers from the south of France. He was about to send 6000 more from the Palatinate when the company which he had founded dissolved, and the colony was left to continue on what strength it had acquired already.

The colony had proceeded far enough to excite the alarm of the Spanish, the hostility of the Indians and the jealousy

of the English. Besides the places already founded, more were springing up, namely, Yazoo, Bayagoulas, White Oaks, Pointe Coupee and Riviere Noire.

The Spanish lost all hope of obtaining the concurrence of the English for the expulsion of the French from Louisiana by the discovery on the part of the English of the plan of Alberoni, minister of Spain, to aid the Stuarts in exile, to drive the King from England who had been chosen by the English parliament in place of the Stuarts. At the same time, Alberoni made a conspiracy with some of the French who disliked the regency of the Duke of Orleans, to put Philip V, King of Spain, at the head of the French nation—he being nearer in descent from the ancient kings of France. So both England and France on the discovery of this plan began a war on the Spanish possessions by land and sea. De Serigny (Canadian), from New Orleans, captured Pensacola from the Spanish in 1719, the Spanish commander there being Don Juan Piero de Matamoras. Another of the Lemoyne brothers, the Seigneur de Chateauguay, commanded the Canadian contingent in Louisiana on this enterprise. The Marquis de Valero, Spanish vice-roy of Mexico, sent Don Alphonso de Carras-cosa soon after with a fleet and an army which retook Pensacola. When the army which retook Pensacola, then the Count de Champmeln with a French naval squadron, and de Bienville at the head of the Canadian contingent, after a battle by sea and land, wrested Pensacola again from the Spanish and dismantled its fortifications. Another Canadian who distinguished himself in this war was de Vilherville.

In 1723 Louisiana passed under authority of the French West Indian Company at the head of which was the Duke d'Orleans. The government consisted of a governor and intendant who were to mediate between the inhabitants and the company, but as both of these officials were nominated by the company and received a percentage of the revenue, it is easy to understand to which side they were likely to incline.

About the same time, all the Indian nations from the Ohio (Belle Riviere) to the sea formed a conspiracy to massacre the French. Among them were the Chickachas, the Natchez and the Chactas. The war that followed employed all the arts of the French in battle and diplomacy. At its close, in 1731, a revolution occurred in the affairs of the company, and the government of Louisiana came to the direct nomination of the King of France.