

America—an attempt, unhappily, only the prototype of successive efforts in the same direction. The colonization of Louisiana, like that of its neighbour, Florida, for a long series of years presents little except continually renewed misfortune, suffering, and mortality.

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## CHAPTER IV.

NEGLECT OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.—EXPEDITION OF LEMOINE D'IBERVILLE: HE FOUNDS SETTLEMENTS AT BILOXI, MOBILE, AND ISLE DAUPHINE.—TONTI.—UNPROSPEROUS CONDITION OF LOUISIANA.—DEATH OF D'IBERVILLE.—HIS BROTHER BIENVILLE.—CROZAT.—THE MISSISSIPPI COMPANY.—GREAT IMMIGRATION, SUFFERING, AND MORTALITY.—NEW ORLEANS FOUNDED.—CONTINUED IMMIGRATION.—VAST EXTENT OF LOUISIANA.

For ten years after the death of La Salle and the destruction of his colony, the French made no attempt to settle the Mississippi Valley—the few adventurous voyagers who had resorted there from Canada betaking themselves to hunting and to traffic in furs, and gradually assimilating with the Indians in character and habits. In 1697, Lemoine D'Iberville, a brave Canadian, distinguished for his naval services, represented to the court of France the importance of this neglected region, and obtained the means for a fresh attempt at settlement on the Gulf. With two vessels, on the 17th of October, of that year, he set sail from Rochefort, and directed his course to the Bay of Pensacola. The Spaniards there remonstrated against his alleged intrusion, yet he proceeded, and examined the harbour of Mobile, the river Pascagoula and the Bay of Biloxi, and finally arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi. The certainty of this discovery was confirmed by the extraordinary incident of a letter, written by Tonti thirteen years before, giving an account of the country, with most valuable directions, being preserved by the Indians, and handed to D'Iberville.

He passed up the Mississippi, and, entering the outlet still bearing his name, discovered Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain, and the

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