

rendezvoused in August at the site of the present town of Memphis. After building a fort, named L'Assomption, a series of misfortunes overtook them in the failure of provisions, the excessive heat, and a fatal disease, which carried off numbers of them and disabled many of the survivors. Nevertheless, a considerable body of the army advancing toward the Chicasaw country, that people, struck with dismay, made overtures of peace, alleging, in apology, that they had been excited to hostility by the English of Carolina. They gave up two of the latter who were among them; and a treaty being concluded, the pipe of peace was solemnly smoked and the tomahawk formally buried. Nevertheless, the Chicasaws still continued afterwards to give much trouble to the French, and, assisted by their English allies, maintained possession of a very extensive territory.

CHAPTER VI.

PROSPERITY OF LOUISIANA.—UNDISTURBED BY WAR.—SUGAR CANE INTRODUCED.—COMMENCEMENT OF TROUBLES WITH THE ENGLISH.—THE OHIO COMPANY.—RESISTED BY DU QUESNE.—THE VIRGINIA EXPEDITION UNDER WASHINGTON.—WAR WITH THE FRENCH OF CANADA, ETC.
—TAKING OF FORT DU QUESNE.—OVERTHROW OF THE FRENCH IN CANADA.—PUBLIC RELINQUISHMENT OF A PART OF LOUISIANA TO ENGLAND, AND SECRET CESSION OF THE REMAINDER TO SPAIN.—VAIN REMONSTRANCE.

In the year 1741, Bienville, who for so many years had held command of the province, to the regret of all the inhabitants, took his final departure. The country, however, continued to prosper, and commerce, freed from restrictions, began to assume some importance. The obstinate warfare waged between the English colonies and the Canadian French, at this time, did not much affect the tranquillity of the remote province of Louisiana. In 1751, a most valuable accession to the wealth of the country was made, in the introduction of the sugar-cane, which certain Jesuits of St. Domingo sent to their brethren on the Mississippi, and which, in our own day, has assumed