

1679. nois, and la Sale returned to Catarocouy,¹ where he learned, on his arrival, that little doubt was entertained of the loss of the Griffin. In fact, no very authentic tidings were had of it after it left the Bay.

Some have reported that the Indians no sooner perceived this large vessel sailing over their lakes, than they gave themselves up for lost, unless they could succeed in disgusting the French with this mode of navigating; that the Iroquois in particular, already preparing for a rupture with us, seized this opportunity to spread distrust of us among the Algonquin nations; that they succeeded, especially with the Ottawas, and that a troop of these last, seeing the Griffin at anchor in a bay, ran up under pretext of seeing a thing so novel to them; that, as no one distrusted them, they were allowed to go on board, where there were only five men, who were massacred by these savages; that the murderers carried off all the cargo of the vessel, and then set it on fire. But how could all these details have been known, when we are moreover assured that no Ottawa ever mentioned it?²

This misfortune was followed by another no less dis-

mis : Description de la Louisiane, p. 111 ; Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 151 ; Tonty, Memoire, in Margry, p. 7.

¹ La Salle, with all his force except four men left at the Fort of the Miamis, ascended the St. Joseph's (December 3), passed by a portage to the Illinois, and at the end of December reached the Illinois village in a marshy plain at 40° N. (Hennepin, Description de la Louisiane, p. 136), and on the 14th-15th January, 1680, began on a rising ground Fort Crevecoeur—so called from his disappointments : Le Clercq, ii., p. 159-160 ; Hennepin, Description, p. 156 ; Nouvelle Découverte, p. 226 ; Tonty, Memoire, p. 8. La Salle left Tonty in command, and returned to Cata-

rocouy by land : Description de la Louisiane, p. 173. March 2, 1680 : Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 169 ; Tonty, Memoire, p. 8. Charlevoix, therefore, introduces his journey back to Fort Frontenac too soon.

² This is the account given by De la Potherie, Histoire de l'Amérique Septentrionale, ii., pp. 136-140, and adopted by Colden, History of the Five Nations, N. Y. edition, 1727, p. 29. Hennepin, Description de la Louisiane, p. 72, Nouvelle Découverte, p. 142, says that it put in at the north of Lake Michigan, and that soon after it left some Indians saw it suddenly disappear. Tonty (Memoire, p. 8) merely says it was never afterwards heard of.