

spring of the following year, he found no one at Fort Crevecœur on his reaching it.¹ Having stationed a new garrison there, he dispatched men to work at a second fort, which he had traced the year before, and which was called Fort St. Louis. He then proceeded to Michillimakinac,² where the Chevalier de Tonti had shortly before arrived with his party.³ They all set out from it together towards the end of August to proceed to Catarocouy,⁴ and after three months spent in running up and down to recruit a new body of Frenchmen and collect supplies, la Salle, with his whole force, took up his march for the Illinois, and there found his two forts in the position in which he had left them.⁵

He descended the Illinois River, and on the 2d of February, 1682, he found himself on the Micissipi.⁶ On the 4th of March, with all the usual ceremonies, he took pos-

1681-3.

Mr de la Salle descends the Micissipi to the sea.

¹ La Salle found trouble enough on reaching Fort Frontenac. His men had been debauched, many had deserted and robbed him. A vessel from France with a precious cargo for him was wrecked, many of his canoes loaded with furs were lost, and his creditors had seized everything: *Le Clercq*, ii., p. 203. Arranging matters as best he could, he collected a new force and set out from Fort Frontenac July 23, 1680. He reached Detroit at the end of August, and Michillimakinac soon after. On the 4th of October he set out for Fort Crevecœur, but, taking the eastern shore of the lake, missed Tonty's party. He reached the River of the Miamis Nov. 28, and the Illinois village Dec. 1: *Le Clercq*, ii., pp. 200-7; Tonty, *L. H. Col.*, i., p. 59. A Memoir of la Salle to Frontenac, dated Nov. 9, 1680, describing the route, is given by Tomassy, *Géologie Pratique de la Louisiane*; *Hist. Mag.*, v., p. 196.

² He set out for Michillimakinac May 22, 1681: *Le Clercq*, ii., p. 207.

Membré says nothing of Fort St. Louis.

³ Tonty's party reached Michillimakinac about Corpus Christi, in 1681: *Memoire in Margry*, p. 8. Corpus Christi fell that year June 5: Blondel, *Calendrier Romain*, p. 396. The translation in *Louisiana Hist. Col.* makes it October.

⁴ *Le Clercq*, ii., p. 208, gives no date, but probably in June. It could not be as late as August, inasmuch as we find that he embarked on Lake Erie for the West August 28, and reached St. Joseph November 3: *Le Clercq*, ii., p. 223.

⁵ This time la Salle went to Chicago, and took that route to the Illinois River, as Marquette and Allouez had done: Tonty, *Memoire in Margry*, p. 14; *le Clercq*, ii., pp. 214-15. Membré mentions Fort Crevecœur as in good condition, and mentions no other: *ib.*, p. 216.

⁶ Membré, in *le Clercq*, *Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 217, says they reached the mouth of the Seignelay (Illinois), on the Colbert (Mississippi),