

1681-3. session of the country of the Akansas,¹ and on the 9th of April he explored the mouth of the river, where he made a new act of taking possession in form.² This is all that is certainly known as to this voyage. For as regards the circumstances given in the pretended Relation of the Chevalier Tonty, the credit to be ascribed to which may be judged by what is stated at the end, that according to the calculations of Mr. de la Sale, the mouth of the Mississippi is between the twenty-second and twenty-third degrees of north latitude, and forms a channel two leagues wide, very deep, and very easy of navigation.³

He returns
to France.

This important exploration thus completed, and the whole course of one of the greatest rivers in the world secured to France by acts of taking possession, to which no objection could be taken,⁴ la Sale re-embarked on the 11th of April;⁵ but he certainly did not make fifty leagues

Feb. 6. Tonty, *Memoire in Margry; Relations*, p. 14; *Louisiana Hist. Col.*, p. 59, says end of April.

¹ *Membré (le Clercq, ii., p. 214) and the Act of Taking Possession, Louisiana H. C., i., p. 47; Margry, Relations*, p. 15, say 14th. Tonty gives no date.

² *Le Clercq, Etablissement, ii., p. 237; Tonty, Memoire in Margry, p. 19; Louisiana Hist. Col., i., p. 63. Charlevoix gives a very meagre account of la Salle's voyage. We have two authentic accounts, Membré, in le Clercq, and Tonty's. After entering the Mississippi, la Salle passed the mouth of the Ozage (Missouri), and on the east the Tamaroas and the Ouabache (Ohio). On the 24th of January, 1682, Prudhomme, one of his men, was lost, and he threw up a kind of fort while looking for him. This Fort Prudhomme long figured on maps. On March 3d, hearing drums and war-cries from the Akansas, he landed and threw up an intrenchment. On the 22d (or 20th)*

he reached the Taensas, and was well received. On the 26th he came to the Natchez, where he again planted a cross and smoked the calumet with the Koroas. On April 2 (3d) he reached the Quinipissas, who, in spite of the calumet, attacked his men. He soon after found Maheouala, a Tangiboa town, just destroyed. On the 6th (7th) the river was found to divide into three channels. He took the western, d'Autray, son of John Bourdon of Quebec, the southern, Tonty the middle one.

³ See this corrupt edition of Tonty in *Voyage au Nord*, vol. v., pp. 129, 131. The real narrative in Margry, *Memoires*, and *Louisiana Hist. Col.*, i., does not contain these statements.

⁴ Ferdinand de Soto more than once crossed the Mississippi, which his historian, Garcilaso de la Vega, calls Cucagua. He was even thrown into it after his death, but he made no settlement there. *Charlevoix*.

⁵ *Membré, ii., p. 39*, says 10th. They were out of provisions, and