

1687-90. In all probability, had these gentlemen not been obliged to winter among the Illinois, but reached France a year sooner, measures might have been taken to relieve or withdraw the little colony left by Mr. de la Sale at St. Louis, among the Clamcoets; but when they reached Paris, they felt that it was too late to think of it; and, had they thought of it sooner, it would have been bootless. The Clamcoets were not long in learning the death of the leader of the French, and the dispersion of his party; and, at a time, when the settlers at St. Louis least suspected it, they fell upon and massacred them all, except the three sons of Talon, their sister, and a Parisian, of good family, Eustace de Breman, whom they carried off to their village.¹

What became of the settlement of St. Louis.

An Italian, who had traveled from Canada, by land, to join de la Sale, and who undoubtedly would have been of great service to him, by informing him of the route he should take to reach the Micissippi, had he reached that leader in season, also saved his life by quite a curious stratagem: As some Indians were preparing to kill him, he told them that they would do a great wrong to kill a man who bore them all in his heart. These words astonished the savages, and the Italian assured them that, if they would give him till next day, he would convince them of the truth of his assertion; adding, that, if he deceived them, they might do with him as they chose. Without any difficulty he obtained the delay he sought; and, having adjusted a little mirror on his breast, he went

and left it, Aug. 30. (Plet, *Memoire pour les enfants et heritiers du Sieur F. Plet, Ms.*) Cavalier kept up his concealment of La Salle's death. (Denonville, in *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, ix., p. 443.) Even in France, he concealed it from the family and creditors of La Salle for two years, and retiring to Rouen, to the house of Madame Fortin, a Cavalier, died there.

¹ Interrogations faites à Pierre et Jean Talon, par ordre de M. le Comte de Pontchartrain, à leur arrivée de Vera Cruz, 14 Sept., 1698, Ms., Art. 5; Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico para la historia de la Florida*, p. 295; Morfi, *Memorias para la historia de Texas*, Ms., Lib. 3, p. 42. As already remarked, he identifies the Clamcoets with the Carancaguaces. (P. 45.)