

were of an age when they could not have acquired any knowledge of the country, while the others were men grown, who might escape, and give intelligence in France of what they had observed in their various journeys. 1687-90.

At the end of eight years, the three eldest of the Talons, being of an age to bear arms, were enrolled in the *Armadilla*, and shipped on the *Christo*, which was the Vice-Admiral. This ship was taken in 1696 by the Chevalier des Augiers; and the three brothers, having thus recovered their liberty, returned to France; and it was from them that all the circumstances, just related, were learned. It was, subsequently, ascertained, that the Viceroy of Mexico, who had retained near himself their youngest brother and their sister, having been relieved, took them both to Spain with him.¹

Such was the disastrous result of an enterprise, which many circumstances contributed to defeat. It would, apparently, have had, at least, a portion of the success expected from it, had there been in view only a settlement at the mouth of the *Micissippi*, as many people were persuaded; for it is certain that *de la Sale*, seeing himself cast ashore in *St. Bernard's Bay*, and ere long convinced that he was west of the river he sought, might—had he no design but to find it—at the time of his first journey to the *Cenis*, have obtained guides from those Indians, since, in the sequel, they gave guides to *Joutel*; but he was desirous of approaching the Spaniards, to obtain information in regard to the mines of *Santa Barbara*; and, in endeavoring to do too much, he not only did nothing at all, but ruined himself, and was lamented by none.²

What defeated
la Sale's enterprise.

¹ Talon, Interrogations, Ms.

² This idea of *Charlevoix* is upheld by *Hennepin*, in his *Nouvelle Decouverte*; but, in *La Salle's* actual position, seems wild, as he had no force to cope with the feeblest Spanish settlement. In fact, his course, after his shipwreck, shows

him to have been, as an explorer, of the utmost incapacity. In descending the *Mississippi*, he merely followed the current a short distance beyond *Marquette* and *Joliet's* limit. Left to his own resources, he showed no energy, skill, or judgment. After discovering the *Cenis*, he should