

1684. commission. It provided that all the French and Indians who might be between Fort Saint Louis of the Illinois and New Biscay should be subject to his orders, and that the commandant of the squadron that was to convey him from France to America should carry out all his directions as to their course, and on his landing give him all the assistance he might require, provided it could in no wise imperil the safety of the king's ships.¹

His outfit and companions. Four vessels² of different sizes were fitted out at Rochefort, and two hundred and eighty persons, including the crews, embarked. The rest was made up of one hundred soldiers; a Canadian family, the head of which was named Talon; about thirty volunteers, among whom there were some gentlemen; some young women; and a certain number of mechanics and laborers;³ but it must be admitted that the selection of all these was far from careful. The soldiers were, for the most part, wretches who were begging a living; some were deformed, and could not even fire a musket. The mechanics were no better; and when it became necessary to employ them, it was found, though too late, that there was scarcely one who knew his trade.

Among the volunteers were two nephews of Mr. de la Sale, Cavelier and Moranget, the former only fourteen years of age,⁴ and three clergymen of St. Sulpice; Cavelier, brother of de la Sale, Chefdeville, a relative, and Majulle,⁵ called in some accounts Daimenville.⁶ Four Recollect Fathers, Zenobius Mambré, who had already accompanied de la Sale in his discoveries, Father Maximus Le Clercq,

¹ The Commission, April 14, 1684 (N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 225), makes no allusion to the voyage. These directions are in the Lettre de Cachet, Versailles, April 12, 1684.

² Joutel, Journal Historique, pp. 12, 13; Cavelier, Relation du Voyage, p. 5; Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 277.

³ Joutel, Journal Historique, pp. 12, 13.

⁴ Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., 276, 278. He is apparently the John Baptist Cavelier, who, with Mary Magdalene Cavelier, wife of John Le Forestier, claimed to be La Salle's heirs. Memoire au Roy, 1717 or 1720, MS.

⁵ Anastasius Douay, in Le Clercq (ii., 272-3), Hennepin, Voyage (V. au Nord, v., p. 202).

⁶ Daimenville, Joutel, p. 13.