

1684. ant, and the *Sieur du Hamel*¹ as ensign. Another frigate of six guns, the *Belle*,² had been given by the king to de la Sale, who confided the command to two bark captains.³ The *Aimable*, a 300-ton store-ship belonging to Massiot, a Rochelle merchant, and commanded by the *Sieur Aignon*, carried all de la Sale's merchandise; while a ketch of 30 tons was loaded with ammunition and goods intended for St. Domingo.⁴

This little squadron left Rochelle, July 24, 1684,⁵ in company with the West India and Canada fleet, which was to be subject to Mr. de Beaujeu's orders till they sighted the Spanish coast;⁶ but they had not got more than fifty leagues from port, when, in the finest weather imaginable, the *Joli's* bowsprit suddenly snapped.⁷ There was no little argument about this accident, and as there were already some seeds of disagreement between de Beaujeu and de la Sale, some imagined the thing concerted. The question was, whether to go to Portugal or to put back to la Rochelle, and the last opinion prevailed. The three other vessels followed the *Joli*, and the squadron was not able to sail before the 1st of August.⁸

They sail again.

On the 16th they were in sight of Madeira, and de Beaujeu proposed to de la Sale to anchor there, in order to take in water and provisions. Mr. de la Sale replied that they had only been out a fortnight, and consequently should need neither water nor provisions; that they could not put

Hennepin (p. 204), says Chevalier d'Aire, now king's captain, and son of the Dean of the Parliament of Metz.

¹ Of Brouage. Le Clercq, ii., 277.

² Le Clercq, ii., 277.

³ Joutel (*Journal Historique*, p. 14), *maîtres de barque*.

⁴ Joutel (*Journal Historique*, p. 14) says the ketch was chartered for St. Domingo, but had on board 30 tons of munitions and stores for La Salle. Le Clercq (*Etablissement de la Foi*,

ii., p. 277) gives this ketch the name of St. François.

⁵ Joutel, p. 14; Hennepin, p. 205.

⁶ To Cape Finisterre. Joutel, p. 14.

⁷ Joutel, *Journal Historique*, p. 14; Le Clercq, *Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 279; Cavelier, *Relation*, p. 6.

⁸ Joutel, *Journal Historique*, 15-16.

Hennepin (p. 205) says, August 5. They put back to Chef-de-bois. Le Clercq, ii., p. 279. Cavelier, in his memoir, gives the 12th as the day of sailing.