

1685. along in sight of land, to examine whether he could not discover what he was seeking. On the 10th of January, 1685, the squadron was, according to subsequent conjectures, quite near the mouth of the Micissipi; but de la Sale, convinced that he was off the Apalaches, passed on without sending a boat ashore.¹ A few days after, from some idea that the Indians gave him, he wished to sail back to that place; but de Beaujeu refused to show him this complaisance, although bound to do so by virtue of the king's orders.² They became more embittered on both sides, and de la Sale, after unseasonable obstinacy on points far less important than this, yielded more unseasonably still, when he should have exerted the authority vested in him.

Mr. de la Sale passes the mouth of the Micissipi without perceiving it.

He reaches St. Bernard's Bay without knowing where he is.

They accordingly held on the same route to the west, and the squadron in a few days reached St. Bernard's Bay, but without knowing it.³ This bay is a hundred leagues west of the mouth of the Micissipi. Here they cast anchor, and the boats were sent to explore. They perceived a very fine river, with a bar at the entrance, where there were not more than ten or twelve feet of water.⁴ After considerable coming and going, to endeavor to make out where they were, and several councils, in

¹ La Salle's Letter, March, 1685 (Thomassy, *Géologie Pratique de la Louisiane*, p. 20), says that the entrance seen January 6th, was the main channel, and he supposed when writing that another branch entered the bay where he was. He was afraid of the winds if he attempted to sail back to that channel, and asked Beaujeu to examine it on his way back. Joutel thinks that they were off the Mississippi on the 6th (*Journal Hist.*, p. 44); and Cavalier, in his *Memoire*, says January 5-6, "We found a great opening which seemed to be 4 or 5 leagues between two points. It was the same latitude as La Salle found descending the

river Colbert. A strong current and muddy water like that of the Colbert. Mr. de La Salle always thought that it was the Colbert. He did not enter for fear of missing Beaujeu. De l' Isle (*Voy. au Nord*, iv., p. 565) thinks La Salle passed it intentionally.

² Joutel, p. 61, *Lettre de Cachet*.

³ Joutel, *Journal Historique*, p. 62; Le Clercq, ii., p. 285; Cavalier, *Relation*, pp. 8, 9, says February 4th. The bay is called by them St. Louis; it was the *Espiritu Santo* of the Spaniards. La Salle's fort was on Matagorda bay.

⁴ Joutel, p. 70; Le Clercq, ii., p. 286.