

which nothing was agreed to, it being enough that one of the two leaders gave an opinion for the other to oppose it, de la Sale, who thought himself not far from the Micissipi, and to whom de Beaujeu's presence could only be an impediment, resolved to land all his force at that spot. 1685.

The resolution adopted, he sent orders, on the 20th of February, to the commander of the store-ship to unload the heaviest articles and bring her into the river.¹ He at the same time ordered the commander of the Belle to embark on the store-ship, as he did not trust her commander, either because he had his suspicions of the man or deemed him incapable of executing the required manœuvre; but that commander refused to receive the captain of the Belle.² On this refusal, de la Sale wished to superintend it in person; but La Sablonière, a lieutenant of infantry, and five or six other Frenchmen, having been carried off by the Indians while walking in the woods, he made all haste to deliver them.³

He loses his store-ship.

He was not yet far from the beach, when, on casting his eyes in that direction, he perceived his store-ship manœuvring so as to dash on the shoals, and his evil star, says Joutel, in his Relation, prevented his retracing his steps to prevent this misfortune. He kept on toward the village to which his men had been taken, and on reaching it he heard a cannon fired. This he had no doubt was to announce that his store-ship had struck, and his conjecture proved only too true. It was regarded as certain among all who witnessed the accident, that it was the result of premeditated design on the part of Sieur Aigron, who commanded the vessel.⁴

¹ Joutel, Journal Historique, p. 72; Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, p. 286; and Cavalier, Relation du Voyage, p. 9, say the order was to wait for a pilot.

² Joutel (Journal Historique, p. 72) says the Pilot of La Belle.

³ The party were cutting down a tree to make a canoe. Joutel, pp. 73-5.

⁴ There can be little doubt of Aigron's guilt, the channel having been staked out (Joutel, pp. 71-9), and the refusal to take a pilot showing his intent. F. Anastasius says that in spite of the call of the man in the top to keep the luff, he ran her ashore. Le Clercq, ii., p. 286; Joutel, p. 79; Hennepin, p. 209.