

1685.

them off. De la Sale, who was not yet very far, not knowing what it was, returned with six or seven men, but found every thing in a satisfactory state.¹

He told Joutel that he had already discovered a charming country, that he intended to throw up a second fort at the place where he had left his men, and that he had even ordered them, when he left, to prepare all necessary materials. He then started back to his party, and the first thing that he learned on reaching his camp, was, that several of his workmen had suffered their tools to be carried off by the Indians.² He gave them others; but these fellows lacked something else besides tools: they did not know how to handle them, and the work advanced very slowly.³

Early in June, the Sieur de Villeperdry reached the first fort with an order addressed to Moranget, directing him to join de la Sale with all the rest of his men, except thirty, whom he was to leave with Joutel and the Sieur le Gros, storekeeper, to guard it. This was at once carried out.⁴ Fishing and hunting kept this first fort in plenty,⁵ and the commandant maintained peace and order by mild means; but this did not prevent two scoundrels from conspiring against him and the storekeeper, a very worthy man.⁶

mand the fort. The Procès Verbal, both Joutel and Moranget. The two Recollect fathers who went were Zenobius Membre and Maximus Le Clercq. La Salle at the same time ordered the frigate to enter the bay. It anchored at the mouth of Rivière des Vaches, still called Lavaca. Le Clercq, p. 291; Cavalier, p. 11. The point was called Point Hurier, a small camp being formed here under Sieur Hurier. Le Clercq, ii., p. 291. Hennepin errs in making the frigate enter long before. Voyage, p. 209.

¹ Joutel, Journal Historique, p. 96. Joutel had 130 persons in his fort.

² Joutel, Journal Historique, p. 97. He adds, p. 98, that early in April, 1685, a Spanish vessel was seen apparently looking for them. Soon after, April 22d, the Sieur le Gros was bitten by a rattlesnake.

³ Procès Verbal.

⁴ Joutel, Journal Historique, p. 103.

⁵ They laid in fish and salt for future use. Joutel, pp. 98, 101, 105.

⁶ Joutel, p. 105. Father Anastasius is less detailed. He makes Moranget's camp and Hurier's break-up in April immediately after Easter. Le Clercq, ii., p. 292.