

It was only necessary to encourage this good-will; but la Sale could not control his temper. At the very time when his men were spent with toil, and he could scarcely give them the absolute necessaries of life, he could not command himself so far as in the least to relax his severity, or an inflexible mood, never seasonable, and least of all in a new settlement. The slightest fault he punished with a kind of cruelty, and there seldom escaped from his lips any word of encouragement or consolation for those who suffered most patiently. He consequently had the mortification of seeing almost all his men sink into a languor, caused rather by their despair than by overwork or lack of good food, and which carried off many.¹

1685.
 LaSale's excessive severity and its fruits.

The most annoying thing was that through the imprudence of some of the French, the natives of the country declared against them, and it was impossible to regain their friendship. It seems, indeed, that no steps were taken to do so.

These Indians who were called Clamcoets,² are cruel, treacherous, of a perverse mind, mocking disposition, by nature ralliers, mimicking for sport all they see done, and so skillfully concealing all these defects under a gay and open exterior, that they are never more to be feared than when they display the greatest friendship. They have intoxicating liquors, and are much addicted to drunkenness. One of their strongest liquors is made from a kind of bean, which they chew, and then steep in water. They

The Indians harass the French. Disposition of the Clamcoets.

¹ By August, thirty were dead, including the head carpenter. These were followed by Le Gros, Carpentier, and Thibault, of Rouen. Joutel, pp. 112-3. The Procès Verbal, dated St. Louis, April, 18, 1686, says more than half died before the end of July, especially the sailors, from eating fruit, &c.

² These Clamcoets are called in

Spanish authors, Carancaguaces. Morfi, *Memorias para la Historia de la Provincia de Texas*, Lib. iv., p. 54. In Bonnel's *Topographical Description of Texas*, Austin, 1840, p. 137, the Carancahuas are mentioned as still on La Baca bay, but reduced to 100 souls. They do not appear in Stem's list, 1851. Schoolcraft, iii., p. 635.