

1685.

prised by their husbands in adultery, they fare badly. The least that can befall them is repudiation.

They have no temple or any thing denoting an ordered worship. Yet they do not seem devoid of religion: for when the grain is ripe, they gather a certain quantity, which they put into a basket, and these baskets are placed on a kind of pedestal, set apart especially for this purpose. Then an old man, extending his hands over them, recites quite a long formula, before he distributes the corn among the women. It is not lawful to eat the new corn till a week after this ceremony. The same ceremony is observed in some repasts which are made in common. The sagamity is not handed around to the guests till it is put in a vessel, set also on a stool, and an old man has recited his formula over the viands, with outspread hands. So, too, when a young man is armed for the first time, and is on the point of sowing his ground, his arms and seed-corn are similarly consecrated, as it were.¹

Mr. de la Sale wishes to seek the Mississippi by sea.

Meanwhile de la Sale at last completed his fort, to which he gave the name of St. Louis.² Then, unable to abandon the idea that the Mississippi emptied into the bay where he landed, and which he called also St. Louis bay, he resolved to sail around it in his frigate. He embarked in the month of October, leaving in his fort thirty-four

¹ Joutel, pp. 219-225.

² Joutel, p. 126, describes this fort as about 27° N., two leagues inland from the bay, and near the river, on a hill in the prairies, with the bay S. and W., and the river E. to N. A bluff ran along the river, and between the bluff and the fort hill was a swamp. The site was visited by Don Andres de Pes, in 1689 (Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, p. 295); and on the 6th of April, 1722, a new octagonal fort, called Santa Maria de Loreto de la bahia del Espiritu Santo, was built here, on the site of La Salle's, by the Spaniards. While digging, they found

many relics. Morfi, *Memorias para la historia de la provincia de Texas*. It would, therefore, seem that the fort was on the San Antonio, which empties into Espiritu Santo bay, and not on the Lavaca, which empties into Matagorda bay, as assumed by Sparks, *Life of La Sale*, p. 131; Bancroft, *Hist. of the U. States*, iii, p. 170; Yoakum, *History of Texas*, p. 19, whom we followed on p. 68. The last-named writer (p. 74) places the presidio of Loreto on Matagorda bay, while he admits that the mission was on the San Antonio; but, from Morfi's statement, the presidio was clearly on Espiritu Santo bay.