

1686-90. Some days after his departure,¹ Mr. de Chefdeville, the Marquis de la Sablonniere, and some of the others,² who had remained on the Belle, arrived at St. Louis in a boat, with his clothes, a part of his papers, his linen, and some provisions. Joutel asked them where the frigate was, and they replied that it had run ashore, and gone to pieces. They related to him the circumstances of this new misfortune, which deprived de la Sale of the only resource on which he could rely after so many disappointments. According to them, it happened in this way :

Wreck of
the frigate.

The ship being out of water, the Sieur Planterose went, with six others, to get a fresh supply from the nearest river. As they were returning on board with their load, head-winds detained them a long time, and, night overtaking them, they could not reach the vessel. Those on board, who had witnessed their efforts to return, lighted a fire to guide them in the darkness;³ but when the fire went out soon after, no one thought of rekindling it, and neither the boat nor any one belonging to it ever appeared. They waited for them some days, but in vain ; at last, the crew of the frigate, pressed by thirst, endeavored to get nearer in to the settlement, which was only two leagues off, on the bank of the river; but, the extreme weakness in which all had fallen—perhaps, too, want of skill—prevented their working the ship properly, and, an adverse wind springing up, the vessel was driven ashore on the opposite side of the bay, and stranded.⁴

¹ Joutel, *Journal Historique*, p. 140.

² Father Anastasius says Mr. Chefdeville, the captain, and four others. *Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 299. Joutel says Chefdeville, the Marquis, and some others. *Journal*, p. 141.

³ Joutel, *Journal Historique*, pp. 141-2, citing Mr. Chefdeville. The fire was simply a candle in a lan-

tern. Cavalier speaks of ten shot by the Bracamos. *Relation*, p. 30.

⁴ The *Procès Verbal* treats this as false, and charges that those on the Belle cut the cables, and were endeavoring to get to sea, when she was lost. It represents it as under command of Texier, the pilot—a second one of the name, apparently