

The river was between them and him ; Duhaut and Larchevêque crossed it, and, perceiving de la Sale advancing slowly, halted. Duhaut hid himself in the tall grass, with his gun loaded and cocked ; Larchevêque advanced a little further, and, a moment after, de la Sale, recognizing him, asked him where his nephew Moranget was. He replied that he was along the river,¹ and that instant Duhaut fired. De la Sale received the ball in his head, and fell stark dead. So Joutel relates the fact.² He had learned it from Father Anastasius, who was present, and whose testimony cannot be suspected.

Father Louis Hennepin, who also cites his fellow-religious, but who is far less credible than Joutel, pretends that de la Sale lived an hour after he was wounded ; that he made a kind of general confession to Father Anastasius, pardoned his murderers, and entered with a great deal of piety into all the other sentiments suggested to him by his confessor ; that he received, with lively tokens of religion, absolution for his sins ; and that he had approached the sacraments before setting out on his march.³

A manuscript relation, which I had in my hand, and which is preserved in the *Depôt de la Marine*,⁴ and the author of which seems strongly prejudiced against Mr. de la Sale, in regard to whom he expresses himself in a very condemnatory style, agrees with Joutel as to the manner

1687-90.

Tragic
death of
Mr. de la
Sale.

¹ The expression "à la dérive," literally "adrift," is explained by Joutel, p. 201, to mean "along the river." F. Anastasius says they pointed, and that La Salle was going in that direction, when two of them fired, one missing, the other striking him in the head. He says that La Salle died an hour after. He expected the same fate.

² Joutel, *Journal Historique*, p. 201.

³ Hennepin, in *Voyages au Nord*, v., p. 243. Charlevoix overlooks Father

Anastasius's own account, as given in *Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi*, ii., p. 335-341, and which is merely copied by Hennepin. F. Anastasius adds that, after La Salle expired, he wrapped him up, buried him as well as he could, placing a cross on his grave.

⁴ This is a document, entitled "Interrogations faites à Pierre et Jean Talon, par ordre de Mr. le Comte de Ponchartrain, à leur arrivée de la Vera Cruz, le 14 Septembre, 1698."