

He has also been justly reproached with never taking counsel of any one, and having more than once ruined his affairs by an obstinacy that nothing could overcome or justify. Some have declared that this happened in regard to the mouth of the Micissippi, which was pointed out to him, but which he would not even examine, because he had taken it into his head that it could not be at the position indicated.¹ He doubtless did not know or reflect that the foremost men in the world have often been indebted for their greatest success to persons far inferior to them in merit, and that those are wisest who believe that they can profit by the intelligence and advice of men less gifted than themselves.

1687-90.
His character.

Yet we must not credit all that has been published of his pretended violence, still less other more atrocious accusations, by which his enemies have sought to blacken him. Some have sought to diminish the horror of the crime committed on his person, by saying that he killed young Duhaut with his own hand, that he had similarly treated several others, and that the desire of avenging so much blood shed without any ground, and fear of a like fate, drove men, whom on every occasion he had treated brutally and forced to extremes, to the resolution of assassinating him.² Against such calumnious charges we should be well on our guard, as men are but too prone to exaggerate the faults of the unfortunate, and impute to them more than they really possessed, especially when they have contributed to their own ruin, and have failed to inspire attachment to their persons. The saddest circumstance of all in regard to the memory of this celebrated man is, that he was regretted by but few, and that the

Calumnies published against him.

¹ His letters sent back by Beaujeu, cited in Thomassy, *Géologie Pratique de la Louisiane*, disposes of this.

² I do not know where these charges were made; not in Dumont,

Memoires sur la Louisiane, La Page du Pratz, Lavalette Laudun, or Father Laval. They are in Bossu (*Nouveaux Voyages*, i., p. 101), but his work is posterior to Charlevoix, and here copies him almost literally.