

BOOK XVIII.

OF all the parts of New France no one then engaged the attention of the ministry more than Louisiana; I have already said that de la Sale had given this name to the new discoveries made by him along the Mississippi. Since his unfortunate attempts to discover the mouth of that river by sea, the project had apparently been renounced. At last, in 1697, Mr. d'Iberville, on returning from his Hudson Bay expedition, recalled the attention of the ministry to the point, and led the Count de Pontchartrain to project a fort at the mouth of that great river, which that officer (Iberville) flattered himself he could find.¹

1700.

This resolution taken, the minister equipped at Rochefort the François and Renommée, giving the command to the Marquis de Chateamoran and Mr. d'Iberville, both captains of ships of the line.² They set sail on the 17th

¹ Mr. French in his Hist. Coll. of Louisiana and Florida gives the proposals for colonizing Louisiana submitted to the French government Dec. 10, 1697, by a Mr. de Remonville.

² Charlevoix is in error here. Iberville and Chateamoran did not sail together, but met by appointment in the West Indies, Iberville in the *Badine*, 30, and the Chevalier de Surgères in the *Marin*, 30, left Brest, Oct. 24, 1698, having

put back to that port after sailing from Rochelle Sept. 5. Iberville to Pontchartrain, July 3, 1699, MS.; "Journal du Voyage fait par deux frégates du Roi, la *Badine*, commandée par Mr. d'Iberville et le *Marin* par Mr. le Chevalier de Surgères, qui partirent de Brest le vendredi, 24 Octobre, 1698, où elles avoient relaché, étant parties de la Rochelle le 5 Septembre precedent." MS.; Bénard de la Harpe, Journal p. 4, gives the date Sept. 24, erroneously; Peni-