

sailed off in his vessel the *François*, steering on the 20th of April for St. Domingo.¹ As soon as he hoisted sail, d'Iberville entered the *Micissippi*, with the view of sailing up that river, and did not get far before he saw how little he could rely on the Relation attributed to the Chevalier de Tonti, and on all those of Father Hennepin which he had already found at fault in regard to Canada and Hudson's Bay. This he stated to the Minister in a letter, of which I have had the original in my hands, and which is preserved in the *Dépôt de la Marine*.²

On his arrival in the village of the *Bayagoulas*, (the position of which I have noted elsewhere)³ the chief of these Indians conducted him to a temple, a description of which will not perhaps displease the reader. The roof was decorated with various animal figures, among which a red cock was conspicuous. At the entrance, by way of a portico, there was a shed eight feet broad by eleven long, supported by two stout columns on which rested a cross-piece. On either side of the door were other animal figures, such as bears and wolves and various birds, and at the head of all a *chouchouacha*, an animal with a head like a sucking pig, and of about the same size; its hair is of the same quality as that of a badger, gray and white: it has a rat's tail, an ape's paws, and the female has under her belly a sack in which she breeds and nourishes her young.⁴

The Indian chief, who was d'Iberville's guide, opened a door only three feet high and two wide, and entered first. This temple was a cabin, built like all the others in the village, in form of a dome somewhat flattened and thirty feet in diameter. In the centre were two logs of dry worm-

1700.

Temple of
the
Bayagoulas.

¹ He sailed really Feb. 21. (*Journal du Voyage*, MS.; d'Iberville to Pontchartrain; Officer's Letter,) and of course before d'Iberville had entered the *Mississippi*.

² Mr. French, in his version of this letter, *Hist. Collections Louisiana and Florida*, p. 24, substitutes *Jesuits* for *Hennepin*. No *Jesuit* having written, none could be referred to.

Charlevoix cites *Iberville's* autograph letter. There are no reflections in the *Journal*.

³ *Charlevoix*, *Journal*, p. 436. *D'Iberville* reached it March 14, and was received by the Chief of the *Mongoulachas*. *D'Iberville* to *Pontchartrain*.

⁴ The opossum.