

1700.

ject, for it must be avowed that on this occasion d'Iberville forgot himself; or if he had other views, had not time to carry out his project, having been subsequently taken up with other expeditions.

It is certain that this officer, after completing his fort on the Micissippi, and ascending that river to the Natchés, where he projected founding a city to be called Rosalie, as I have noted elsewhere,¹ returned to Biloxi Bay, where he established the headquarters of his new colony. The Spaniards made no opposition, and the commandants from the two nations had in this apparently the same aim, with this difference, that one did good service to his King by amusing the French with trade; and the other, while waiting to be put in a position to do better for the interests of his prince, thought that he might at least not neglect his own interest.² Be that as it may, the Governor of Pensacola declared to the Chevalier de Surgères, when that officer went to ask leave to enter his port, that he had orders to prevent the English and all companies from settling in the neighborhood of the Micissippi; but not to refuse to receive in his port vessels of the King of France, and he required him to exhibit his commission, to assure him that he was in the service of his Most Christian Majesty, whereupon d'Iberville, in a letter to the Count de Pontchartrain observes to the minister, that in the opinion of men most versed in American affairs, Louisiana would never be settled unless trade was thrown open to all the merchants in the kingdom.

Object of
Louisiana
trade.

The two great objects of this trade at that time were the wool to be obtained from the bison,³ and the pearl fisheries. Both were expressly noted in Iberville's instructions. "One of the great objects," they say, "proposed to the King, when he was urged to discover the mouth of the Micissippi, was to obtain wool from the cattle of that coun-

¹ Charlevoix, Journal, p. 414.

² For Iberville's trading operations here delicately hinted at, see Gov. de Calliere's report. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 712. He bought a

quantity of furs from men who ran off with them from the west and came down the Mississippi, to the loss of the owners in Canada.

³ Bœufs du pays.