

1700-25. tion to the advantages to be derived from it; nearly thirty years glided by in this indifference; at last the proximity to the mines of New Mexico, and those published as having been discovered in Louysiana itself, having aroused our nation from this lethargy, the kingdom in less than three years sent out more men, money and material to found a settlement in that part of America, than had left France for any one of our colonies in the New World since the days of Francis I.

But when it was evident that this country produced neither gold nor silver, and that it was not easy to make the wealth, which New Spain possessed within it, flow in Louysiana, the province suddenly fell under general censure: no one regarded the fertility of the soil, or the productions it would yield with moderate toil, nor the importance of establishing a naval station on the Gulf of Mexico. The treasures brought from France disappeared; men died of want, although they had all requisite to live in opulence, or else they dispersed on all sides, as we shall see in the sequel of this history.

Condition of
Louysiana in
1700.

When d'Iberville left it, in April, 1700, Louysiana had no French settlements except those of some Canadians, in Illinois, a fort near the mouth of the Micissippi, which lasted only till 1705, and another at Biloxi on the sea shore. Mr. de Sauvole commanded in this latter, which was the headquarters. The former had been intrusted by d'Iberville to his brother de Bienville and the Sieur Juchereau de St. Denys,¹ his wife's uncle, a man much esteemed by the Indians, and a fluent speaker of the languages of several nations. He had also, on parting, given orders to his kinsman, le Sueur, to proceed to the Sioux country

¹ Louis Juchereau de St. Denys, whom Mr. Daniel, (*Nos Gloires*, i., p. 207,) supposes to have been called Barbara, was a son of Nicholas Juchereau, Sieur de St. Denys. According to the recent work of the Abbé Tanguay, *Dictionnaire Généalogique*, p. 328, he was born at Que-

bec, Sept. 18, 1676. The exact time of his death I have not ascertained. *Le Page du Pratz*, i., p. 178, refers to his manuscripts, but they are not now known, and elsewhere the latter author speaks of the grief of the Indians at his death. *Ib.*, p. 301-2.