

view, but it met with about the same result as the former.¹ 1712-25.

This expedition he confided to the Sieur de St. Denys,² and it could not have been placed in better hands. The Governor gave him ten thousand francs' worth of goods, and agreed with him that they were to be stored among the Natchitoches, an Indian tribe on Red River, with whom de Bienville and this same Saint Denys had formed an alliance in 1701, and of which some members had, within a few years, settled on the Micissippi, near the Colapissas.

Overland expedition of de St. Denis to Mexico.

Saint Denys, deeming it expedient to take these Natchitoches with him, proposed it through Pénicaut, a ship-car-penter. This man had accompanied le Sueur to his copper-mine: he had made several other excursions on the Micissippi, and understood almost all the Indian languages of Louysiana. He himself had brought the Natchitoches to the Colapissas, and had no difficulty in persuading them to return to their former abode with de Saint Denys.

But the Colapissas, who had received them with great humanity, and who had found them not useless, were so offended to see them depart without even any apology, that they pursued them, killed seventeen, and carried off a great many of their women and children. The rest escaped through the woods and reached de Saint Denys, who was awaiting them at Biloxi. He set out with them, and passing through the village of the Tonicas, induced the chief of that nation to follow him with fifteen of his best hunters.³

On arriving at the village of the Natchitoches, situated on an island in Red River, forty leagues from its mouth

by the treaty of March 26, 1713. Bénéard de la Harpe, p. 113:

¹ Pénicaut, Relation, ch. 13.

² St. Denys styles himself, in a declaration made at Mexico June 22, 1715, Captain of Fort St. Jean, near Mobile, though he makes it really 40 leagues from that place.

³ Pénicaut, Relation, ch. 14, § 1. Bénéard de la Harpe, p. 116, says he set out Aug. 23, 1714, with 30 Can-

adians, or rather, 24. Declaracion de Don Luis de San Denis, Mexico, June 22, 1715. Le Page du Pratz, Histoire de la Louisiane, i., p. 10, says the expedition was induced by a letter from the Recollect Father Ydalgo, asking aid to establish a mission among the Asinais, but he evidently confounds the expedition itself with the service he rendered as subsequently stated.