

ing without the permission of the Governor of Caouis,¹ his immediate superior, to whom he at once dispatched an express to receive his orders. Caouis is sixty leagues from Presidio del Norte on the route to Mexico. The Governor, having read Vilescas' letter, sent twenty-five horsemen for Saint Denys, and after examining his passport, told him that it was necessary for him to go and see the Viceroy at Mexico. Saint Denys agreed, but did not set out till the next year with Jallot, and on starting from Caouis, wrote to the French whom he had left at Presidio del Norte to return to Natchitoches.² 1710-25.

It is two hundred and fifty leagues from Caouis to Mexico; Saint Denys made the journey guided by an officer and escorted by twenty-four horsemen. On reaching the capital of New Spain,³ he was taken before the Viceroy, to whom he presented his passport. The Viceroy read and returned it, and without listening to him even, sent him to prison. There he remained three months, and would perhaps have never recovered his liberty, if some French officers, who were in the service of the Catholic King, who knew d'Iberville intimately, and knew also that Saint Denys was uncle to d'Iberville's wife, had not interceded in his behalf.⁴

He is imprisoned at Mexico

He was then released; the Viceroy even gave him three hundred dollars and a commodious lodging, and often invited him to his table. The more he knew Saint Denys, the more he esteemed him; at last he spared no effort to induce him to give up service in a poor colony for that of New Spain. He told him that several of his countrymen had already set him the example and found no reason to repent. Some of these officers even pressed him earnestly to follow the course they had adopted, and in which they found complete satisfaction.

His adventures. He refuses to enter the Spanish service.

¹ Pénicaut writes Caouil—meaning Coahuila.

² Pénicaut was sent back. Relation ch. xiv., § 4-5.

³ He arrived June 25, 1715. Bé-nard de la Harpe, p. 129. Le Page du Pratz, § i., p. 14, says 5th. F. de

Alencastre, Noroña y Silva, Duque de Linares, was viceroy 1711-6.

⁴ Declaracion de Don Luis de San Denis y Don Medar Jallot, naturales de la Nueva Francia, taken before Gerardo Mora, Mexico, June 22, 1715, MS.