

1710-25. Saint Denys held no rank in Louysiana, serving only as a volunteer; here he was offered a company in the cavalry, an offer to tempt a Canadian officer without means; he refused it, however, and in spite of all they could say, adhered to his refusal. The Viceroy told him that he was already half a Spaniard, as he sought the hand of the daughter of Don Pedro de Vilescas, and was to marry her on his return to Fort San Juan.

Saint Denys replied: "I cannot dissemble, since your excellency is informed that I love that lady, but I had not indulged the hope of winning her as my wife." "You will obtain it," said the Viceroy, "if you accept the offer I have made, and I give you two months to consider it." At the end of that time he sounded him again, and finding him inflexible, dismissed him, placing in his hands a purse of a thousand dollars, saying that it was for his wedding expenses. "I hope," he added, "that Doña Maria will be more fortunate than myself in persuading you to remain in New Spain. As for establishing trade with Louysiana, which you have come so far to solicit, it is not possible for me to grant it to you."

He renders  
a service to  
the  
Spaniards.

The next day he sent him a very fine bay horse from his stables, and had him escorted<sup>1</sup> to Caouis by an officer and two mounted men. There he found Jallot awaiting him, his surgical skill having won him very great respect in the country. They proceeded to the quarters of Don Pedro de Vilescas,<sup>2</sup> whom they found in great perplexity. That commandant had just learned that the whole population of four Indian towns, exasperated at the oppression of the Spaniards at Presidio del Norte, had just set out to emigrate elsewhere, and he feared to be held responsible for this desertion, which, moreover, reduced his fort to great extremity, as the garrison owed its subsistence almost entirely to these very Indians.

On imparting his troubles to de Saint Denys, the latter offered to go to the Indians, confident that he could recall

<sup>1</sup> He left Mexico Oct. 26, 1715.

<sup>2</sup> Don Domingo Ramon, according to better authority.