

1716-36. 5th, Permission to sell and alienate the lands within said grant, to erect such forts, castles and strongholds as it shall deem necessary for the defence of the territory granted; to place garrisons there, to raise troops in France with his majesty's concert, and to appoint such governors, majors, officers and others as shall please it, to command the troops.¹

Mr. de
l'Epinaï
Governor of
Louisiana.

Mr. de la Motte Cadillac and Mr. Duclous were no longer in Louisiana when this change took place. Mr. de l'Epinaï² had succeeded the former, and Mr. Hubert the latter. They had arrived at Dauphin Island³ in the month of March of that year, and some months after the Western Company appointed Mr. de Bienville Commandant General of all the province. His commission bore date September 20th, but he did not receive it or take possession till the ensuing year. Mr. de l'Epinaï had come with three ships, bringing many officers, a great number of soldiers, a supply of ammunition, and provisions and merchandise of all kinds. All was discharged at the storehouses on Dauphin Island except the goods which were in the Dudlow, commanded by Mr. de Golleville, whose orders were to proceed to Vera Cruz to dispose of them. This captain, learning what had befallen Mr. de la Jonchere, who had failed to obtain permission to trade at that port five years before, did not deem it prudent to show himself there: he anchored at Villarica, the ancient Vera Cruz, built by Cortez, and secretly notified the Spanish merchants, who came on board, bought his cargo and paid him in hard cash.⁴

¹ Letters Patent to the Western Company, Aug., 1717. Le Page du Pratz, i., p. 47-81. Louisiana Hist. Coll., iii., p. 49-59. Bénard de la Harpe, p. 139. This was the company formed by the famous John Law.

² Mr. de Lepinaï, appointed by the King Governor of Louisiana, Oct. 8, 1716, was a naval officer, and came over in command of the Paon, which, with the Ludlow, reached Dauphin Island March 9. Relation

de la Louisianne ou Mississipi, (Voyages au Nord.) p. 4. Bénard de la Harpe, p. 131. See his Instructions in Gayarré, Histoire de la Louisiane, i., p. 153. Pénicaut, Relation, ch. xix., § 2.

³ It now dropped its name Isle Massacre for that of Dauphin Island. Dumont, ii., p. 7. Le Gac was Chief Director, and le Maire missionary. Ib.

⁴ Pénicaut, Relation, ch. 19, § 3.