

Meanwhile, Mr. de l'Épinai was busily fortifying Dauphin Island, where all the storehouses were, and while he was engaged with these cares, twenty-four Indian nations' sent deputies to compliment him and sing the calumet to him. But the joy inspired by this general concourse of the nations included in his jurisdiction, was soon dashed by an unforeseen accident which disconcerted his plans and rendered useless all the money just expended on Dauphin Island. Towards the end of August, the mouth of the only harbor on the island was closed by a prodigious collection of sand heaped up there by a hurricane. The island itself was almost entirely inundated, and many of the cattle were drowned.²

A new roadstead had to be sought for the ships, and Isle Surgère was selected, afterwards called Isle aux Vaisseaux—Ship Island. It has, however, only one roadstead, a tolerably good one, except when the wind blows from the north, or northwest, but these winds are rare there, and not violent. To protect the ships, a small fort was built on the island, and the Dauphin Island establishment was transferred to Biloxi, north of Ship Island, though ships cannot approach within four leagues of it.

Nothing shows more clearly how we then confined ourselves to the trade that might be carried on with the Spaniards, than this new post: for the soil of Biloxi is no better than that of Dauphin Island, and that post has not even a roadstead for the smaller brigantines. It is inconceivable how they could dream of placing the centre

1716-36.

His
reception
by the
Indians.
The port of
Isle
Dauphin
closes.

¹ Pénicaut, ch. 19, § 5, names the Choctaws, Taouachas, Apalaches, Tinnsals, Mobilians, Tomes, Gens de Fourches, Capinans, Colapicças, (Aquelon-pissas—nation of men who hear and see: Le Page, i., 46.) Bayagoulas, Oumas, Chaouachas, Natchez, Chicachas, Nassitoches, Yalaas, Alibamons, Canapouces.

We may here add some tribes with definitions. Pascagoula, (Bread nation, Le Page, i., 41.) Oufé-ogoulas, (Dog nation,) 2, p. 226. Chacthi-oumas, (Red crabs,) 2, p. 226. Atacapas, (Men eaters,) 2, p. 231. Oqueloussas, Blackwater, p. 241.

² A storm in March choked up the channel, and at the end of April, 1717, a bar 14 fathoms wide and as high as the island was formed, shutting in the Paon and a merchantman. Relation de la Louisianne, p. 9; Bénard de la Harpe, Journal, p. 132. Pénicaut, ch. 19, § 4.