

1718. entrusted with this expedition, which he carried out without any obstacle; he then erected a stone fort there. The Spaniards had abandoned this post eighteen years before; but the Governor of Pensacola was no sooner informed of this enterprise, than he wrote to Bienville that St. Joseph's Bay belonged to the Catholic King.<sup>1</sup> It was not worth a contest with that crown, and Mr. de Chateaugué, who had taken possession of it, did not doubt for a moment that it would soon have to be abandoned, as in fact it was the next year. The reasons which brought Mr. de Bienville and the Company to this were: 1st, That the post is useless, not only on account of its great distance and want of security for ships there, but chiefly on account of the impossibility of defending the entrance, which is more than a good league in width. 2nd, That it is extremely inconvenient, both in regard to the difficulty of landing reinforcements, for you have to wait for the proper moment, which frequently will not occur for a week, or even a fortnight; and on account of the sterility of the soil, which for more than four leagues around is nothing but bare sand, and on account of the insalubrity of the air, which in all that country is very unhealthy, all our soldiers having been very sick there. This occasioned many desertions, which there was no way to prevent. 3rd, That the vessels are not sheltered there from any wind, and the water to be found there is very bad.

Description  
of  
Pensacola.

What occurred the following year in this colony will suffice to let all judge what we would now be in a position to effect there had men profited by the advantages in

1719.

San Blas. Don Juan Manuel Roldan discovered Chateauguay soon after he entered, and seeing his intention to settle, reported to Matamoros, Governor of Pensacola, who sent him with a letter to Chateaugué, who referred him to Bienville. Roldan then endeavored to induce French soldiers to desert, and 25 actually did, persuaded by Roque, a Spanish captain. La Harpe, p. 141. Capt. de Gousy was left in com-

mand of the French fort. Matamoros disapproving of this, wrote to Bienville. Bienville replied May 14, that he acted under orders from court. Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, pp. 338-9. The French abandoned it May, 1718. La Harpe, p. 142. In 1719 Gregorio de Salinas sailed to reoccupy it, and thus left Pensacola exposed. *Ib.* p. 347.

<sup>1</sup> Pénicaut, ch. 21, § 1. Bénard de la Harpe.