

1719. de Champmêlin, to serve as his guide along the coast and entering the harbor.<sup>1</sup>

Preparations for attacking Pensacola.

On the seventh, Dardennes, a Canadian, who had been sent to Pensacola to endeavor to reconnoitre the condition of the place, reported that he had counted eight vessels at anchor off St. Rosa Island, the masts lowered and the yards sheered up; that he had perceived a number of tents on the island and many men walking there; that the fort at Pensacola seemed to him in very good condition; that the bastion on the northeast, and curtain on the north had been entirely restored, and that the garrison durst not sally forth by day or night, such was their fear of the Indians. On the tenth, some Apalaches, also returning from a scout, brought in a Spaniard, but he was a galley slave, from whom no information could be obtained. Finally, on the twelfth, de Bienville came aboard the flagship with a troop of Canadians, to receive Mr. de Champmêlin's last orders, and on the night between the thirteenth and fourteenth,<sup>2</sup> the general signalled to weigh anchor with three King's ships, two of the Company's frigates, the Union and Philippe, and a small bark to aid in landing, in case of need.

The Western Company had recently sent to Louisiana two hundred and fifty men of the late levies; these were distributed among the King's vessels. Bienville's orders were to proceed by sloop to Rio Perdido with the soldiers and volunteers to join the Indians whom the Chevalier de Longueville<sup>3</sup> was to bring thither, and whom he in fact found there. Bienville then detached a body of French and Indians to harass the garrison of Pensacola, and prevent any one from leaving the fort. This was punctually carried out.

In fine, on the 15th, before sunrise, the squadron weighed anchor; and on the 16th in the evening, it an-

<sup>1</sup> Bienville to the minister, Oct. seventh, in his Memoires, ii., p. 20, 1719, in Gayarré, i., p. 171. Pé-  
nicaut, Relation, ch. 21, § 5.

<sup>3</sup> Relation de la Louisianne, p.

<sup>2</sup> Dumont, evidently in error, says 27-8. Dumont, ii., p. 21.