

1719.

sailors who were prisoners with him, and that the latter were forced to carry stone or enlist in Spanish ships, to have wherewith to sustain life.¹ Mr. de Champmêlin bitterly reproached the Spanish General and officers with this; but he did not think it right to take any other vengeance than by treating kindly all the prisoners of their nation in his hands. He nevertheless thought it his duty to write to the Governor of Havana; he then sentenced the French taken arms in hand against the King; the most guilty were hanged, the rest condemned to the galleys.²

The fort at Pensacola in part demolished

The only question left was whether the fort at Pensacola should be preserved. There was no lack of soldiers to garrison it, but most of them were wretches who had deserted from the army in France, or taken by force; and past experience showed how little dependence could be placed on their fidelity. It was therefore resolved to demolish two bastions on the land side, preserving only the two facing the port, and to leave there an officer, two sergeants, twenty soldiers and twelve Indians.³ On the third of October, the frigate Duke de Noailles arrived at Pensacola and delivered to the Count de Champmêlin letters, by which he was ordered to winter with his squadron in Louysiana, inasmuch as information had reached the Court of France that a strong squadron had left Spain for the Gulf of Mexico; but the condition in which his ships and crews were, rendered this order impracticable.

On the eleventh a Spaniard, sole survivor of the crew of a storeship of twenty-four guns, intended to revictual St. Joseph's Bay, stated that he had sailed from Vera Cruz sixteen days previously; that he had left there five men-of-war, carrying each from fifty to seventy guns; two frigates and three bilanders, with a great number of land troops, who were preparing to come and seize all the posts occupied by the French in Louysiana. On the

¹ Bienville to the minister, citing Chateauguê's letter. Gayarré, i., p. 172.

² Ib. Dumont, Memoires, ii., p. 26. Bénard de la Harpe, p. 165.

³ Bienville to the minister, Oct. 20, 1719. The officer left was Lieut. Delisle, of the navy. Dumont, ii., p. 28. Le Page du Pratz, i., p. 103.