

1719. These arrangements made, Mr. de Champmêlin's next thought was to reward the Indians for the zeal they had displayed for the French nation since the commencement of this war. Mr. de Saint Denys, who was greatly beloved by these tribes, received orders to assemble them, and he made them chant the calumet in honor of the general, who attended with all his officers. He then addressed them in the general's name, exhorting them to remain ever attached to the French, whose superiority over their enemy they had just witnessed. When he had ended his address, presents were distributed to all in the King's name, and they were sent off highly pleased.

New tidings of the approach of a Spanish squadron.

On the 21st,¹ as the squadron was about to set sail, a bilander was seen endeavoring to enter the bay, wind astern. It was seized, and the captain declared that he had cleared from Vera Cruz eighteen days before in company with a 44 gun ship, and three others of thirty, eighteen and twelve guns, and another bilander; that three ten gun ships had remained in port, the pestilence having broken out among the crews; that General Cornejo in person was in the largest ship; that it was his design to join the Governor of Pensacola, to aid him in conquering all that was still left to the French in Louysiana, and that he supposed Dauphin Island and Fort Maubile already in the power of his Catholic majesty; that moreover, a gale having separated his bilander from the squadron three days after its departure from Vera Cruz, he did not know what had become of it.

De Champmêlin sails for France. Mr. de Saujon arrives.

This news decided Mr. de Champmêlin to remain some days longer at Pensacola, awaiting the Spanish squadron, but as it did not appear, he hoisted sail and started for France again.² It is probable that Cornejo, having learned by the way the capture of Pensacola, and the

¹ Oct. 21 the fleet left Pensacola after burning the forts and houses, having only sub-Lieut. Terrisse with a few soldiers and Indians. Bénéard de la Harpe, p. 167.

² With the Hercules, Mars, Tri-

ton, Union and Maréchal de Villars. Barcia, p. 363. He reached Brest, Jan. 3, 1720. After he sailed in Nov., 1719, the fort at Old Biloxi was restored. Dumont, ii., p. 34. Pénicaut, ch. 21, MS.