

presence of the French fleet there still, did not deem it prudent to engage a squadron much stronger than his own. Be that as it may, de Champmêlin had scarcely sailed when the Chevalier de Saujon arrived in Louisiana with a new squadron,¹ and his presence contributed in no slight degree to prevent anything being undertaken by the Spaniards. He then wished to go to St. Joseph's Bay and capture that post; but this was not the opinion of Mr. de Bienville, who had taken possession of it the year before, and soon after abandoned it on account of its uselessness and the difficulties of defending it, or approaching it, or sheltering vessels there, and especially on account of the sterility of the country, which is adapted to no natural products. Mr. de Serigny, too, remarked that the famine which threatened the colony would prevent any delay in the departure of the Company's ships, which it was intended to use on this expedition, and on which he saw himself compelled to send back many of the people to France. Mr. de Saujon did not insist, and as there was no longer anything to detain him in America, he sailed for France.²

De Serigny followed soon after: he set sail June 27, 1720,³ and on reaching Brest he learned that the King had appointed him captain of ships of the line; a reward well merited by his valor, his good conduct, and the zeal with which he had served his prince from childhood; having never been promoted to any rank in the navy till

1719.

1720.

Departure
of
de Serigny
and arrival
of two royal
vessels.

¹ Laval, Voyage, p. 97; De Vallette-Laudun, Journal, p. 234. Escorting the Mutine, Capt. de Martonne, one of the Company's ships, (Dumont, ii., p. 36,) and the Duc de Noailles. (La Harpe, p. 220.) Soon after the whole establishment on Dauphin Island was removed to Old Biloxi. Dumont, p. 37. The arrival of Concessionaries and a fire at Old Biloxi, led to a new establishment at New Biloxi. *Ib.*, p. 38-43. La Harpe, p. 220, gives as his vessels the *Achille*, 62; Capt. de

Laujon, (Saujon); *Content*, 60, Capt. de Rochambeau; *Mercure*, 56, Capt. de Gabaret. They arrived Feb. 28, 1720.

² He sailed May 4th. De Vallette-Laudun, Journal, p. 235. Laval, Voyage, p. 97. Bénard de la Harpe, p. 222.

³ On the Amazon, Capt. St. Villiers, which sailed with the *Victoire*, la Jaille. De Vallette-Laudun, p. 235. Pénicaut says with the Comte de Toulouse and Maréchal de Villars, ch. 22.