

King had honored with the brevet of Captain, and the Cross of Saint Louis, on the high testimony which Mr. de Champmêlin had rendered in his favor in the Council of the Navy. He set out at the commencement of the following year with a reinforcement of troops and munitions, and his wife soon joined him there. Mr. de Chateaugué, who had proceeded from Havana to France, also returned at the same time, with the rank of King's Lieutenant, and resumed command of Fort Saint Louis at Maubile. Finally, de Bienville again established the headquarters of Louisiana at Biloxi, and fixed his residence there, with the greater part of the troops and the Directors of the Company, of which he was the presiding officer.

1721.

No further fears were entertained of the Spaniards, because from the preceding year while Mr. de Valette was still at Dauphin Island, positive information had come that two Spanish ships of sixty-six and sixty-seven guns, commanded by two commodores, and which were to join the Vera Cruz fleet to surprise Pensacola, had received counter orders at Havana, and that this change was caused by a suspension of hostilities between the two crowns. The court of Madrid feeling, no doubt, that the restitution of Pensacola would be one of the articles of the treaty of peace then negotiating, thought it needless to incur useless expense, and the result was as she had foreseen.¹

First tidings of peace.

It was a favorable opportunity to establish the concessions, who did not cease to arrive from France, and who, well managed, would in a few years have peopled both banks of the Micissippi up to the Illinois; but the sole aim of the Directors of the Company was to get near the Spaniards, and prevent their settling in our vicinity. This same year de Bienville formed the design of secur-

Unsuccessful enterprise at St. Bernard Bay.

¹ Pensacola was restored to the Spaniards in Dec., 1722. Alexander Wauchop, an Irish officer who had reached the rank of captain of a frigate, arrived there Nov. 26 in the frigate Grande Holandesa to take possession. Charlevoix, Journal, p. 481; La Harpe withdrew the French garrison to Mobile. Journal, pp. 346-7.