

France of this great disorder, which would infallibly soon draw down utter ruin on his colony. But all that happened should have been anticipated; that colony having been settled almost entirely by people sent over by force, or Concessionaries who did not find there what they had been led to expect; for soon the only thought of either was to get out of it; numbers died of misery or disease, and the country was emptied as rapidly as it had filled.

1722.

For their part, the deserters everywhere adduced the necessity to which they were driven, of providing for themselves elsewhere, by the refusal to give them the very necessaries of life. Some even wrote to the Registrars of Louisiana¹ in terms that showed how much the step they had just taken cost them; and this was still more clearly evinced by what happened in the month of August of this same year. One Duclos, commanding a coaster with a very rich cargo, was met by a party of these deserters, who merely took from him some provisions and liquors, without touching his merchandise. On his expressing his surprise, they replied that they were not robbers, but decent men, whom necessity forced to seek life in other nations, since their own let them perish with hunger. The most malcontent were the soldiers, who received absolutely nothing but bread, while meat was distributed to the Company's workmen, and even to the criminals, who were quite frequently employed by the settlers.

To crown the misfortunes, on the 12th of September, at ten in the evening, there rose on the Mississippi a hurricane, which lasted in all its fury till noon on the following day, and was felt as far as Natchez in one direction, and Biloxi in the other. At New Orleans, the church, hospital and thirty houses or log huts were thrown down; all the other edifices were injured. No lives were lost, but some of the sick in the hospital were wounded. A number

Hurricane
and its
effects.

¹ On the 15th of April in the preceding year, the King had by an Arrêt appointed four Commissaries, all Councillors of State for the Regimen of Louisiana and the West-

ern Company, and the rendering of the accounts. *Charlevoix*. Two Commissaries, du Sausoy and de la Chaise, arrived, in the *Venus* in 1722.