

1725. was to gain them to Christ. Nor could it moreover be unknown that even independent of the fruit which the evangelical laborers might produce among them, the mere presence of a man, venerable by his office, understanding their language, able to observe their conduct, and able by gaining the confidence of some to learn their designs, is often better than a garrison, or may at least supply its place, and give the governors time to take steps to defeat their plots. The example of the Illinois, who had since 1717 been incorporated with the government of Louisiana, was sufficient to show how important it was not to leave the other nations any longer without missionaries.<sup>1</sup>

Jesuits  
sent.

The India Company saw this, and in the year 1725 applied to the Jesuits, a great number of whom offered themselves for this new mission. But as the Superiors could not grant permission to all to devote themselves to it, and there were not enough to give some to all the tribes, the commandant and directors thought best to place the first who arrived in positions where there were no Capuchins, whence it happened that the Natchez, the very people whom it was most important to enlighten, had none, and the fault thus committed was not perceived till it was irreparable.<sup>2</sup>

Ursulines.

Provision was at the same time made for the education of the young French girls at the capital and its vicinity, by bringing over Ursulines from France; and to avoid multiplying establishments in a colony which scarcely be-

<sup>1</sup> Chicagou, chief of the Illinois, and some chiefs of the Missouris, Osages and Otopatas went to France in 1725. Father de Beaubois presented them to the India Company. Postman, London, Jan. 27, 1726. See Dumont, ii., pp. 74-78; Bossu, i., p. 161-2.

<sup>2</sup> After Fathers du Ru and Dongé, (ante, iv., p. 129, n.) came F. Joseph de Limoges, who entered the order Sept. 24, 1686, came over in 1698, founded a Baïogoula mission, and returned to France in 1703. Martin's list in Carayon; Jouveney, Hist. Soc.

Jesu, p. 223. Under the arrangement now made, F. Nicholas de Beaubois, who had been some years in Illinois, became Superior, and was joined in 1726, by FF. Paul du Poisson, Mathurin le Petit, John Dumas, and John Souel; and in 1727 by FF. Alexis de Guyenne, René Tartarin, and Stephen d'Outreleau. Martin's List. Of the labors of this Jesuit mission, we have only the Letters of du Poisson, and le Petit in the Lettres Edifiantes, (Kip's Jes. Missions, pp. 29, &c.); a few letters in the Louisiana Documents, and the Banissement