

improve somewhat upon his previous publication of the French text in *Comptes-Rendus de l'Athénée Louisianais* for September 1, 1897.

CCI. Du Poisson writes (October 3, 1727) to a friend from his Arkansas mission, at which he has recently arrived, describing his voyage thither from New Orleans, and the region and tribes through which he passed. In this connection, he describes the grants of land on the Mississippi made to various persons in France, most of whom do not come in person, but "equipped vessels and filled them with directors, stewards, storekeepers, clerks, and workmen of various trades, with provisions and all kinds of goods." These people, not liking pioneer work, consume their time and provisions at the French settlements; the poor workmen seize the goods for their pay; and thus the enterprise comes to naught. There are also small planters, who secure a bare living by agriculture. Another class of the inhabitants "have no other occupation than that of roving about"—women of dubious repute; young fellows sent hither "by their relatives or by the law," who engage themselves as boatmen; and roving hunters, who ascend the river to the buffalo-ranges, and prepare quantities of dried meat for sale to the colonists below. Du Poisson graphically describes the difficulties of a journey up the Mississippi—the floods, the snags, the intense heat, and the fierce mosquitoes. These insects are the worst torment of all; "the Egyptian plague was not more cruel. . . . This little creature has caused more swearing since the French came to *Mississippi*, than had been done before that time in all the rest of the world." There is one place—a short-cut of two