

and beasts. Those of deer can be used as table-covers, and those of cattle as bed-covers.

The French settlement of the Akensas would be an important one, had Monsieur Laws's reputation continued four or five years. His grant was here in a boundless prairie, the entrance of which is two gunshots from the house in which I am. The Company of the Indies had *granted* him a tract sixteen leagues square; that makes, I think, fully a hundred leagues in circuit. His intention was to found a City here, to establish manufactures, to have numbers of vassals and troops, and to found a Duchy. He began the work only a year before his fall. The property which he then sent into this country amounted to more than fifteen hundred thousand livres. Among other things, he had means to arm and superbly equip two hundred cavalymen. He had also bought three hundred Negroes. The Frenchmen engaged for this grant were men of all sorts of trades. The Directors and subalterns, with a hundred men, ascended the river in five boats in order to come here to begin the settlement; they must at the start procure provisions, that they might be ready to receive those people whom they had left down the river. The Chaplain died on the way, and was buried in one of the sand-banks of the Mississippi. Twelve thousand Germans were engaged for this grant. This was not a bad beginning for the first year; but Monsieur *Laws* was disgraced. Of the three or four thousand Germans who had already left their country, a large number died in the East, nearly all on landing in the country; the others were recalled. The Company of the Indies took back the grant, and shortly after abandoned it; the entire