

nies were being continued with which these nations are accustomed to confirm their alliances, the said Sieur de la Salle sent M. de Tonty commander of a brigade, to prepare this column — which was done in a short time. The cross was painted with the arms of France and this inscription: "Louis le Grand, roy de France et de Navarre, règne le 13 Mars 1682." M. de la Tonty with all the Frenchmen carrying arms and the Savages of the suite of M. de la Salle, bore it from the camp to the public place of the village; here the Reverend Father Zénobe Membré a Recollect missionary, intoned the *O crux, ave, spes unica*, and walked three times around the place each time singing the *Exaudit te Dominus*, and crying three times "*Vive le Roy!*" after which at the discharge of musketry they erected the column in repeating the cries of "*Vive le Roy!*" and near it the said Sieur de la Salle took his stand and pronounced in a loud voice in French, holding in his hand his commission:

"In the name of the most high, mighty, invincible, and victorious Prince, Louis the Great, by the grace of God, King of France and of Navarre, fourteenth of that name, this thirteenth day of March, one thousand six hundred, and eighty-two, with the consent of the nation of the Akansas, assembled at the village of Kapaha and present in that place, both in their name and in that of their allies, I, in virtue of his Majesty's commission of which I am the bearer and which I hold in my hand, ready to show it to all whom it may concern, have taken and do now take possession, in the name of his Majesty, his heirs and successors to his crown, of the country of Louisana and all the lands, provinces, countries, peoples, nations, mines, ores, ports, harbors, seas, straits, and roadsteads, and of each of these comprised in the region from the mouth of the river St. Louis called Ohio, Olighinsipou and Chukagoua, along the banks of it and of all and each of the rivers which empty into it from the east to the mouth of the Rivière des Palmes from the west, along the river Colbert, called Mississipi, and all the rivers which empty into it from the east; hereby protesting against all those who may in future undertake to gain possession to the prejudice of the right which his