

LA SALLE'S PROCÈS-VERBAL, APRIL 9, 1682.¹

"In the name of the most high, mighty, invincible, and victorious Prince, LOUIS THE GREAT, by the grace of God, King of France and Navarre, fourteenth of that name, this ninth day of April, one thousand six hundred and eighty-two, I, in virtue of the commission of his Majesty (Louis XIV.) which I hold in my hand, and which may be seen by all whom it may concern, have taken, and do now take in the name of his Majesty and of his successors to the crown, possession of this country of Louisiana, the seas, harbors, ports, bays, adjacent straits; and all the nations, people, provinces, cities, towns, villages, mines, minerals, fisheries, streams, and rivers comprised in the extent of Louisiana, from the mouth of the great River St. Louis on the eastern side, otherwise called Ohio, Olighinsipou (Alleghany), or Chukagoua, and this with the consent of the Chaouesnons (Shawanoes),² Chicachas (Chickasaws), and other people dwelling therein, with whom we have made alliance; as also along the River Colbert or Mississippi, and rivers which discharge themselves therein, from its source; beyond the country of the Kious (Sioux) or Nadouessions, and this with their consent, and with the consent of the Ototantas, Islinois, Matsigamea (Metchigamias), Akansas, Natchez, and Koroas, which are the most considerable nations³ dwelling therein, with whom

¹ Original in *Margry*, ii., pp. 191-193; translation from French's *Louisiana Hist. Coll.*, Second series, pp. 24-27, with changes in nomenclature to accord with *Margry*. — ED.

² The Shawanoes were a wandering nation, and as early as 1660 occupied the country on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, and after that emigrated to the Wabash river country. The Chickasaws were a powerful, warlike nation, and occupied the country within the present States of Kentucky and Tennessee. — FRENCH.

³ "These tribes," says Father Zénobé Membré, "though savage, seem generally of very good disposition, affable, obliging, and docile. They are very different from our Canada Indians in their houses, dress, manners and customs, and even in the form of their head, for theirs is very flat. They have large public squares, games and assemblies. They seem very lively and active, and their chiefs possess all the authority. They have their valets and officers, who follow and serve them everywhere. They have also axes and guns, which they procure from the Spaniards sixty-five or more leagues off." — FRENCH.