its embouchure at the Missiciyp, and settled on a small river that bears their names to this day—two leagues from the bank of the Missiciyp, on the right side going upstream, and forty-three leagues this side of the Rivière des Illinois. This nation is highly civilized; we shall have something to say about them later.

M. de Noyant returned to France two months after he had come.

A few days afterwards, we went to Passacol⁹ with M. de Chateaugué to carry back to the governor of the fort the flour he had lent us the year before. On our way back from Passacol—when we were approaching Isle Dauphine in our traversier, towards Petite Isle de Sable,¹⁰ which is the outer island—we observed from a distance what appeared to be a small merchant ship. M. de Chateaugué had us sail toward the place to find out whether it was Englishmen. Approaching nearer, we saw that it was some people signaling us to help them. M. de Chateaugué had the traversier close up to calling distance. Then we heard them shouting distinctly enough in French for us to have pity on them and to please come and save their lives. At once—not doubting that they were Frenchmen—we went to them and aided them.

They had run aground on the point of this island, where they had been driven by a storm that had battered them for ten days without surcease. More than half of their men had perished and fallen into the sea. They had been completely dismasted; the prow of the ship had been smashed by the violence of the storm. They had had to throw all their cannons and their ammunition overboard.

⁹ Pensacola. ¹⁰ Sand Island, in the Gulf south of Dauphin Island.
For four days they had not eaten. They were so carried away with joy when help arrived—contrary to every expectation—that they kissed the ground when they reached Isle Dauphine, to which we carried them in our longboat. M. de Chateaugué immediately had them given something to eat, but only a little at a time, for fear that much would make them sick.

The captain of the ship, M. de St. Maurice, was from Martinique. From Martinique he had set out in his ship to engage in trading at Havana and Vera Cruz, where he had sold his merchandise very well; but on the return trip he was becalmed for eighteen days. As his food supplies were about to fail him, certain ones of the sailors—as among such men there are always some who live like heathen—instead of imploring the aid of heaven, began to blaspheme and utter curses against God. They hurled overboard a little wooden image of St. Anthoine with a stone tied to his neck. St. Anthoine was the name of the ship, under the protection of this saint, to whom the master of the ship had dedicated it. The very next day, they had the storm I have just reported, which caused more than fifty of those blasphemers to perish; they were the cause of the loss of the ship [and of the riches they had gained by trading at Havana, which was a substantial amount. To lighten the ship they had to throw this into the sea.]

\[11\] That was what M. Maurice, the commander, told M. de Chateaugué, and what I heard—just as I report it. He still had forty thousand piastres, which he said could be found at the bottom of the ship's hold, in the sand. He begged M. de Chateaugué to accept this as

\[11\] Supplied from Parkman, pp. 183–84.
thanks for saving his life and the lives of his men. He had forty-five men left, the greater part of whom were more dead than alive when we took them over to Isle Dauphine, for they hardly had the strength to stand. M. de Chateaugué sent for the forty thousand piastres and for everything else that could be salvaged from the ship. These things were brought to Isle Dauphine; but M. de Chateaugué would accept none of them: he gave back to M. Maurice all his money and his personal belongings and would not permit anyone to accept anything, telling M. Maurice that he would need to buy a small ship in which to return to Martinique. This did not happen quickly, and he was compelled to stay a long time with us at Mobile, where we took him and his men in our *traversier*.

This same year several families that lived at Mobile asked M. de Bienville for permission to settle on Isle Dauphine, which M. de Bienville granted. They had houses built there and cultivated gardens. They brought their livestock and their poultry. With the course of time this proved to be a great help to ships from France that came in to the roadstead off this island.

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12 On the southeastern part of the island, facing the harbor, now Pelican Bay. At that time Dauphin Island was much longer than it is today. The western half is now cut away and is called Petit Bois Island. For a while, the Petit Bois half was called Massacre, presumably because the skeletons from which came the name Massacre were originally found toward the western end.