Chapter 15

The Year 1713

M. de la Loire arrives at Mobile—The author goes down to the Natchez—An English nobleman, come to suborn the savages, is captured on the Missisipi—The savages in Carolina start an irruption—The Emperor of the savages comes to Mobile—A fort is built among the Alibamons and they make peace with the French.

Toward the beginning of this year, in the month of February, M. de la Mothe instructed several packets of letters for M. de Croisat to M. de la Jonquière, who was returning to France. The Sieur de Waligny went back with him. In the month of April the frigate named La Dauphine, commanded by Captain Belanger, arrived here. It was loaded with merchandise and munitions and food supplies which M. Durigoûin ordered to be moved to the warehouses at Mobile and to those on Isle Dauphine.

MM. de la Loire, two brothers,¹ had come on the ship. They came as representatives of M. de Croisat to be clerks in charge of merchandise. Some days later Captain Belanger went back to France in his frigate.

After the departure of Captain Belanger, M. de la Loire

¹ The older brother was Marc Antoine de La Loire Des Ursins, and the younger was Louis Auguste de La Loire Flancour (t). They both became important men in Louisiana. Alvord (The Illinois Country, pp. 194–95) and Belting (Kaskaskia under the French Regime, p. 17) give the spelling as La Loire. Since both Alvord and Belting had worked with Illinois records, I do not doubt that they were familiar with autographs of both brothers, who served in the Illinois Country as well as at Natchez and other posts in the Lower Mississippi area. But La Loire is a common spelling in documents of the times.
Mothe sent MM. de la Loire to the Natchez, with twelve persons in two boats to take them there with their personal belongings, because it had been decided to establish a trading office there.

During that time I was still at the Nassitoches, waiting for M. de St. Denis; but, seeing that we were going to give out of food, I went downstream in a boat with six of my comrades to buy some food at the Natchez, where I found MM. de la Loire. They informed us that they had been sent as representatives of M. de Croisat to keep the trading office at the Natchez.

Among the Natchez I found some slaves who were of the Chaoûachas\(^2\) nation. They had been captured by a strong party of Chicachas, Yasoux, and Natchez, who had been in the Chaoûachas' village under the pretext of singing their calumet of peace; but these treacherous men had, on the contrary, gone there to make war, and the very first thing they did was kill the Grand Chief and several members of his family. They took eleven persons prisoner, among them the Grand Chief's wife, whom they brought to the Natchez.

I did what I could to rescue them, but I was never able to accomplish anything with the captors. I was surprised to find three Englishmen there\(^3\) who had come to buy these slaves. They were the persons who had incited the nations to war among themselves so that by this means they might find a good number of slaves to buy and take back to Carolina.

\(^2\) The Chawasha, or Shawasha, who lived south of New Orleans on Bayou Lafourche.

\(^3\) Charles Town slave dealers.