Chapter 20

The Year 1718

M. de Bienville comes down to Isle Dauphine—Concessions established—M. de Boisbrian leaves for the Illinois—Fort established near the Yasoux—Peace made with the Chetimachas—M. de St. Denis arrives at Isle Dauphine, and his galante story is continued

At the beginning of this year M. de Bienville returned to Isle Dauphine, leaving M. Pailloux as commandant at New Orleans to keep the construction work going. He reached an agreement with M. de l'Épinet to have the passes sounded at the entrance to the Missisipy, so that an attempt could be made to bring Le Neptune in fully loaded with munitions and merchandise which it had brought from France, with the troops that were aboard. The three arms of the river's embouchure were sounded, and the narrowest, which is at the right of its embouchure, was found to be the deepest, with thirteen feet of water. This was more than enough for that vessel to come in; it went on upstream as high as New Orleans, where it came safely to port. Afterwards much heavier craft came through, and proceeded right up to the landing at New Orleans.

The Commissary, M. Hubert, likewise went to New Orleans at the same time, by way of Lake Pontchartrain, into which flows a little river that has been named Rivière d'Orléans ¹ since that time. People ascend it from the lake

¹ Now Bayou St. John.
to this place, about three quarters of a league. A few days after M. Hubert got there, he chose a place two musket shots from the enceinte around New Orleans, in the direction of the little river of the same name, and had a very pretty house built there. Several families who were living at Isle Dauphine came also and settled at New Orleans. MM. de l'Épinet and de Bienville sent many soldiers and workmen there to speed up the construction. They sent an order to M. Pailloux to have two main buildings constructed for barracks, big enough to quarter a thousand soldiers each, because this year a great many troops were to arrive from France, not to mention a number of families for concessions in the area, as indeed came.

At the beginning of March, two ships arrived at the Isle Dauphine roadstead, one named *La Duchesse de Noailles*, commanded by M. de la Salle,² and the other a flute named *La Marie*, commanded by Captain Japy.³ On these two ships there were at least five hundred persons who were going to stay in the region—officers, soldiers, and other persons who had come to obtain concessions,⁴ which were established this very year.

The first concession established was that of MM. Paris,⁵

² I do not know whether this officer was a relative of the explorer La Salle. His nephew Nicholas de la Salle had already died.
³ Written Jary by the penman of Parkman, p. 319. Here is further evidence that Jary and Japy are the same man.
⁴ Pénaicaut is a primary source of the history of the concession phase of Louisiana under John Law's companies. He is the chief source of Henri Gravier's information about concessions given in *La Colonization de La Louisiane à L'Époque de Law*. Pénaicaut should be more dependable as an authority on the colonization under Law's companies than on, say, the discovery of the Mississippi by Iberville, since the writer's memory was less likely to be faulty over recent events.
⁵ The Paris brothers—Antoine, Claude, Joseph, and Jean—were prominent financiers in France. (Paul Augé [comp.], *Larousse du XXème Siècle* [Paris, 1928–33], V, 381–382.) The most prominent brother, Paris dit Duverney, was a director of