Orleans, on the right. All these nations are highly industrious and all are quite helpful in furnishing food to the French, to the troops as well as to the people on the concessions.

Toward the end of this year, M. de St. Denis, with his valet Jalot, arrived at Isle Dauphine. He embraced M. de Bienville, but did not give him much of an account of his voyage because at that time he was quite reserved with M. de Bienville, following a pique that they had had with each other. That is what made him keep quiet about the circumstances, which his valet Jalot related to me and about which I began to talk within the year 1716. Here is the continuation:

M. de St. Denis had reached the home of his father-in-law, Dom Pedro de Vilesca, at Rivière du Nord Village, and had surprised Dona Maria in the garden. When she regained consciousness and recognized her husband, they entered Dom Pedro’s house, and she went to tell Dom Pedro and her uncle, Dom Juan, that M. de St. Denis had arrived. They joined him at once in the little garden room, where Dona Maria had left him; and after they had embraced one another again and again, they went together up to Dona Maria’s room, which was above this one, and supper was brought up to M. de St. Denis. He ate very little, and after a great many felicitations on both sides, they left him to rest, seeing plainly that he had need of rest, being quite exhausted.

The next day he remained in bed till very late; so, Dom Pedro and Dom Juan did not go to his room till about midday, when they had dinner brought and all dined with Dona Maria. After dinner Dom Pedro drew M. de St.
Denis aside and after showing his son-in-law much affection and indicating that he was delighted to welcome him to his home, he told him that he begged him earnestly to grant him one favor. M. de St. Denis, who could deny him nothing, replied that he was ready to give him all the services that he could, even at the expense of his life. “I would not have made this request of you,” added Dom Pedros, “if your life, as well as mine, were not in danger—in case you should not follow the advice I must give you.” At the same time Dom Pedros informed him that an order to arrest him if he should visit Dona Maria had been received from the Viceroy of Mexico. 28 A cavalry officer with twenty-five cavalrmen from the Governor of Caoüil had been waiting for him in the village for six months; it was absolutely necessary to forbid him and his valet, too, to go out of the house. “Because otherwise,” his father-in-law told him, “if you are noticed, you will be taken to the Viceroy, from whose hands you will not get away so easily as you did the first time. I myself have an order to arrest you; this I shall never do, even if it should cost me my life; therefore,” Dom Pedros repeated once more, “I beg you not to go outside my house, which no one has seen you enter, and where you will surely not be discovered, especially in Dona Maria’s bedroom, where no one ever goes.” M. de St. Denis thanked him for his advice and at the same time forbade his valet Jalot to go, day or night, out of the little room where he slept underneath M. de St. Denis’ bedroom.

“The surprising thing,” Jalot said to me, “is that M. de

28 Baltasar de Zúñiga, Marquis de Valero, who was free of the influence of St. Denis’ friends. Phares, Cavalier in the Wilderness, p. 119.
St. Denis spent nearly a year in this manner, without ever going out of his wife’s bedroom except very late at night when he went to walk with her under the trees of a garden path at the house. During that time, his wife, Dona Maria, became pregnant with her second child. I believe that this is what kept M. de St. Denis from becoming bored, for they loved each other more tenderly than ever.

"As for me," Jalot told me, "I have never spent any time that seemed to me longer, especially in winter when one could no longer walk in the garden because of the cold. Sometimes in the evening, when the door of the house was shut, I warmed myself by the fire in the kitchen, with a tall, lean and ugly serving girl named Luce, who had more pride than the daughter of the most famous barber \(^{29}\) in Mexico City."

Ten months later Dona Maria was delivered of a boy, who was named Dom Juan for the uncle of M. de St. Denis’ wife, who was the child’s godfather. Dona Isabella, his wife’s sister, was godmother. The child was secretly baptized within the house, in Dom Pedros’ room, by a Cordelier. During the baptism of his son, M. de St. Denis remained in his wife’s room and did not appear before this monk, for fear of being discovered. Dona Maria chose to nurse her baby herself. It looked exactly like M. de St. Denis.

Six weeks later, spring being already well advanced, Dom Pedros came one morning to M. de St. Denis in his wife’s room and told him, with a face that appeared quite disturbed, that he had been warned that there was suspicion that M. de St. Denis was hiding in his house. The

\(^{29}\) Jalot was himself a surgeon-barber.
officer in the village had called on him, asking to see his
daughter, Dona Maria, but he had replied that she was in-
disposed and was resting, and therefore could not see any
one.

Toward evening of the same day, Dom Juan, Dom
Pedros' brother, came in Dona Maria's room and told
Dom Pedros, in the presence of M. de St. Denis, that he
had just learned from one of his friends that the cavalry
officer in the village had sent one of his troopers to Caoúil
with a letter addressed to the Governor. Dom Juan was
afraid the letter was sent to obtain a warrant to search
Dom Pedros' house. Because of the confinement of Dona
Maria, Dom Pedros was suspected of having M. de St.
Denis in his house. Some one certainly must have disclosed
it, and M. de St. Denis would have to leave without de-
lay.

Upon the advice of Dom Pedros and Dom Juan, it was
decided that he would leave at nightfall of the second day.
This he was compelled to do after a great many tears had
been shed by both of them, and after Dom Pedros and
Dom Juan de Vilesca had given him expressions of affec-
tion, promising him before he left that in a short while
they would take his wife to him at Mobile.

He and Jalot left through the rear of the house about
midnight and went as far as the woods along the sunken
road over which they had come—without meeting any
one. They walked until day, and when day came they
pushed deep into a wood, to eat and to rest there during
the day. Thus they traveled for six weeks without having
any unpleasant encounter or making any great headway
each night, living, as is usual in that region, off the ends
of their guns when the food Jalot had provided ran short after only six days.

They had already passed more than eight leagues beyond the Assinaïs, where the Spaniards have their last outpost, and were no more than fifty leagues from the Nassitoches, where the French have their first fort in that direction. That day while they were resting near a creek in a wood, Jalot caught sight of a deer on its way to the creek. He shot at it with a bullet, but the deer ran on, although struck clear through the body, and fell at some distance near the road. M. de St. Denis and Jalot followed it by the trail of blood stained on the grasses and leaves through which it had passed. After they had found it and were beginning to skin it so that they could cut some pieces for roasting, two Spanish cavalrymen came into the wood, pistol in hand, shouting, "To the death! To the death!" One of the cavalrymen headed for Jalot, firing his pistol at him from a distance, but missing him. M. de St. Denis, who had his gun loaded, fired it at the other cavalryman and knocked him to the ground with the shot. Jalot got behind a tree and poured a handful of powder into his gun and slipped a bullet on top of the powder. But the cavalryman who had fired his pistol at

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30 "Amath, amath," Parkman, p. 339, and Spofford, p. 404. Clermont has "Amatt! Amatt!" This exclamation of the Spanish troopers proved a puzzler to the penmen and to Margry too. Découvertes, V, 562, has "... à mata! à mata!" Margry's form of the expression led me to believe that Pénicaud was trying to write some part of the Spanish verb matar, "to slay." My colleague Dr. Gustavo René Hernández suggested armate, "arm!" said by one trooper to the other. If Pénicaud was writing Spanish, he wrote bad Spanish indeed, merely a representation of armate or of matate, "kill him!" But if he was writing French, which has the stronger claim, he meant à math or à mat, "to the death!" or "to a finish," or "we've got you!" Cf. Fr. faire mat, "to checkmate," which in a figurative sense is the equivalent of abattre, "to slaughter." The French verb matar, "(check)mate," goes ultimately back to Persian chab mat, "the king is dead." See Larousse du XX\textsuperscript{me} Siècle, IV, 734.
him, having seen his comrade fall, did not wait for Jalot to prime his gun; he fled as fast as he could at full gallop. Having emptied his gun, M. de St. Denis was no little disconcerted, and Jalot too, because they feared there might be still more cavalrymen besides those two. Jalot went outside the woods to find out, but he did not see any cavalrymen in the road other than the one that had fired his pistol at him, and he was fleeing at full gallop in the direction of the Assinais and was already quite far off. When Jalot returned and told M. de St. Denis, they went to the cavalryman who had fallen from M. de St. Denis’ shot; but he was already dead, the bullet having passed through his stomach. Jalot caught his horse, the reins having passed under the cavalryman’s arm in the fall.

On the horse’s croup was a little bag containing bread and cooked meat, which Jalot took charge of. They quickly decided that they would not remain longer in that place, and although it was broad daylight, M. de St. Denis mounted the horse and insisted that Jalot should ride behind him. They traveled on until night; they rested a full three hours in a wood at a place where they found a great deal of grass to feed to the horse. They traveled on for the remainder of the night, until daybreak, when they went more than a league and a half into the wood with the horse. They found a small lake on the shore of which were six huts of savages, in which there were three women and one man, with four small children entirely naked. The man fled as soon as he saw them coming. Jalot spoke to these savages’ women in the Nassitoches language, which they understood well, and told them that he and M. de St. Denis were Frenchmen from the fort at the
Nassitoches and that they should go and fetch their husbands, for no one wanted to harm them. One of the women ran after the savage and brought him back. “He told us, trembling, that he had been afraid that we were Spaniards from the Assinaïs, who were their enemies and who had captured three of his comrades, whom the Assinaïs had eaten.” 31 They were of the Yatacez nation, the majority of whom had settled with the Nassitoches. For that reason M. de St. Denis told them to come and join the other savages of their nation who were living at the Nassitoches, where they would not be in danger of being seized by the Assinaïs. Jalot asked them how many nights it was from there to the Nassitoches. They replied three nights and a half—that is, according to our way of computing, thirty-five leagues—and just as far to the Assinaïs. M. de St. Denis took the horse into one of their huts, and with the savage’s help Jalot gathered some grass for the horse. M. de St. Denis and Jalot ate the sagamité which the savage women gave them. After this they took a rest for the remainder of the day.

Half an hour before nightfall they set out and three days later reached the Nassitoches. M. de St. Denis was

31 This sentence, which I have put in quotation marks because it contains we and us as proof of a first-person narrator, seems to be a last vestige inadvertently left by the author after changing a first-person narrative to the objective point of view. How did this come about? It may represent no more than evidence that the author first wrote in the first person and then changed his plan. But there are two other possible explanations. One of them—that Pénicaud had access to St. Denis’ memoirs—is given in Chapter XVII, n. 4. The other, advanced by Charles B. Reed, is that Pénicaud has copied a romantic narrative that Jalot wrote about his master in order to protect him from an accusation of treason, since St. Denis accepted, and did not reject, the Viceroy’s offer of employment. Serving Spain on a salary, St. Denis acted as quartermaster and guide of the Domingo Ramón expedition to present-day Texas. See Reed, “Sieur de St. Denis and Jalot, his Valet de Chambre,” Northwestern University Bulletin; The Medical School, XXXIV (March 19, 1934), 13–15.
surprised at not finding M. de Tissennet there, whom he had left there when he went away to visit his wife. He remained there for two weeks to rest with MM. Blondel and de Laubinière, and afterwards returned with Jalot in a boat to New Orleans, where he paid his respects to M. Pailloux. He remained there twelve days, examining the construction in progress and then went back to Isle Dauphine to M. de Bienville.

Those are the details Jalot gives me of his master's amours. M. de St. Denis did not stay long at Isle Dauphine. He went away and settled at old Fort Biloxi, making all his slaves come and live there and having all his belongings brought.