AND CALUMET

to come down to New Orleans, for His Majesty had made him inspector-general of troops in Louisiana. This obliged him to come downstream, paying visits of inspection to all the posts along the Mississippi where troops were garrisoned.

At the same time M. de St. Denis received a letter from the Court with the commission of captain of a company and governor at the Nassitoches. This forced him to go to the Nassitoches sometime afterwards with a reinforcement of thirty men in six boats loaded with the munitions and the food supplies he was taking. For this he was beholden to M. de Chamelin, who, on returning to France, had reported to the Court that M. de St. Denis, who was one of the worthiest officers in Louisiana, was nevertheless without employment; that he had been partly responsible for saving Isle Dauphine, which he had aided of his own free will, leading a great number of savages there, by whom he was greatly loved, and at the head of whom he landed on the island just in time to repulse the Spaniards, who were beginning to make a landing. He added that M. de St. Denis had taken a hand in every difficulty whenever need for his help had arisen in the province, although he had neither pay nor rank. This determined the Court to send him the commission of captain and governor of the fort at the Nassitoches.35

Toward the end of the year, after M. de St. Denis' departure, three traversiers arrived at the Isle-aux-Vaisseaux roadstead. On them were still more people for the concessions and for service in the country, besides a

35 For the remaining years of St. Denis' life see the biography by Ross Phares, Cavalier in the Wilderness.
great deal of munitions and goods. M. de Bienville sent two of the *traversiers* to New Orleans fully loaded and had the personal effects unloaded from the third one and stored in the warehouses at New Biloxi. Six of the seven ships that had come to Louisiana returned to France, only *Le Dromadaire* remaining in Louisiana.

For the rest of this year, work continued at New Orleans and much progress was being made.