

1564.

was his intention to go and burn him in his cabin, if he persisted in his refusal. This stratagem met with the desired success; the paraousti, without a moment's delay, sent him his prisoners, and the fire soon after ceased. The French had foreseen this; but the Indian chief was still so alarmed, that he fled to a distance of twenty-five leagues, and did not appear for two months. Meanwhile, the air was so heated, and the water of the river so tainted by the immense quantity of dead fish which covered it, that most of those who drank it at the time fell sick, though none of the French died.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. d'Erlach, with five Frenchmen, enables an Indian chief to gain a great victory.

On the 10th of September, d'Erlach and le Vasseur set out with a sergeant and ten soldiers, to conduct the prisoners in question back to Timagoa. After fulfilling their commission, they went on to Outina, who resided ninety leagues from Caroline, and were received by that paraousti with great demonstrations of joy. He was preparing to march against one of his enemies, named Potanou, and urged Mr. d'Erlach to join him in the expedition; that officer, however, took with him only half his escort, sending the rest back to the fort under le Vasseur. The latter bore a letter for the commandant, in which d'Erlach requested orders as to the stay he was to make at Outina.

That chief took the field a few days after with a small army, hoping to take his enemy by surprise; but he was greatly disconcerted to behold him actually advancing against him in full force. D'Erlach reassured him, and having at the first volley from his firelock stretched Potanou himself on the ground, the whole grand army lost heart and fled, although one of the French too was killed by an arrow at the first discharge. He was indeed well avenged; d'Erlach and Outina made great carnage among the fugitives, and brought in many prisoners.<sup>2</sup> They had

<sup>1</sup> Laudonniere in Basanier, Histoire Notable, pp. 108, 109. In Basanier the word is printed Potavou;

<sup>2</sup> Laudonniere in Basanier, Histoire in Le Moyne, Potanou.