

taws, who grew very impatient, and their departure would have exposed the French to receive a check, and to behold their women, children and slaves burned, as their enemies threatened."

1730.

Before resolving to make war on the Natchez, the Choctaws had gone to them to enter into some negotiation with them, and they had met with a strange enough reception. They found these Indians and their horses decked with chasubles and antependiums; many wore patens around their necks; drank and made others drink brandy out of the chalices and ciboriums. In a word, they found nothing in the chapel that they had not put to the most profane and sacrilegious use. This highly pleased the Choctaws, who in the sequel, securing this booty, renewed the profanation committed by their enemies, and it was found impossible to rescue all from their hands. Moreover, had these savages rendered the French all the service in their power, by acting in concert with them, their evil disposition always made them most odious to the colony. "There had never yet been seen in all America," wrote a missionary, eye-witness of everything then occurring, "Indians more insolent, more ferocious, more disgusting, more importunate, more insatiable."

Insolence  
of the  
Choctaws.

However, they were still needed, and had to be managed. The Natchez were not destroyed; they could in future be regarded only as irreconcilable enemies, and it was to be expected that as long as they subsisted, they would do us through themselves and through the enemies whom they would endeavor to raise up against us, all the evil possible to savages, who had no terms to make. The Chickasaws did not yet appear, but we were conscious that they were the authors of the whole trouble, and their engagements with the English left no doubt but that they would be powerfully supported by the latter whenever they thought fit to lift the mask. The sequel only justified these suspicions.

Among the negroes recovered from the Natchez, were some of those who had taken part against us, and these