

much more than the maintenance of troops; that if you employed these Indians, you would be always at the mercy of their caprice and inconstancy; that they got the idea that we applied to them only because we were incapable of making war, and so prevalent had this opinion become among all these nations, that the smallest, petty tribe regarded itself as the bulwark and protection of the colony. That after five or six years, the number of troops might be gradually decreased, as during that time the creoles would multiply and be trained; that then we should have even more Indians ready to side with us when they saw that we no longer needed them.

1730.

For some time the Natchez had not been heard of, but at last tidings came that they were renewing their raids; that they had surprised ten Frenchmen and twenty negroes, and that none had escaped but a young soldier, who had already escaped the great massacre of November 28th, and two negroes. The General then saw that no time was to be lost in rendering that nation utterly incapable of injuring us; and as the intrigues of the English among the Choctaws had increased his anxiety in regard to those Indians, he deemed it imperative to begin by setting his mind at rest in regard to them. He accordingly resolved on having an explanation from the chiefs, and notified them of his wish to have an interview with them at Maubile. He fixed a time when he would go there, and when he judged that they would soon arrive, he left New Orleans, where his presence was less necessary now that reinforcements had arrived from France, as I shall soon explain.

The
Natchez
renew their
raids.

On landing, he found that they had anticipated the day by twenty-four hours. He was even agreeably surprised to see there the Chief of the Caouitas, a numerous tribe, strongly attached to the English, and a Chickasaw chief. He began by inquiring from the Sieur Regis, from Father Baudoin, the Jesuit who was endeavoring to establish a mission among the Choctaws, and from the interpreters, what effect had been produced on the mind of the Indians

Perrier
negotiates
with the
Choctaws.