

1730.

them this once, but on condition that they should trade only with us, and this was in part to avoid being afterwards exposed to new importunities on this point, and in part to show them that the French were sufficient in themselves, and that he did not wish to employ them in the new expedition he was preparing against the Natchez.

Reinforce-
ments
arrive from
France.

What had rendered the Choctaws so easy to manage was, on the one hand, the arrival of reinforcements from France, which they overrated beyond their actual strength, and on the other the unexpectedly good reception accorded them by Mr. Perrier. The reinforcements had come on the *Somme*, King's storeship, commanded by Perrier de Salvart, brother of the Commandant-General.¹ He passed the bar of the *Micissippi* without any difficulty on the 8th of August, low as the waters were, though his vessel, even after discharging a part of the cargo at the storehouses on *Isle Toulouse*, (or *Balise*,) drew fourteen feet eight inches of water. On the 15th he anchored before *New Orleans*, and in a letter which he wrote to the Count de *Maurepas*, on the 15th of November, he informed that *Minister* that he found all the inhabitants of the colony in great alarm; that the few troops left his brother, were not good enough to keep all in the line of duty; that the poor recruits sent over by the Company, far from reassuring the colony, had increased the alarm; that out of a hundred men drawn from the regiments, only sixty had arrived, with no explanation of the detention of the others at *l'Orient*; that his brother had asked six field-pieces, six small mortars, balls and shells, none of which had come; that they would be obliged to use periaguas to transport troops, provisions and munitions, for want of more convenient boats; that the *Natchez*, joined by some other small tribes, were entrenched in three forts; that their ravages on the river intercepted trade, and that there was no difficulty in seeing whence their support came.

The trifling aid so impatiently expected, was doubtless

¹ Both are now post captains. *Charlevoix*.