

1730. order: The army was divided into three battalions, or three squadrons. The marines under de Salvert on the right, the militia under de Benac on the left; the General in the centre, having under him the Baron de Cresnay commandant of the Louisiana troops, the Chevalier d'Artaguettes commanding the grenadier company, the Sieur Baron acting as engineer, and the fusileers; a part of the latter were at the French fort at Natchez, whence Mr. de Lusser was to march with them to Red River. The negroes were scattered in different boats, and the Indians, who had not all assembled yet, were to form a corps by themselves.

On the 27th they had made but little progress, as snows and rain had swollen the river and increased its currents, while the fogs were so dense and continual as to force them every moment to stop.

The Natchez attack a periagna, killing or wounding sixteen French.

This day news came that de Coulonges and de Beaulieu had been attacked by the Natchez, and that of twenty-four men in the French batteau, sixteen had been killed or wounded; Beaulieu among the former, and Coulonges among the latter.¹ To crown the disastrous intelligence, it was also reported that the Akansas, weary of hearing no tidings of the French force, had gone home. Perrier halted some time at the Bay of the Tonicas, to assemble the Indians, who had not yet come in; he was blamed for not having arranged to send them on in advance to blockade the Natchez in their fort; but he probably had not sufficient confidence in these Indians to entrust them with a movement on which all the success of the campaign depended. The Canadians, who readily blamed everything that was done, since the colony was no longer governed by one of themselves, judged the Louisiana by the Canada Indians, and in this were mistaken. Perrier might have manœuvred differently if he had had Abénaquis, Hurons, Algonquins and Iroquois to deal with, all Christians, and long domiciliated among us.

That General rejoined the army at the mouth of Red

¹ Perrier to the Minister, March 25, 1731. Gayarré, i., p. 274.