

River on the 4th of January, 1731, with several Indians, who now amounted to a hundred and fifty of various nations. He had some days before ordered de Benac to ascend to our Natchez fort to obtain information. He returned on the ninth without having seen anything or heard any intelligence. The same day the Indians and a hundred and fifty volunteers were detached to take the advance under Captain de Laye of the militia, and blockade the Natchez as soon as they were discovered; but this detachment did not proceed far, the Indians not going willingly on this expedition. On the eleventh, they ascended Red River, and at noon the next day they entered the Black. The General had commanded the greatest precaution to avoid being discovered by the enemy; but his orders were unavailing, as the Indians, recognizing no authority and observing no discipline, continued to fire, as usual with them, at all game that showed itself; so that it is rather astonishing that they succeeded in finding the enemy in his fort after so long a march and so little secrecy.

1731.

Indocility  
of our  
Indian  
allies.

It was on the 20th of January that they discovered the enemy. Orders were at once given to invest them, and as this was done closely, and they were within speaking distance, the besieged began by invectives. The trenches were opened and skirmishing kept up all day and all night. The next day the mortars and all things necessary for the siege were landed. Some shells were then thrown, which fell inside the fort. The besieged made a sortie, killed one Frenchman and one negro, and wounded an officer, but they were sharply repulsed by Mr. de Lusser. Shells were thrown all through the 22nd, but produced no great result, and the enemy wounded two of our soldiers. However, on the 24th, they hoisted a white flag. Perrier at once raised a similar one at the head of his trench, and soon after an Indian was seen approaching with two calumets in his hand.

The army  
in sight of  
the enemy,

The General sent his interpreter to receive him, and when the envoy came before him, he asked for peace,

<sup>1</sup> Perrier says two. Gayarré, i., p. 277. See Le Page du Pratz, iii., pp. 321-5.