

1731.

stood in the rain, which became more violent, Perrier told them to take shelter in a neighboring cabin, and as soon as they entered, he placed four sentinels there, and appointed three officers to watch it by turns.

He then summoned the Head Chief of the Tonicas and a Natché chief, called the Stung Serpent, (*Le Serpent Picqué*,) to endeavor by these means to extract some light from his prisoners; but it seems that these two men could elicit nothing new. My authorities do not state whether the Stung Serpent was then in our camp as a friend or as a prisoner, but towards the close of 1721, while I was at the Natchez, I saw that he was regarded as the best friend we had in that nation, and he was said to be a very close relation of the Sun.¹ The commission confided to him by Perrier induces me to believe that he had always remained strongly attached to us.

One of the chiefs escapes and induces several others to follow him.

To return to those who had been arrested: *Le Sueur*, who was one of the three officers to whom they had been committed, and who understood their language very well, wished to converse with them, but they made him no reply, and he left them to rest, while the other two officers reposed. Half an hour later, these awoke, and he in his turn went to sleep. About three o'clock he was awakened by a loud noise. He sprang to his two pocket-pistols, and perceived *Saint Côme* and the Sun in the posture of men who are on the point of escaping. He told them that he would blow out the brains of the first who stirred, and as he was alone, the sentinels and other two officers being in pursuit of the Flour Chief, whom they had by their negligence allowed to escape, he called for help. Perrier was the first to run up, and gave new orders to pursue the fugitive, but all in vain.

Early in the morning of the 25th, a Natché approached the camp: he was led into the cabin where the

Le Serpent Picqué was detained with the Great and Little Sun during the First Natchez War, ante, p. 29. But Dumont, *Mémoires Historiques*,

I., p. 209, says that *Le Serpent Picqué* or *Olabalkebiche* died in June, 1725, and *Le Page du Pratz* makes his death still earlier, i., p. xv. iii p. 27.