

1731. exasperated than intimidated the remnant of that nation, in whom hatred and despair had transformed their natural pride and ferocity into a valor of which they were never deemed capable. In the month of April, the Head Chief of the Tonicas descended to New Orleans, and told Perrier that while he was hunting, four Natchez had come to him to beg him to make terms for them with the French, adding that all, including those who had taken refuge among the Chickasaws, asked to be received and pardoned; that they would reside wherever it was wished, but that they should be glad to be near the Tonicas, and that he came to ascertain his intentions.

The Chief of the Tonicas allows himself to be surprised and killed by the Natchez.

Perrier replied that he consented to their settling two leagues from his village, but not nearer, to avoid all occasion of quarrel between the two nations; but that above all things, he exacted that they should come unarmed. The Tonica promised to conform to this order; yet as soon as he reached home, he received thirty Natchez into his village, after taking the precaution to disarm them. At the same time fifteen other Natchez and twenty women came to the Baron de Cresnay, whom they found in the fort which had been built on their old grounds. A few days after, the Flour Chief arrived among the Tonicas with a hundred men, their women and children, having concealed fifty Chickasaws and Corrois in the cane-brake around the village.

The Head Chief informed them that he was forbidden to receive them unless they gave up their arms; they replied that this was indeed their intention, but they begged him to consent to let them keep them some time longer, lest their women, seeing them disarmed, should think themselves prisoners condemned to death. He consented; then food was distributed to their new guests, and they danced till after midnight, after which the Tonicas retired to their cabins, thinking that of course the Natchez would also go to rest. But soon after, that is to say, one hour before day, for it was the 14th day of June, the Natchez, and apparently the Chickasaws and Cor-