

rois, although Perrier's letter says nothing on the point, fell upon all the cabins, and slaughtered all whom they surprised asleep. The Head Chief ran up at the noise, and at first killed four Natchez; but overborne by numbers, he was slain with some twelve of his warriors. His war-chief, undismayed by this loss or the flight of most of his braves, rallied a dozen, with whom he regained the Head Chief's cabin; he even succeeded in recalling the rest, and after fighting for five days and nights almost without intermission, remained master of his village. The Tonicas on this occasion had twenty men killed and as many wounded. They killed of the Natchez thirty-three men, and took three prisoners, whom they burned.¹

1731.

Perrier no sooner received this tidings, than he dispatched a detachment, under the command of the Chevalier d'Artaguet, to induce as many Indians as he could to pursue the Natchez. At the same time he ordered the Baron de Cresnay to make sure of all those who had surrendered to him; he obeyed, but his adjutant, to whom he confided them, having allowed them to retain their knives, they sprang, at a moment when it was least expected, on eight muskets which were stacked, and with these kept up a fire till they were all killed, men, women and children, to the number of thirty-seven. Their chief had gone to New Orleans with fifteen of his men; these were arrested and sent to Toulouse Island, where they were put in irons. They found means to break them, but had not time to escape, and were all killed.

Several Natchez killed in different actions.

Meanwhile the Flour Chief, after the miscarriage of his plot at the Tonicas, proceeded to join those of his nation who had escaped Perrier on the Black River, led them to Natchitoches, where de Saint Denys was² with but a few soldiers, and besieged him in his fort. Saint Denys at once sent an express to the Commandant-General to ask

Others besieged de St. Denys at the Natchitoches. Their defeat.

¹ Perrier to the Minister, Decem- ber 10, 1731, in Gayarré, i., p. 285; Dumont, Memoires, ii., p. 197. He was a Christian, converted and bap-
tized by Rev. Mr. Le Maire. Ib., i., p. 165-6. Le Page du Pratz, iii., pp. 300-302.