

would cease to treat them so considerately. To check us, they had taken steps which led men to believe that their neighbors directed all their movements, and in a very short time we had proofs that were by no means equivocal. They began by sending to New Orleans a trusty negro, to notify all of his race who were among us, that it depended on themselves alone to recover their liberty and live in quiet and plenty among the English.

1731.

This man managed his intrigues well; he was heard with pleasure by all his race; but Perrier was warned by a negro, a servant in the city, that a plot was formed by a great number of these slaves; that they had agreed to take the time of the parochial High Mass to set fire to various houses in order to occupy apart from each other, all not at church, and then to seize this favorable conjuncture to escape. On this deposition, the Commandant-General arrested a woman who was the mainspring of the conspiracy, and four men, who had been declared the chiefs. They were confronted and convicted; the woman was hung and the men broken alive, and these examples, which showed the rest that their secret had taken wind, was enough to keep the rest in their duty.¹

These latter
conspire
against us
and are
punished.

Meanwhile the Choctaws, of whom a part had been gained by the Chickasaws, had turned a deaf ear to the invitations made by the Sieur Regis in behalf of his general to send three hundred of their warriors against our enemies; but thirty or forty of these last having been killed in an engagement by the French, this little check lost them the alliance of that nation, the only one from whom they had anything to fear or hope: it all united in our favor. Then the Chickasaws again turned to the Miamis, Illinois and Akansas; but they found tribes who were still faithful to their first engagements, and who from the outset dissipated all their hopes of gaining them. The Illinois even gave up to the Commandant-General the three ambassadors whom our enemies had sent them,

The
Akansas
and the
Illinois
refuse to
league with
the Chickasaws.

¹ Beauchamp to Minister, Nov. mont, ii., p. 202-4. Le Page du 1, 1731. Gayarré, i., p. 284. Du Pratz, iii., pp. 304-317.