

1731. and they were put at the discretion of the Choctaws, who burned them at New Orleans itself, and thereby removed all doubt that might yet remain as to their attachment to us.

The India Company cedes Louisiana back to the King, who confides the government to Mr. Perrier.

While these things were going on, Mr. Perrier, who, as he himself states in one of his letters to the Minister, expected to be recalled, because he had been informed that they were working against him in the India Company, was quite surprised to receive a commission, appointing him Governor of Louisiana for the King. On the 22nd of January in this year, the Company had deliberated the question of conveying back to his majesty the grant which had been made to it of that province and the Illinois country and their exclusive privilege, on condition of being empowered to grant permissions to the merchants of the kingdom who might wish to trade there. On the 27th of March, this deliberation was approved by an Arrêt, and Mr. de Salmon, who was discharging at New Orleans the duties of Commissaire Ordonnateur, took possession of the country in the name of his majesty, by Letters Patent of the King, on the 10th of April following.

However, Mr. Perrier had not the time to profit by the measures which he had adopted to push on the Chickasaw War. He preferred the service in which he had been brought up, to expeditions where the risks incurred could not be compensated by the glory that might be acquired, and he was relieved in 1733 by Mr. de Bienville,¹ whom he had succeeded in 1726. The new Governor found himself at once burthened with the Chickasaw War, which had become a much more serious matter than had been at first supposed. This war is not yet terminated, as we cannot flatter ourselves that the peace recently granted them will be durable; moreover, the events which it has furnished for history are so differently related, that it is not yet possible to distinguish the truth amid the clouds in which the friends and enemies of the principal actors have enveloped it.²

¹ Le Page du Pratz, iii., p. 397. Bienville and Salmon's Dispatch,

² For the state of the colony, see May 12, 1733. Gayarré, i., p. 293.