

tions what had occurred among the Choctaws, than the Alibamons and several other tribes, with whom we had been almost always at war, formed a league and made an incursion into Carolina, ravaging several settlements and carrying off a number of prisoners, whom they took to Maubile. Bienville ransomed them from the Indians and provided for their support till he found a favorable opportunity to send them home without any risk.¹

De la Motte Cadillac had gone up to the Illinois, and on his return to Maubile, it was announced that a silver mine had been discovered in the country whence he came.² I have explained in my journal the whole affair of these pretended discoveries, which so deluded the French, though much more in Europe than in America. There was more reality in a deputation which the Governor received on his arrival at Maubile. A chief highly esteemed in the country, came in to form an alliance with him in the name of several tribes, and at the same time the Alibamons, hitherto our most declared enemies, offered to introduce the French into their village and erect a fort at their own expense. Their offer was accepted, the fort built, and Captain de la Tour took possession with two lieutenants and some soldiers.³

Meanwhile, it was perceived that the Natchez were plotting some treachery; they killed four Frenchmen⁴ who were travelling with some of their tribe, and prepared to

1713-25.

La Motte forms an alliance with several tribes.

Treachery of the Natchez.

¹ Richebourg, who came in Aug., 1713, in his *Memoire sur la premiere guerre des Natchez*, (French, La., iii., p. 241.) does not make any English traders killed. See Barcia, *Ensayo Cronologico*, p. 325, 329.

² Renaud, sent in 1719, extracted silver from Illinois lead ore in 1732. Bénard de la Harpe, *Memoire*, p. 366. Louisiana Hist. Coll., iii., p. 116, n. Dumont, *Memoires*, ii., p. 73.

³ Adair, *American Indians*, p. 159, makes this "mischievous French

garrison Alebamah," 40 leagues below Coosa. See Gayarré, i., p. 113. On p. 117, &c., he gives a memoir of the Abbé de la Vente, on the religious condition of Louisiana.

⁴ Richebourg, *Memoire*, p. 242, and the *Relation de la Louisianne*, (*Voyages au Nord*, p. 21.) says that the refusal of the calumet by the governor on his way to Illinois, made them imagine he was about to destroy them, and Richebourg ascribes all the trouble to the self-will of Cadillac.