

ing fallen ill, they had been forced to turn back ; that they were all at the landing, and he begged him to send thirty Indians early in the morning to unload the canoe and transport the goods to the warehouse. 1713-25.

This the Great Chief promised, and he added that Mr. de la Loire had done well to go no further, as he had been very anxious about him on account of the Yazoos, a treacherous tribe, hostile to the French. Penicaut made no reply, and manifested absolute confidence in the chief ; but when the latter retired, he informed la Loire of the motive of his coming, and showed him that he must think only of escaping, and that there was not a moment to lose. This was no easy matter, la Loire told him, as three Indians slept in his room ; but Penicaut reassured him, and was sanguine of success.

When it was really night, they lay down, and the Indians first fell asleep ; Pénicaut would have stabbed them, but la Loire prevented him, thinking it not easy to kill three men before one of them might have a chance to cry out. Penicaut then gently opened the door and let out la Loire, who had taken the precaution of loading his gun. A few minutes later he glided out himself, double locked the room on the outside and ran after his companion, whom he soon overtook. As they approached the landing, they met the elder la Loire, who had begun to be alarmed ; they embarked at once, and dismissed the eight Natchez after liberally rewarding them.<sup>1</sup>

About ten o'clock in the morning they reached the Tonicas, and while they were there, they saw three Natchez arrive, whom the Great Chief, furious at the escape of the la Loires, sent to the chief of the Tonicas, to induce him to massacre all the French who were in his village. The Tonica, who was an upright man, a sincere friend of the French, was indignant at such a proposal.<sup>2</sup> He would have tomahawked the man who dared make it,

The chief of the Tonicas refuses to enter their plot.

<sup>1</sup> Pénicaut, Relation, ch. 16, § 2-3. cas as having accepted presents from

<sup>2</sup> Richebourg represents the Tonica as having accepted presents from the Natchez, p. 242.