

As soon as Bienville perceived their canoe in the distance, he raised five flags on the river bank, erected a number of tents, and beat all his drums to make them believe that he had at least six hundred men. The Indians disembarked and entered the fort with as much confidence as though the affair were a mere visit. They then presented to the commandant a calumet of peace, but he refused it, which so startled those savages, that they gave themselves up for lost. Bienville told them, with an angry air, that he had come to exact satisfaction for the murder of the five Frenchmen which they had committed; that he wished them either to deliver up the murderers, or at least bring in their heads.

1713-25.
 What occurred between him and the Natchez.

What he demanded, was, they replied, not in their power; but if he so desired, they would send some of their party to their Great Chief, to notify him of the commandant's intentions. He consented on condition that all the others should remain his prisoners, and he at once had them conveyed to a cabin, where a strict watch was kept over them.¹ Those who went to the Natchez soon returned and presented to the commandant the head of a man² whom the Great Chief had put to death, but who really was not one of the murderers. Bienville asked them whether they intended to make game of him, and added that he must have the heads of the culprits, especially the head of a chief whom he had named expressly.

The envoys replied that this chief was the nephew of the Sun, who would sooner see his whole village perish than sacrifice that young man, the bravest of all his nation; that besides, he had among those detained by him, the four murderers of the French, and might bring them to justice. Bienville at once had them brought up: they

¹ Richebourg, (p. 245,) gives this differently. He says the Great Sun, Little Sun and the Stung Serpent came to Bienville, who detained them and put them in irons. The Little Sun was allowed to go back

for the heads of the murderers. He brought, May 14, three, one of them of a warrior not implicated.

² Bienville insisted on the head of Oyelape, or White Earth.