

1722. ingly, declined daily, and it was high time to send from France wherewith to repair its losses. The English, on their side, enriched by our spoils, and informed of our weakness, thought it a favorable opportunity to regain our Indians, who had handled them so roughly. The first whom they attempted were the Tchactas (Choctaws), exaggerating our poverty, to persuade them that they need expect nothing in future from us, and making them the most alluring offers if they would renounce our alliance and join them.

English Intrigues. Fidelity of the Choctaws. It was a great temptation for Indians, partly convinced by their own eyes of what was told them, and only too conscious that our last successes had produced no solid result. It is moreover certain, that if this nation, the most numerous in all Louysiana, had been gained by the bait of the proffered advantages, all our other allies would have followed their example, more especially as those who were most attached to us were not in a condition to stem the torrent; but the Choctaws, on this occasion, displayed a disinterestedness and a fidelity of which the most civilized nations cannot always boast; they themselves informed de Bienville of the proposals made to them, and that commandant found them in a disposition towards the French from which he thought he could expect everything.

Cause of the desertions. The English were not, however, unanimous in regard to the great number of French taking refuge among them. Some even possibly feared to see them multiply too rapidly in their colonies; it is at least certain that the Governor of Carolina, writing to Mr. de Bienville, to inform him of the arrival of the *Sieur Brandt*<sup>1</sup> and his Swiss company, advised him to inform the court of

killed their captain, Marchand, and started for Carolina, but were pursued by *Sieur Villemont* with a party of Indians, and nearly all killed. *Gayarré*, i., p. 181.

<sup>1</sup> *Bienville* to the Minister, 1 Feb., 1723. *Gayarré*, i., p. 198. This year, June 4, 250 Germans arrived under the Swedish Chevalier d'Arensborg, sent out by John Law to set

tle on his Concession on the Arkansas. After his fall they came down and settled near New Orleans. New Orleans was laid out by the *Sieur le Blond de la Tour*, Brigadier and Chevalier of St. Louis, the chief of a troop of engineers sent over. *Dumont*, ii., pp. 39, 46. *La Harpe*, p. 251.