

1722.

of boats, periaguas, canoes and sloops were crushed in the port; three ships anchored there were very much damaged, and found themselves high ashore on the bank of the river, which had risen eight feet. In the settlements above and below the city there was not a building standing. Biloxi suffered even more; all the houses and stores were overthrown, and as the sea overflowed its bounds, a part of that post was inundated. The coasters which were in the roadstead were driven on the islands, or on the mainland. There was even one, the captain of which alone escaped with a cabin boy, having spent twenty-four hours on the yard-arm; the rest of the crew were drowned. Several periaguas, coming down to New Orleans loaded with provisions and poultry, were wrecked. The vegetables that were mature were destroyed, and the continual rains which came on spoiled a good part of what was still green.¹

The Chickasaws ask peace.

Meanwhile, the war with the Chicachas (Chickasaws) still continued, although it was confined to some surprises,² which compelled travellers to proceed with caution. These Indians even themselves were the first to grow weary of it at a time when they might have given us great trouble. Two Canadians, father and son, having fallen into their hands, were well treated by them, and the chiefs begged them to write to de Bienville that if he would restore them to favor, they would release the prisoners at once. They did more, they proceeded to the Sieur de Grave, commandant at the Yazoo, presented the calumet to him, and solicited peace, which he did not deem it wise to refuse.

¹ Dumont, *Memoires*, ii., p. 48-50. Le Page du Pratz, i., 174. Bénard de la Harpe, p. 339. After laying out New Orleans, la Tour and de Pauget, his second engineer, in 1722 built a fort on piles at the Balize, to guard the entrance and aid the shipping. *Ib.*, pp. 57-9. La Tour died soon after. *Ib.*, p. 114. See Le Page du Pratz, i., p. 159.

This balize was swept away into the river, and a new one built by Ulloa in 1768. *Louisiana Hist. Coll.*, v., p. 29, n.

² They surprised Sergeant Riter and his family near the Yazoo post. Dumont, pp. 84. This author calls it the first Indian hostility against the French. See La Harpe, p. 305, 330. Le Page du Pratz, ii., p. 282-7.