

But the colony, though relieved as far as this tribe was concerned, not only the bravest in all Louisiana, but also the most to be feared in consequence of its relations with the English, soon saw that it could depend on the fidelity of the Natchez only so long as they kept on their guard against that naturally treacherous nation. In fact, these savages no sooner perceived that the French, engaged in other affairs, paid less attention to their doings, than they renewed their outrages, and displayed all their ill will, of which it will be soon seen the authorities were not sufficiently on their guard.

At the same time sad tidings came from the Illinois. Mr. de Boisbriand, warned that the (Illinois) of the Rock and of Pimiteouy were besieged by the Foxes, had embarked with the Chevalier d'Artaguet and the Sieur du Tisé, both captains, several other officers and a detachment of a hundred men, to hasten to their deliverance, and had ordered forty Frenchmen and four hundred Indians to march by land to Pimiteouy and await him there; but when each division had got about half way, they learned that the Foxes had retreated with a loss of more than a hundred and twenty of their men. This success did not, however, prevent the Illinois, although they had lost only about twenty men, with some women and children, from leaving the Rock and Pimiteouy, where they were kept in constant alarm, and proceeding to unite with those of their brethren who had settled on the Micissippi; this was a stroke of grace for most of them, the small number of missionaries preventing their supplying so many towns, scattered far apart; but on the other side, as there was nothing to check the raids of the Foxes along the Illinois River, communication between Louisiana and New France became much less practicable.

Some time after they received a very severe check from the Sieur de Saint Ange, the officer at Fort Chartres in the Illinois, who, having drawn a large body of them into a kind of ambuscade, cut them almost all to pieces; other less numerous bands met the same fate soon after; but

1722.

Hostilities
of the
Natchez.

The
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