

1722. their fury increased as their forces diminished, and communicated it so fully to the new enemies they raised up against us, that the whole course and neighborhood of the Micissippi was infested with Indians with whom we had never had any difficulty, and who gave no quarter to any French whom they could well surprise or attack.

The Natchez make peace with the French.

Several Natchez came out openly against us,¹ and what most embarrassed de Bienville was the fact that the brother of the Great Chief was at their head. To make a lasting arrangement with this nation, it would have been necessary to have this man, who was the author of all the evil, given up to the Governor by his own brother, and there was no way to drive the latter to it. The wisdom and firmness of the *Sieur Delietto*, who commanded at that post, extricated de Bienville from this difficulty. That commandant so adroitly worked on the mind of the Great Chief, as to bring him to resolve to go in person and put his brother at the discretion of the general, who, on his side, generously pardoned an humbled enemy and gained him. Great marks of confidence were given on both sides, and this good understanding would to all appearance have been durable, had Mr. *Delietto* lived longer. He was already dead when I reached Natchez at the close of the year 1722, and the good understanding, it seemed to me, was still perfect between the French and Indians. A little more distrust and precaution on the side of the former, would undoubtedly have deprived the latter of the very thought of regarding them differently, and prevented the evils of which we shall soon speak.

¹ A quarrel arose between a sergeant and some Indians about a debt, and the guard in trying to restore peace, killed a chief's son and wounded some others. *Bénard de la Harpe*, p. 343. *Le Page du Pratz*, i., p. 180-3. To avenge this, *Guenote*, one of the Directors of the *St. Catharine Concession* at Natchez, was wounded, and *la Rochelle*, a soldier, murdered. *Dumont*, ii., pp. 94-5. Troops were sent up under the *Sieur Payon*, in four *batteaux*; but the *Stung Serpent*, then Great Chief,

fined three villages to make reparation. These villages in retaliation began killing the cattle and horses of the settlers. Bienville went up with a French and Indian force, but after a fight at one cabin, the Natchez of the *Apple Village* fled, and Bienville burnt the town, which stood near *Second Creek*. On their giving the heads of *Old Hair*, chief of the *Apple Village*, and of a negro, Bienville made peace. *Ib.*, ii., pp. 96-113. *Le Page du Pratz*, i., pp. 197-206.