

from us the dangers to be apprehended from the Indians. The former judged of the Louisiana Indians by those of Canada, where we have seen the Abénaquis and all the Indians domiciliated in that colony enter zealously and heartily, often very disinterestedly, into all that was asked of them, and they did not consider that Christianity alone had brought them to this disposition; the Commandant-General, who had never known any Indians except those whom he had to deal with, did not sufficiently understand that religion, if they could be made to appreciate our Holy Mysteries, would gradually correct the faults of which he complained.

1726.

Be that as it may, the tranquillity enjoyed in Louisiana since peace had been granted to the Natchez and Chickasaws, was but a delusive calm which lulled the inhabitants, while there was gathering around them a storm, whose most disastrous effects were averted only by mere chance, saving the country from becoming in a single day the tomb of all the French; but which was fatal indeed to those on whom it burst, and who had no time to shield themselves from it.

For several years past the Chickasaws, at the instigation of some English,¹ had formed the design of so extirpating the whole colony of Louisiana, that not a single Frenchman should remain. They had managed their scheme with such secrecy that the Illinois, the Acansas and the Tonicas, to whom they had not ventured to impart it, aware of their tried attachment to us, had not the slightest suspicion. All the other tribes joined it; each was to fall on all the settlers marked out for it, and all were to strike the same day and the same hour. Even the Tchactas, (Choctaws,) the most numerous nation on this continent, and at all times our allies, had been won over, at least those on the east, who are called the Great Nation; those on the west, or Little Nation, had taken no part in it, but the conspirators long preserved the se-

Indian
conspiracy
against the
French.

¹ As to English intrigues, see 1727. Gayarré, i., p. 232. Baron Perrier to the Minister, Nov. 15, to the same, *ib.*, p. 254.