

as happened on the 28th of November at the Natchez, in the manner about to be described : 1729.

Mr. de Chepar, who commanded at that post, had some little difficulty with the Indians;<sup>1</sup> but they apparently carried their dissimulation so far as to persuade him that the French had no more faithful allies. He was in fact so little distrustful, that when on the 27th a vague rumor spread that the Natchez were plotting something against us, he put in irons seven settlers who had come to ask his permission to assemble and take up arms to prevent a surprise.<sup>2</sup> He even carried his confidence so far as to receive thirty Indians into the fort, and as many in and around his house. The others were scattered in the houses of the settlers and the workshops of the mechanics, two or three leagues above and below their village.

The day set for the execution of the general plot had not yet come, but two things induced the Natchez to anticipate it. The first was the arrival just then of some batteaux well stocked with goods for the garrison of that and the Yazoo post, as well as for several settlers, and that they wished to seize them before they were distributed; the second was, that the commandant had received a visit from the Messrs Kolly, father and son, whose concession was at no great distance, and from several other persons of consequence, for they saw at once that by pretending to get up a hunt, to furnish Mr. de Chepar wherewith to regale his guests, they could all arm without exciting any suspicion. They made the proposal to the commandant, who accepted it cheerfully, and they at once proceeded to trade with the settlers to obtain guns, balls and powder, which they paid for on the spot.

All those settled at Natchez killed or taken by the Indians.

<sup>1</sup> Dumont writes Chopart. Le Page du Pratz, Chépart.

The little difficulty consisted in his seizing one Indian's ground and cabin, and then ordering the Great Sun to abandon their great village, which he wished for his own use. Dumont, ii., p. 131. Le Page, iii., p. 232.

<sup>2</sup> Le Page du Pratz, iii., p. 253. Dumont mentions only two, Macé and Papin, ii., p. 140. Le Page du Pratz says that the first put in irons was a soldier, sent by the Female Sun, Bras Piqué, a strong friend of the French, to warn Chépart, iii., p. 242-253.