

1729.

This done, early on Monday, the 28th, they scattered through the dwellings, announcing that they were about to start for the hunt, careful to outnumber the French everywhere. They then sang the calumet in honor of the commandant and his company, after which each returned to his post, and a moment later, at a signal of three musket-shots fired successively at the door of Chepar's quarters,<sup>1</sup> they began the massacre at the same time everywhere. The commandant and the Kollys were the first killed; there was no resistance except at the house of Mr. de la Loire des Ursins,<sup>2</sup> Chief Commissary of the India Company, where there were eight men.<sup>3</sup> They fought well; eight Natchez were killed there, and six Frenchmen, the other two escaped. Mr. de la Loire had just mounted his horse; at the first noise he heard, he endeavored to return to his house, but was intercepted by a party of Indians, against whom he held out for some time, till he fell dead, pierced by many wounds, after killing four Natchez. Thus these savages lost at this point twelve men; but that was all their treachery cost them.<sup>4</sup>

Before executing their plot, they had made sure of several negroes, among whom were two commanders. These had persuaded the rest that under the Indians they would be free; that our women and children should become their slaves, and that there was nothing to fear from the French of the other posts, as the massacre would be carried out simultaneously everywhere. It seems, however, that the secret had been confided only to a small number, for fear of its taking wind. Be that as it may, two hundred men perished in this way almost in an instant. Of all the French who were at this post, the

<sup>1</sup> Chopart's house is said to have been just below Fort Rosalie, on a point jutting out into the river. Louisiana Historical Collections, v., p. 71.

<sup>2</sup> The eldest of the brothers, mentioned in the preceding Book. He had been in command at Natchez. The unfortunate appointment of his successor, enabled the Natchez to

succeed. Perrier to the Minister, Mar. 18, 1730. Gayarré, i., p. 242.

<sup>3</sup> Dumont says three men and one woman.

<sup>4</sup> Le Page, iii., pp. 255-6. Dumont, ii., pp. 134-144, says that Chopart was not killed till late; as the Natchez nobles despised him, they sent a Puant chief to brain him with a club.