

1729. is only forty leagues by water and fifteen by land from the Natchez to the Yazoos, no information had reached the latter post of what had occurred nearly a fortnight before in the former. The Indians were accordingly allowed to enter the fort, and when it was least expected, they rushed on the French, who were only seventeen in all; they had not even time to attempt to defend themselves, and not one escaped. These savages spared the lives only of four women and five children, whom they made slaves. One of Father Souel's murderers at once put on his cassock, and in this attire proceeded to announce to the Natchez the massacre of all the French settlers on their river.<sup>1</sup> The Corrois joined them in this expedition. The Offogoulas were then on a hunt; on their return they were strongly urged to enter the plot; but they steadily refused, and withdrew to the Tonicas, whom they knew to be of all the Indians the most inviolably attached to the French.

A missionary attacked by the Yazoos and saved almost miraculously.

1730.

Some suspicion of this last calamity was already entertained at New Orleans, when the arrival of the Jesuit Father Doutreleau,<sup>2</sup> missionary to the Illinois, dispelled all further doubts. This religious had taken the period of his Indians' winter hunt to come down to the capital, and there arrange some affairs connected with his mission. On the first day of the year 1730, he wished to say mass at Father Souel's, being ignorant of his death; but as he feared that he would not get there till after noon, he resolved to celebrate the Holy Mysteries at the mouth of the Yazoo River. While he was making ready, a peria-gua of Indians arrived at the same spot; when asked to what nation they belonged, they replied that they were

<sup>1</sup> Father le Petit to Father d'Avaugour, July 12, 1730, in the 1726, and was killed December 11, 1729.

Lettres Edifiantes—Kip's Jesuit Missions, pp. 289-290; Carayon, Documents Inédits, xiv., p. 23. Dumont, Memoires, ii., pp. 163-4. Le Page du Pratz, iii., p. 264. Father John Souel belonged to the Province of Champagne, arrived in <sup>2</sup> Father Stephen d'Outreleau was born Oct. 11, 1693, entered the Society in the Province of Champagne July 27, 1715, came to Louisiana in 1727, and returned to France in 1747. Martin in Carayon, Doc. Inédits, xiv., pp. 121, 128.