

1730.

two oarsmen were more than once tempted to give up, but encouraged by the missionary, they in turn alarmed the Indians, who, apparently having now neither powder nor balls, threw themselves down flat in their periagua whenever one of the two Frenchmen aimed at them an old musket, that was not even loaded, and they at last disappeared. Our party, delivered from this alarm, dressed their wounds as well as they could, then lightened their periagua by throwing overboard everything not absolutely needed, and keeping only a little raw pork for their subsistence.

On coming opposite Natchez, unconscious of what had occurred there, they ran in towards the landing, intending to rest there and have medical aid; but seeing the nearest houses burned or demolished, durst not land. Some Indians who had discovered them, in vain invited them to approach by making every demonstration of friendship; they passed on as quick as they could. Then the Indians fired several guns at them; but they were already out of reach. They intended also to pass the Bay of the Tonicas without stopping, but with all the exertion in their power, a periagua, sent out to reconnoitre, soon overhauled them. They gave themselves up for lost past all resource, till they heard French spoken in the periagua. Then they lay to, and they recovered entirely from their fright on seeing some Frenchmen who were in the boat.

They were taken ashore, where they found troops assembling to go and punish the Natchez. The officers lavished their attentions on Father Doutreleau, had his wounds dressed by the army surgeon, as well as that of his boatman, whose leg was broken, and after giving them rest and refreshment, they placed him and his two men on a periagua, which they were sending to New Orleans. He promised them to return and serve as their chaplain as soon as his wounds were healed: he kept his word, and did not even wait till his perfect recovery before

¹ He reached New Orleans Jan'y 8, 1730. Perrier to the Minister in Gayarré, i., p. 247.