

doing so.¹ But before entering on the account of the expedition prepared against the Natchez, we must describe the effect produced throughout the colony by the tidings of the massacre which these Indians had committed on so large a number of the French.

1730.

Mr. Perrier was informed of it on the second of December.² He at once dispatched the *Sieur le Merveilleux*, a Swiss captain, with a detachment to warn all the settlers on both sides of the river to be on their guard, and to throw up redoubts at intervals, in order to secure their slaves and cattle, and this was promptly executed. He then enjoined the same officer to observe closely the small tribes on the river, and to give arms to no Indians, except when and to whom he should direct. He at the same time dispatched a courier to summon to him two Choctaw chiefs, who were hunting on Lake Pontchartrain. The next day a periagua from Illinois reached New Orleans, bringing a Choctaw, who asked to speak to him in private. He admitted him at once, and this man told him that he was greatly affected by the death of the French, and would have prevented it had he not deemed a falsehood what some Chickasaws had told him, namely, that all the Indians were to destroy all the French settlements, and massacre all the men. "What prevented me," he added, "from crediting this story, was their stating that my tribe was in the plot; but Father, if you will let me go to my country, I will immediately return to render a good report of what I have done there."

Activity of Perrier on hearing of the massacre at Natchez.

Mr. Perrier had no sooner left this Indian than others from the smaller tribes came to warn him to distrust the Choctaws, and he learned almost at the same time that two Frenchmen had been killed in the neighborhood of

How he is informed of the general plot against the French.

¹ He apparently went up to the Missions, pp. 291-2. Carayon, xiv., camp at the Tonicas with Baron. p. 23. Dumont, *Memoires*, ii., pp. Baron to the Minister, 10 April, 160-3; *Le Page du Pratz*, iii., p. 1730. Gayarré, i., p. 254. Kip, p. 263. 294. As to his escape, see Father ² By the *Sieur Ricard*, store keeper, *Le Petit's Letter* of July 12, 1730, who escaped. Dumont, ii., pp. 149, in *Lettres Edifiantes*; Kip's Jesuit 170.