

1730.

come when quite young from his native Canada to Louisiana, and had grown up among these tribes, counted enough on the friendship which all the Indians, and these especially, had ever shown him to offer to go to them. His offer was accepted, and he set out from Fort Maubile on the nineteenth. With great toil he visited all the villages; he was well received everywhere, and had no great difficulty in forming the corps of seven hundred warriors of whom I have spoken, and whom he led straight against the Natchez.

On his side, Perrier sent up to the Tonicas two of the Company's vessels. He sent overland warning to all the posts, as far as the Illinois, of what had happened and what he intended to do. He dug a ditch around New Orleans; he placed barracks at its four angles; he organized militia companies for the defence of the city, and as there was more to fear for the settlements and concessions than for the capital, he threw up entrenchments everywhere, and erected forts in the most exposed points; he finally prepared to go and take command of his little army which was assembling in the Bay of the Tonicas. But it was represented to him that his presence was absolutely required at New Orleans; that we were not yet perfectly sure of the Choctaws, and that there was even a fear that the negroes, if these Indians declared against us, would join them in the hope of escaping from slavery, as some had done at Natchez. He accordingly judged it best to confide the expedition to the Chevalier de Loubois, Major of New Orleans, whose valor and experience he knew.¹

Disposition
of several
Indian
tribes.

The first effect of his preparations was to restore to our side the small Mississippi tribes, who had abandoned it, as Mr. le Sueur regained those around Maubile. We were sure of the affection and fidelity of the Illinois, Akansas,

¹ Diron d'Artagnette to the Minister. Gayarré, i., p. 258. He reproaches Loubois for losing four weeks here in inaction. Le Page du Pratz, iii., p. 267, says he did

not think himself strong enough to attack the Natchez without the aid of the Choctaws. He speaks highly of Loubois, and ascribes his inefficiency to ignorance of the country.