

1729-30. butcher the French who brought this ransom, and then sell their prisoners to the English. The soldier was retained and no answer given. They took their revenge the same day by burning with more than savage barbarity the *Sieur Mexplex* and the soldier left with him.¹

The
Choctaws
gain a great
victory
over them.

On the 27th, *le Sueur* arrived at *Natchez* with the Choctaws, and began the attack almost as soon as he came up. He apparently did not yet know that our army was at the Bay of the *Tonicas*, or was unable to control the selfish impetuosity of his Indians,² who wished to have the best part of the booty, and also profit by the prisoners whom they delivered, for the sequel leads us to infer this. Be that as it may, they charged the enemy so fiercely that they killed eighty men, took sixteen women prisoners,³ delivered fifty-one French women and children, the two mechanics whom the *Natchez* had spared, and a hundred and fifty negroes and negroesses. They would even have pushed their victory further, for it had cost them only two men killed, and some wounded, had not those of our negroes, whom the *Natchez* had won over, taken up arms on their side, and prevented the Choctaws from carrying off their powder; this would have compelled the enemy to surrender or fly. There can be no doubt that, had this attack been concerted with the *Chevalier de Loubois*, not a *Natché* would have escaped.⁴

I cannot exactly ascertain what detained that commandant so long inactive at the *Tonicas*.⁵ He has been

¹ Perrier to the Minister, Mar. 18, 1730. *Gayarré*, i., p. 248. *Father Le Petit*, (*Kip*), p. 295-7. *Le Page du Pratz*, iii., pp. 275-280.

² There is evident confusion as to this date. *D'Artaguet* to the Minister, Jan'y 10, 1731, (*Gayarré*, p. 269.) makes it Feb. 27; *Dumont*, (ii., p. 181,) and *Le Page du Pratz*, iii., p. 283, make them arrive in February, *Dumont* says, to the number of 1,600, under de *Lery*, though *Le Page* says *Le Sueur*; but *Baron's Journal*, (*Gayarré*, i., p. 255)

under date of Feb. 8, and *Perrier's*, under date of Jan. 31, (*ib.*, p. 249.) show that it was Jan'y 27, 1730, as *Father Le Petit* gives it, (*Kip*) p. 296.

³ *D'Artaguet* says 60 killed, 18 taken.

⁴ *Perrier* to the Minister, *Gayarré*, i., p. 249. This attack was near the Bayou *Sainte Catherine*.

⁵ *D'Artaguet*, (Jan'y 10, 1731, says he staid to watch the Choctaws, believing in a general conspiracy. *Gayarré*, i., p. 269.