

severely blamed for it, and Perrier, in endeavoring to shield him, drew upon himself a part of the censure of some men, whose authority should not, I think, prevail over his. And the misfortune is, that some of those who were loudest in condemning the manner in which the Natchez war was managed, were not more fortunate in the Chickasaw war, and committed nearly the same faults with which they reproached Mr. Perrier and those commanding under him, if faults they were.

Be that as it may, de Loubois on the 2nd of February marched from the Bay of the Tonicas with two hundred men and some field-pieces; on the 8th he arrived at the Natchez and encamped around the temple. On the 12th the cannon were placed in battery before one of the two Indian forts, and as it was supposed that these preparations, especially after the defeat they had received, would induce them to submit to all exacted of them, they were notified that they might still avoid their total ruin by this submission; but they were found more resolute than ever to defend themselves.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly de Loubois opened next morning with seven cannon; but they were two hundred and fifty fathoms from the fort, and they were so badly handled that, after six hours' constant fire, they had not dislodged a single palisade, which put the Choctaws in a very bad humor, as they had been assured that a large breach would be made in two hours. On the other hand, the insolence and avidity of these Indians, whom nothing could satisfy, and who wasted a part of the munitions given them, disgusted the French commandant as much as the desperate resistance of the Natchez.

On the 15th he again wished to try whether they had not become more tractable; he sent them an interpreter

1730.

De Loubois  
besieges  
the Natchez  
in their  
forts.

<sup>1</sup> Baron, Journal, (Gayarré, i., pp. 255-6.) Diron d'Artaguetto to Minister. *Ib.*, p. 259. Same to same, Jan'y 10, 1731. *Ib.*, p. 269. French Coll., v. p. 93 n. See Adair, p. 354. the bluff, just below the bend of St. Catharine's Creek, near the Lynwood plantation. Louisiana Hist. Coll., v. p. 93 n. See Adair, p. 354.