

1730.

with a flag to summon them ; but they received this envoy with a volley of musketry, which alarmed him so that in his fear he threw aside his flag. It would have fallen into the enemy's hands, if a young soldier had not had the courage to go and recover it, exposing himself to the fire of the besieged ; an exploit which on his return to camp won his promotion to the rank of sergeant. The same day the Natchez made a sortie, with a view to surprise de Loubois, who was quartered in their temple, but it failed. During the night of the 19th-20th, a trench was opened two hundred and eighty fathoms from the fort, and on the 21st the cannonade was renewed. "If the opening of the trench was so long delayed, this delay," says Mr. Perrier, in one of his letters, "was caused by the ill-will of our soldiers and some other Frenchmen, who thereby prevented the entire destruction of the Natchez."

They make a sortie and clear the trench. They are repulsed by the Chevalier d'Artaguette.

On the 22nd, these Indians made a second sortie, to the number of three hundred,<sup>1</sup> attacking in three places ; they surprised, in the trench, an outpost of thirty men and two officers, who all took flight, imagining that they were attacked simultaneously by the Natchez and the Choctaws ; they were ready to seize the cannon, when the Chevalier d'Artaguette came up, and although he had only five men with him, he repulsed the enemy, and recovered the trench. We had only one man killed that day. The same day de Loubois ordered forty soldiers, as many Indians, and some negroes, to storm the two forts the next day ; but this was not carried out. On the 24th, a battery of four four pounders was planted within a hundred and eighty fathoms, and at the same time they threatened to reduce the besieged to powder, if they did not surrender the prisoners they held. They immediately sent back the wife of the Sieur Desnoyers, to whom they confided their proposals. She was retained and no answer sent.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Baron, Journal, p. 257, says 200. named was his nephew. Baron

<sup>2</sup> D'Artaguette to the Minister. says nothing of it.

Gayarré, i., p. 260. The officer