

posts along the Mississippi are warned; guns and ammunition are distributed in the city and on the plantations; two ships are despatched to the Yazoo River; fortifications are erected not only at New Orleans, but on the plantations; and companies of militia are organized. All the available soldiers are mustered to proceed against the Natches. Meanwhile, Le Sueur conducts 700 Choctaw warriors thither, to secure the release of the French prisoners; this is accomplished, on January 27, 1730,—the Choctaws taking the Natches village by surprise, and capturing and killing a considerable number of their men. On February 8, the French troops, with some savage allies, arrive; but, finding many difficulties in their siege of the village, a mutual agreement is reached (February 25), by which the French receive their remaining captives, and withdraw—building, however, a fort on a bluff near by, to secure control of the great river. The Choctaw allies go to New Orleans, to receive payment for their services; they disgust the French by their vanity, greed for gain, and insolence. The Natches had been joined in their revolt by some negro slaves; three of these, the ringleaders, are abandoned to the Choctaws, who have “burned them alive, with a degree of cruelty which has inspired all the negroes with a new horror of the Savages, but which will have a beneficial effect in securing the safety of the colony.” Some Natches prisoners are also burned by the savages allied to the French; and the writer adds, “Our own people, it is said, begin to be accustomed to this barbarous spectacle.” The French women enslaved by the Natches return to New Orleans, and “many of them were in great haste to