

On the 8th of February, the French, with the *Tonikas*, and some other small Tribes from the lower end of the Mississippi, arrived at the *Natchez*, and seized their Temple dedicated to the Sun.

The impatience and intractability of the *Tchactas*, who like almost all Savages are capable of striking only one blow, and then disperse; the small number of French soldiers who found themselves worn down by fatigues; the want of provisions which the Savages stole from the French; the failure of ammunition with which they were not able to satisfy the *Tchactas*, who wasted one part of it, and placed the other in reserve to be used in hunting; the resistance of the *Natchez*, who were well fortified, and who fought in desperation,—all these things decided us to listen to the propositions which the besieged made, after the trenches had been opened for seven days. They threatened, if we persisted in the siege, to burn those of the French who remained, while on the other hand, they offered to restore them, if we would withdraw our seven pieces of cannon. These, in reality, for want of a good gunner, and under present circumstances, were scarcely in a fit state to give them any fear.

These propositions were accepted, and fulfilled on both sides. On the 25th of February, the besieged faithfully restored all that they had promised, while the besiegers retired with their cannon to a small fort which they had hastily built on the Escôre [bluff] near the river, for the purpose of always keeping the *Natchez* in check, and insuring a passage to the voyageurs. Monsieur Perrier gave the command of it to Monsieur Dartaguet, as an acknowledgment of the intrepidity with which, during