

BOOK  
XI.

1731.

to pursue the Natchez. M. de Crefnay was also ordered to secure those who had surrendered themselves to him, but his aid major, to whom he had entrusted the care of them, having left them their knives, they, at a time when least expected, seized eight fusils, and ammunition, with which they fired until several people were killed. Their chief had descended to New Orleans with fifteen men, where they were seized, sent to the island of Thoulouse, and put in irons, which they found means to break; but not having time to effect their escape, they were all killed.

The party of Natchez who had failed in their attack on the Tonicas, went to rejoin their countrymen who had, by the Black River, escaped from M. Perrier at the siege of the fort. Having found them, they went together to the Natchitoches, where M. Saint Denys was posted with a few soldiers, and laid siege to his fort. That officer sent immediately an express to the commandant to demand succour, and Loubois was sent with sixty men to reinforce him; but he was informed on his way, that the Natchez were repulsed, but had possessed themselves of the village of the Natchitoches, and had entrenched themselves there. M. de Saint Denys having received a reinforcement from the Affin-  
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