

vivors of this once powerful tribe took refuge among the Chicasaws and other nations, by whom they were adopted; and the name of the Natchez, as a people, became extinct; though, like that of Tuscaloosa, of Mauvila, and many another euphonious Indian title, still perpetuated in the appellation of a modern city.

In 1732, the Mississippi Company abandoned their charter, leaving Louisiana with a population of about five thousand white inhabitants and half that number of blacks. The prosperity of the colony, despite its terrible misfortunes and losses, was now settled on a permanent base—agriculture, which in those fertile regions so amply repays the planter, having become its principal occupation. Indian hostilities, however, with hardly an interval of peace, were presently resumed. The Chicasaws had afforded an asylum to the Yazoos, to the survivors of the Natchez, and to the runaway negroes; nay, they even hatched a plot for the destruction of the white settlements by exciting an insurrection of the slaves. Other acts of open hostility were committed, and Bienville, who in 1735 returned and resumed the office of governor, perceived the necessity of conciliation or war. All his efforts at the former having failed, he sent for D'Artegrette, the commandant of Fort Chartres, on the Illinois, to join him with all his available force. That officer, already distinguished for his activity in the war with the Natchez, with a force of twelve hundred men, mostly Illinois Indians, rapidly descended the Mississippi, and marched into the country of the hostile nation. The Chicasaws were well entrenched, and were commanded by English officers. D'Artegrette, after waiting ten days in vain for Bienville, attacked them, but after taking two of their forts, was wounded and taken prisoner, with several of his friends. The Illinois fled, and Bienville, arriving just too late, attacked a fort defended by a body of English, before which, it is said, he lost two thousand of his followers, and was compelled to make a miserable retreat, marching for a hundred miles without food, and the enemy being in hot pursuit. The unfortunate D'Artegrette and his fellow-prisoners, after the defeat of their friends, were tortured to death at the stake, after the customary cruelty of the savages.

In 1739, Bienville, acting in concert with Beauharnois, the governor of Canada, and aided by a strong force of French and Indians from that province, set forth on a fresh campaign against the Chicasaws. The united forces of the two colonies, amounting to three thousand six hundred men, of which one-third were Europeans,