

sent to each of the allied chiefs—one, commencing with the next new moon, to be drawn daily from the stock, and the last to mark the day of retribution.

On the 28th of November, 1729, the Indians, each bearing his tribute of corn, presented themselves before the fort. Permitted to enter, in great numbers, without any precaution, they dispersed themselves through the fortress and among the dwellings; and at a given signal, raising their tomahawks, fell on the garrison, and committed an indiscriminate slaughter. Taken by surprise, nearly all the Frenchmen were put to death; eighty women and a hundred and fifty children were made prisoners; and the negro slaves joined the ranks of the assailants. Seven hundred of the French, it is said, thus perished at a single blow; and the Yazoos, emulating the example of their Natchez allies, surprised the fort in their territory, and put all its tenants to death.

The French, burning for revenge, first massacred a company of Chonchas, dwelling near New Orleans, who were put to death by the negro slaves, with great cruelty. The Choctaws, enraged at the engrossment of spoil by the Natchez, now proffered their services to Perier, and twelve hundred of them, commanded by a Frenchman, were dispatched against Fort Rosalie, which the Natchez had reconstructed and occupied. This army defeated them, with the loss of eighty warriors, and recovered fifty of the women and children. A force of colonists, of equal number, provided with artillery and attended by a body of friendly Indians, soon followed, and for several days the assault was fiercely pressed, the besieged defending themselves with great resolution. Terms of capitulation were finally agreed on, and the rest of the prisoners were restored; but the Natchez, seeing that Loubois, the French commander, intended to break faith with them, privately escaped by night across the river, and a portion of them joined the Chicasaws. The rest of the fugitive tribe, having concealed themselves in the woods near Black River, were pursued by Perier, the governor, in the winter of 1731, and were mostly killed, in attempting to escape from their fort, or were forced to surrender. The prisoners were sent to St. Domingo and sold as slaves. The remainder of the tribe, on learning these disastrous tidings, fell with great fury on the Tunicas and other Indian allies of the French, and committed much slaughter among them; but finally attacking a French fort, were repulsed with severe loss, their chief, the Great Sun, being among the killed. The few sur-