

having devoted twenty-nine years of his life to the care of this remote province, of which he had been one of the earliest founders, returned to France, leaving M. Perier to succeed him in the command.

CHAPTER V.

HOSTILITY OF THE NATCHEZ.—THEIR INJURIES.—VAIN REMONSTRANCE.—PLAN FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FRENCH.—MASSACRE AT PORT ROSALIE.—CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NATCHEZ.—FLIGHT AND FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE TRIBE.—WAR WITH THE CHICASAWS.—DISASTROUS CAMPAIGN OF D'ARTEGRETTE AND BIENVILLE.—GREAT LOSS OF THE FRENCH AND THEIR ALLIES.—UNSATISFACTORY RESULT OF A SECOND CAMPAIGN.

THE erection of Fort Rosalie, on the Mississippi, was viewed with some jealousy by the Natchez, a powerful tribe of neighbouring Indians; injudicious attempts to collect tribute had given them additional offence; and in alliance with the Chicaws and other tribes of Louisiana, they concerted a general attack on the French. The latter, having succeeded in detaching the Choctaws from the hostile league, the Chicaws also deferred their intended campaign, but the Natchez, excited by fresh injury, rushed at once into a war of extermination. Chepar, the commandant of the fort in question, wishing to lay out a plantation, with equal cruelty and impolicy, ordered the chief of a neighbouring village to yield it up for his use. In vain did the latter remonstrate. "When you and your brothers," he said, "came here to ask us for land, we did not refuse it; there was enough for you and for us; we might have hunted in the same forests, and been buried in the same place. Why will you drive us from the cabins where we have received you with kindness, and smoked with you the calumet of peace?" The commandant, however, was blindly inexorable in his demand; and the injured tribe, in close council, resolved on signal vengeance. A singular device for ensuring concert in the intended assault was adopted—a bundle of reeds being

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