

had ceased from firing, and as it had continued incessantly to rain for three days, the besieged supposed that the French would be less exact in guarding the passes, in which they were not deceived. About eight o'clock in the evening it was discovered that they were escaping. Immediately several French soldiers were ordered to pursue, but they passed along the course of a small river which ran between the quarters of the militia and those of one of the divisions, and when the French took possession of the fort, the Natchez were at a considerable distance from it, with their women and children. The savages acting with the French, refused to pursue the Natchez, and there being no longer any enemy, the general made a disposition for returning. The Sun with his attendants and family were embarked in a small vessel called the St. Louis.

It was not long before the Natchez rendered themselves again formidable, and the impolitic and unjustifiable conduct of the French, in sending to be sold at St. Domingo as slaves, the Sun, and all those who had been taken with him, had more enraged than intimidated that nation, in whom hatred and despair had converted their natural haughtiness and ferocity into a steady valour, of which they were conceived incapable. In the month of April the great chief of the

BOOK  
XI.  
1731.