

BOOK
XI.

1731.

The commandant required that the chiefs should come to him, in order to settle the terms of peace. The envoy returned to the fort, and brought back to the French eighteen negroes. In delivering them to the general, he said that the Sun or chief would not leave the fort: that he ardently wished for peace with the French, but upon condition that the army should immediately withdraw: that if this measure was adopted, he would give his word that his nation should never commit any act of hostility against the French, and that he was willing, if it was desired, to re-establish his village in its ancient situation. The general answered, that he would listen to no proposal, unless delivered by the chiefs in person: that he would assure them of their safety; but that if they came not the same day, no quarter would be given. The Sun at length came out accompanied by two chiefs, and was conducted to M. Perrier's quarters, where four centinels were placed over them. One of them, notwithstanding, found means to escape in the night, and to draw with him from the fort a great part of the savages who defended it. There remained not above seventy warriors, who had no chief, and the fear of falling into the hands of the enemy, if they should attempt to escape separately, obliged the greatest part of them to remain shut up. In the mean time the French had