

they found these people faithful to their engagements with the French, and relinquished every hope from those quarters. The Illinois delivered up to the general three ambassadors who had been sent to them upon that mission: these were surrendered to the Tehactas, who burnt them at New Orleans, and thereby extinguished every hope of conciliation with the Chicachas.

Such was the situation of the colony when M. Perrier expected to be recalled, because he understood that his conduct had been disapproved of by the company of the Indies; he was however surprised to receive a new commission appointing him governor of Louisiana for the King. From the beginning of this year the company had resolved on the retrocession to his Majesty of the grant which he had given them of this province, and of the country of the Illinois, and also of the exclusive privilege, on condition of being allowed the power of granting permissions to merchants of the kingdom inclined to trade with that country. This resolution was soon after confirmed by a decree, and by virtue of letters patent from the King, M. de Salmont, who acted at New Orleans as chief commissioner, took possession of the country in name of the Most Christian King.

M. Perrier

BOOK

XI.

1731.