

nais and Attacapas, to whom some Spaniards had joined themselves, attacked their intrenchments, and killed eighty-two, among whom were all their chiefs. The remainder had betaken themselves to flight, and were pursued by the Natchitoches. So many losses, and particularly that of their chiefs, had so completely dispersed the Natchez, that they no longer composed a nation; but a sufficient number still remained to disturb the inhabitants of Louisiana, and to interrupt their commerce. To remain upon friendly terms with the Chicachas was no longer possible: they delayed not openly to declare themselves. Their number amounted to a thousand warriors, besides about a hundred Natchez and some Courrois and Yasous. This was sufficient to keep the colony in alarm, and it appeared to be upon the eve of supporting a new war, which its present force did not promise that it should be able soon to terminate.

The Chicachas, the most fierce, and at the same time the most brave of all the nations of Louisiana, waited for a considerable time before they threw off the mask. They had taken such measures for withstanding the French, as gave reason to suppose that their neighbours were concerned with them, of which proofs not altogether equivocal soon appeared. They began
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