

*Extract of a Letter from Mississipi, dated
April 30., 1736.*

M. De Bienville, Governor of this Province, being determined to destroy the Savages called Chekafaws, by way of Revengē for the Injuries which they did last Year to the French, began his March towards them some time ago from New-Orleans, and passed through Mouille with the Inhabitants of the low Lands: He dispatched Orders in the mean while to M. d'Artaguette, the commanding Officer amongst the Illinese, to join the French the first of April, and to muster together as many Savages as he could get. M. d'Artaguette accordingly made such Haste, that he arrived at the Rendezvous appointed before the Time prescribed; and instead of waiting the coming of M. Bienville; he went to attack the Chekafaws, trusting very much to the Bravery of the Illinese, who nevertheless abandoned him at the first Fire of the People of Chekafaws, insomuch that he had no more than 150 Men left, both French and Savages, to withstand 800: Therefore the Battle did not last long; he was quickly defeated and killed, with all the other Officers & 48 French. M. Bienville being informed of this Misfortune, did not, however, stop his Career; but notwithstanding all his Efforts, and after a March of 500 Leagues, he had not the good Fortune to force the Savages, who fight like Lions, & are powerfully and odly intrenched. Their Cottages are disposed in such a Manner as to defend each other; and as the People are excellent Marksmen, and fire crosswise very dexterously, they seldom miss killing or wounding: Therefore the best way to force them for the future is, to lay Siegē to them in Form; but the Difficulty is, to carry Artillery so far. We have, indeed, invented a Sort of Arrow, which sets fire to their Store Cabbins; but that does not discourage them. Four Officers, with several Soldiers, were killed; and Numbers of Officers & Soldiers, both Swiss & French, and of the Militia, were wounded in this Expedition. Father Senal, a Jesuit, who was our Chaplain, was taken by the Savages; and without doubt, will suffer a cruel and lingering Death; it being the Custom of the Savages, to torment their Prisoners 15 Days, or above.