

ing, it is said, spoken insultingly to Duhaut, Hiens, and the surgeon Liotot, these three men resolved to make away with him as speedily as possible, and to begin by Mr. de la Sale's lackey, and Nica, his Indian hunter, who attended Moranget, and might defend him.¹

They broached their design to Larchevêque and to Tessier, the pilot, who approved it, and offered to join in carrying it out. They said nothing to the Sieur de Marle, who was with them, and whom they would gladly have got away. The next night, while the three unfortunate victims of their vengeance were quietly asleep, Liotot dealt each several blows with a hatchet on the head. The Indian and the lackey expired on the spot; Moranget sat up, but without uttering a single word, and the assassins compelled the Sieur de Marle to finish him, threatening, if he refused, to deal with him as they had with the rest; they doubtless wished to make him an accomplice in their crime, so as to make sure that he would not accuse them.²

Nevertheless, as it is rare that a first crime is not followed by that uneasiness which the most hardened criminals have always some trouble in calming, the murderers felt that it would not be easy to escape La Sale's just vengeance, unless they anticipated him, and on this

1687-90.

Moranget
with La
Sale's lackey
and
hunter as-
sassinated.

¹ Crossing Canoe river on the 6th March, La Salle, on the 15th, sent off Duhaut, Hiens, Liotot, Nika, and Saget, to get some provisions he had put in a *cache*, on his last trip. These they found spoilt, but killed two bison, and boucanned the meat. Learning this from Saget, La Salle sent Moranget, de Marle, and Saget, to get the meat. Moranget, finding that they had boucanned it before it was sufficiently dry, flew into a passion, and took from them the marrow-bones and meat, which, according to custom, they had laid aside to roast, as perquisites. On

this, Liotot, Hiens, and Duhaut drew off, and formed their plot. Joutel, *Journal Historique*, pp. 157-197.

² Joutel, *Journal Historique*, pp. 197-8. Father Anastasius (Le Clercq, ii., p. 337; Hennepin in *Voyages au Nord.*, v., p. 241) makes Moranget linger two hours, pardon his murderers, &c. The account given by the two Talons (Interrogations, &c.), supposed four killed. The Indian Nika, or Nikana, may have been the one given to La Salle by some Iroquois, north of Lake Erie, in 1669. Galinée, Ms.