

1714.

contain the storehouses and afford a refuge in case of reverse. Hitherto the French had nothing to fear from the Indians, who on all occasions evinced a strong attachment to their interest. But when no care has been taken to unite these Indians to us by the bond of religion, the allurements of an actual gain, together with hope of impunity, is a great temptation for them.

At last, provisions failing entirely at Fort Bourbon, and Jérémie' not wishing to touch the powder placed in reserve at the small fort just mentioned, sent his lieutenant, his two clerks and five more of his best men to hunt the caribou, which pass through those parts in great numbers in the months of July and August. These hunters encamped near a troop of Indians, who, for want of powder, had been unable to lay in their store of meat, and were reduced to the greatest misery, the Indians having almost entirely lost the use of their arrows since the coming of Europeans to their country.²

They felt it still more when they saw the French hunting successfully and enjoying abundance without sharing it with them; they accordingly resolved to massacre them to obtain their spoils. They began by inviting the two who seemed bravest to a feast, which they wished, they said, to give at night in their cabins. The Frenchmen went and were easily made way with. The Indians then ran to the other six, who were quietly sleeping in their tents, and massacred them also. One only escaped: being merely wounded, he counterfeited death, and after the Indians had stripped them all and retreated with their plunder, he with great difficulty dragged himself to the skirt of the woods. There he stanch'd his wounds as well as he could with leaves of trees, and started for Fort Bourbon, travelling through thorns and brambles that tore his whole body, for they had not even left him his shirt.

In this state he travelled ten leagues and reached the

¹ He was sent out in 1708 to succeed Delisle, brother of de St. Michel, Port Captain at Rochefort. Delisle died there the winter after his arrival. Jérémie, Relation de la Baye de Hudson. (Voyages au Nord, iii., p. 333.)

² Ib. p. 350.