

1726.

make war and distinguish himself at the expense of the Company. But when he received this letter, he had only too strong evidence to disprove these insulting suspicions, in an event which soon changed the minds of those whose advice had been taken rather than his. In the letter just mentioned, and written from New Orleans, he says: "I have not been astonished that the Company has been assured that troops are not needed in Louisiana, or presents for the Indians, to retain them as our allies; nevertheless, I have seen the men who maintained this absurdity, trembling to the very marrow of their bones, although there is less to be feared here than elsewhere."

In another letter, dated April 1st, in the same year, he adds one thing, which shows that he knew the Indians better than those who boasted most of their knowledge of them. Speaking of these Indians, he says: "We are sure of retaining their good will as long as we give them what they wish; but as they feel that we need them, they multiply their wants in such a way that the English and ourselves are the dupes of these savages, who are much less so than we." What he proceeds to say, that we shall not make them what they ought to be, till after we have thoroughly defeated them, is not, however, true, except when they have given grounds for so treating them; for nothing embitters them more than to make war on them without cause; but there are other means of controlling them. Mr. Perrier was not ignorant of them; and in fact remarks very justly in his previous letter, that the war in which he was engaged had convinced him that to escape the importunity of the Indians, who are always begging, you need only to pretend to do without them. "It is," says he, "the means to make them all wish to follow us. Then, if they are not satisfied, we can tell them that they were not invited. Although it is necessary to bind them to us by presents to avoid war, you must never so far reckon on their fidelity as to think yourself safe from insult."

However, both those who depreciated Perrier with the Company, and Perrier himself, either did not know or did not sufficiently consider that Christianity alone can avert