

Yazoos, friends of the French, and at the same time they cordially offered provisions to the companions of the missionary. A moment after, the latter perceived some wild geese flying overhead; the Canadians never resist the temptation of firing when they see game; these voyageurs had only two guns loaded; they fired both at the geese, and as the father was all vested to begin mass, they did not think of reloading.

The Indians noted it well, and took their places behind the French, as if they wished to hear the mass, although they were not Christians. As the priest was saying the Kyrie eleison, they fired. Father Doutreleau feeling himself wounded in the right arm, and seeing one of his men fall dead at his feet, knelt down to receive in that posture the death-blow, which seemed inevitable. In fact, the Indians fired three times at him, almost at the point of the muzzle, but nevertheless inflicted no new wound. Then, full of confidence in Divine Providence, whose protection was so clearly shown, he took his chalice and paten, and, attired as he was in his priestly vestments, ran to the spot where his periagua was. His two surviving men had already jumped in, and believing him dead or unable to escape from the Indians, had pulled off.

The missionary waded out to reach them, and as he got into the periagua, having turned his head to see whether he was pursued, received a charge of duck-shot in the mouth. Most of the shot flattened against his teeth, and some entered his gums. He escaped with this, and undertook to steer the periagua; his two men, one of whom had his leg broken by a musket-ball, rowing with all their might. The Indians pursued them for more than an hour, keeping up a constant fire on them; but seeing pursuit useless, which surprised the missionary still more, they regained the shore. It was afterwards ascertained that on arriving at their town, they boasted of having killed a Jesuit and all his boatmen.

Nor was it indeed without difficulty that they escaped, as long as their enemies kept up the stubborn chase; the