

different villages, were the instigators of it; and that they employed to commit the crime two brothers, who started that very day from a distance of five leagues, with the design of killing the first Frenchman whom they might meet alone.

We are quite sure that those Captains, who are not among the least notable of the country, have always declared themselves hostile to the Faith; and after that affair they manifested their fury and venom against us, and against our Christians. Whatever pretext they may allege in connection with that murder, [122] our Christian Captains have informed us that they wished to attack Jesus Christ, in the persons of those who acknowledge and adore him.

On the day following the outrage, when our Christians of the neighboring villages heard the news, they flocked from all points to our house of sainte Marie. "This murder," they said, "teaches us that there is a conspiracy against you. Here we are, prepared to die in the defense of our Fathers, and to uphold the Faith against all who may wish to assail it."

The whole country was in commotion, and the most notable persons among the nations who dwell in it were summoned to attend a general meeting on the matter. Those who had secretly been the instigators of the murder showed themselves in their true colors as enemies of the Faith, saying that the doors of their villages should be closed to us, and that we should be driven from the country. Some even added that all the Christians should be banished from it, and their number be prevented from increasing. But the zeal of those good Christians shone out with great brightness on that occasion. Some said that they would