

Knowing, as you do, my Reverend Father, the vigilance and the foresight of Monsieur our Commandant, you can well imagine that he did not sleep in this sad crisis in which we now found ourselves. We may say without flattery that he surpassed himself by the rapid movements he made, and by the wise measures he adopted to revenge the French blood which had been shed, and to prevent the evils with which almost all the posts of the Colony were threatened.

As soon as he was apprised of this unexpected attack by the *Natchez* Savages, he caused the news to be carried to all the posts, and even as far as the Illinois, not by the direct and ordinary route of the river, which was closed, but on one side by the *Natchitoches* and the *Akensas*, and on the other by Mobile and the *Tchicachas*. He invited the neighbors who were our allies, and particularly the *Tchactas*, to avenge this perfidy.²⁰ He furnished arms and ammunition to all the houses of this City and to the plantations. He caused two ships, that is, the *Duc de Bourbon* and the *Alexandre*, to ascend the river as far as the *Tonikas*. These ships were like two good fortresses against the insults of the Savages, and in case of attack, two certain asylums for the women and children. He caused a ditch to be dug entirely around the City, and placed guard-houses at the four extremities. He organized for its defense many companies of city militia who mounted guard during the whole night. As there was more to fear in the grants and in the plantations than in the City, he fortified them with the most care. He had good forts erected at *Chapitoulas*, at *Cannes brûlées*, at *les Allemands*, at *Bayagoulas*, and at *Pointe coupée*.