

Stretched on the ground through their wounds, or carried off by the enemy. He could not resist the voice of Charity, or the words of the wounded lying here and there: "Dearest Father, will you forsake us?" The Barbarians, who rushed upon him in a body, as he was kneeling in prayer, were immediately seen showering blows from clubs upon their captive, the prelude to a much greater torture. For no one doubts, although nothing certain has so far reached us, that the Barbarians, according to their custom, shamefully insulted in every manner that victim of zeal and charity; they suspended him, bound, to a frame, and, out of revenge against the French, they immolated him by fire, which was all the more cruel because it burned more slowly.⁵⁰ Father Senat had often declared that he desired nothing more ardently than to sacrifice himself, some day, for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls. At the port of La Rochelle, before he embarked for this country, he was heard in the heat of fever, and in a sort of pious delirium, to break out into the following exclamations: "Must I die here? My God! Wilt thou not grant me to reach my dearest mission, and water it with my blood?"

MATHURIN LE PETIT, S.J.

[Endorsed: "Letter of Father Mathurin Le Petit to the very Reverend Father General,⁵¹ new orleans, June 29, 1736. Father Lepetit was then superior of all these missions."]