

to persuade myself that malignity could discover one single action which would authorize it to cast upon the French Nation the infamy of that event.

We had made the Savages consent to the treaty of capitulation; could we more surely prevent its infraction?

We had assigned to the enemy, in order to guarantee their retreat, an escort of four hundred men,—some of whom had even been victims of a too lively zeal in repressing the disorder; could we more efficaciously hinder the non-observance of the treaty?

Finally, we went so far as to ransom the English, at great expense, and take them from the hands of the Savages by paying money; so that nearly four hundred of them are in Quebec, ready to embark for Boston. Could we more sincerely make amends for the violation of the treaty? These statements seem to me unanswerable.

The Savages, then, are alone responsible for the infringement of the law of nations; and it is only to their insatiable ferocity and their independence that the cause of it can be ascribed. The news of that fatal deed, having spread abroad through the English colonies, produced in them such grief and dread that one single Savage actually dared to carry his temerity so far as to go to carry away captives almost at the gates of Orange, without having been disturbed either in his expedition or in his retreat. Therefore the enemy planned no undertaking against us at the time which followed the capture of the fort. Nevertheless, nothing was more critical for us than the situation in which the French army then was. The Savages, with the exception of the Abnakis and Nipistingues, had disappeared on the very day of