

There came upon the ship Monsieur d'Albadie, commissary-general of the navy and controller of Louisiana, and with him Monsieur de la Frenière, procurator-general of the superior council of this colony—both newly appointed to their positions.<sup>37</sup> Monsieur the commissary did not delay to notify the superior of the Jesuits of what was brewing against them. "I believe," he said to him, "that Monsieur the procurator-general is charged with some order that concerns you." This was a sufficient warning, for any one who could have understood him; but the Jesuits, too confident, were disposed to believe that, in spite of the example of so many Parliaments of France, nothing would be done against them in Louisiana; and, at a moment so critical, they did not take the slightest precaution about protecting their property.

Proceedings were begun. It was decreed that the Institute of the Jesuits should be brought to the council, to be examined. It was a great undertaking for this tribunal. All the judges who composed it ought at least to have studied theology and civil and ecclesiastical law. But, above all, they ought to have understood the language in which the institute is written. Now, this is not the kind of knowledge that is required from judges of colonies. In selecting them, search is not made for pupils of universities, but those among the habitants who show some capacity for business are chosen. Accordingly, one finds in these councils elderly shopkeepers, physicians, and officers of troops. Those who are best educated are usually the pupils of the naval bureaus; it is they who, up to the present, have been most often chosen, at least in Louisiana, as presidents of