

Quebec, in his extreme old age, the prelate deigned to honor him with a visit when he was almost dying, and asked him for his benediction. The humble missionary threw himself at the feet of his bishop, to ask him for his; and, having obtained it, he was obliged to consent to what Monseigneur de Ponbriand asked from him.

However, the missionaries of Louisiana did not labor absolutely without result; in the missions, the most precious fruits are the virtues that are practiced there. The principal one of these doubtless is charity, especially when it attains that eminent degree at which it pledges a minister of Jesus Christ to give his life for his brethren; now, this is to what several Jesuits, who died in Louisiana, have come in the actual exercise of their ministry.

Thus, in 1729, Father du Poisson, established among the Arcansas, being present at the fort of the Natchez on the very day which they had chosen for slaughtering the French, was included in the general massacre. This conspiracy may well be compared to the Sicilian Vespers.⁴² The French established at that post treated with the utmost insolence this nation of the Natchez, the most useful and the most devoted to the colony; and they undertook to avenge themselves. Father du Poisson had been requested to remain one day for some ministerial function which presented itself, in the absence of the curé; he consented to do it, and was the victim of his devotion and his charity.

One month afterward, the Yasous, another savage nation, having entered into the same conspiracy, also slew the French who lived near them. Father Souël, their missionary, was not spared; he was so beloved by the negro who served him that this