

for brandy, and kept themselves within the bounds of temperance, even when they could drink without any cost to themselves. How much other fruit would not have been produced in this mission if serious effort had been made to stop the traffic in brandy!—which, in this country, is the ruin of religion. It is true that this commerce was prohibited by the law of the Church and by the orders of the King; but several of those who made public the latter prohibitions, and who ought to have enforced their observance, were the first to distribute the forbidden liquor.

The first complaint noted in the decree of the council of Louisiana which condemns the Jesuits, is this: *That they have not taken care of their missions.* By all that has just been said, the reader has been able to ascertain whether this imputation was well founded.

The second grievance: That the Jesuits of this colony have only taken care to extend their estates. But in answering the first complaint, has not the second one been answered at the same time? For, if the Jesuits have taken care of their missions, as has been proved, they have, in consequence, had other cares than those of their estates. But perhaps some one has chosen to say that it is not becoming for missionaries to possess great estates, because these are a distraction to the spiritual ministry. This may readily be granted; but, to avoid this embarrassment it would, then, have been necessary to provide otherwise for their subsistence, for the expenses of their journeys, for the construction and maintenance of their houses and their chapels. Now from their endowment the Jesuits received, perhaps each one