

a pension of eight hundred livres (he who writes this letter is not quite sure on this point); and, to build and maintain six houses and six chapels, they had received fifteen thousand livres. This was once repaid by a contract—hazardous, it is true, but one from which they were no longer at liberty to release themselves. Where would they, then, have found funds for these expenses, even for their food and clothes, when, in the needs of the State, the treasurers of the colony no longer paid the debts most entitled to preference?<sup>44</sup> when an ell of stuff or an ell of very common linen cloth cost fifty écus at New Orleans, an ordinary handkerchief a hundred francs; and a cask of wine was sold at two thousand five hundred francs, and was not delivered at Illinois without the payment of five or six hundred livres, which was demanded for the freight? Was it not then, necessary to have an estate, and to take care of it, to obtain therefrom the means of subsistence? Ah! how then has the council of New Orleans made it a crime in them, and a reason for condemnation in their decree?

There remains a third motive of condemnation to be discussed: the usurpation of the vicariate-general of the episcopate of Quebec. As for New Orleans, the judges of this town impute such usurpation to the Jesuits; but they have supposed, then, that every one had forgotten that, a few years before, they themselves had pronounced precisely the contrary.

Here are the facts: about eighteen or twenty years ago the late Monseigneur de Ponbriand, bishop of Quebec, sent letters to Father Vitry, superior of the Jesuits of New Orleans, constituting him his vicar-general there; these letters were registered in