

is worthy of having a place in history,—will it be believed that the council established to administer justice there has dared to contradict itself by a solemn decree, which expressly denies another decree issued a little while before upon the same matter,—a matter too important to be forgotten, a matter which during several years had occupied the minds of people in New Orleans? Will it be believed that those who had been declared legitimate possessors could, a little while afterward, without the least change in the matter having occurred, be condemned as usurpers? In reflecting upon this decree,—declared without information, without examination, without giving those interested the least liberty to defend themselves,—is it not natural to think that the council of New Orleans has regarded the Jesuits as people against whom one could say all and dare all?

We have finished the examination of the several reasons set forth in the condemnation of the Jesuits, namely, *That the Jesuits did not take care of their missions, that they only cared for their estates, and that they were usurpers of the vicariate-general for New Orleans.* It is time to speak of the execution of the decree; it was to be carried out first at New Orleans, and afterward in the Illinois country, at a distance of four or five hundred leagues. There was in that country, as has been said above, a mission of the Jesuits, established at four different posts. They were not forgotten, and a courier was sent to carry the decree of destruction. Meanwhile, it was executed promptly against those of New Orleans. Their establishment was quite near this town, and proportioned to the needs of twelve missionaries; there was