

He took all necessary precautions to prevent the abuses which might be occasioned by the orders which he had given; but they were nevertheless certain to occur; for the Savages, extending their range up to the places where Trade was free, plundered all, indifferently, whom they found roving in those quarters.

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The Nations at Baye des Puants no longer dared to go down to Montreal after the Missionaries' servants had been assassinated upon their lands; for they were persuaded that our customs must be like their own, which allow them to avenge a death not only upon the evil-doer, but also upon his nearest Relatives, his Friends, or his neighbors. Some of the more courageous among them exposed themselves to this danger; but, seeing that the murders that they had committed on every side were left unpunished, they conceived a contempt for our Nation, and continued to plunder and massacre all stragglers whom they found.

A contagious malady suddenly appeared at the Bay, which caused great mortality. This scourge afflicted them to the utmost degree; those who recovered from it often found themselves greatly enfeebled, especially the young men. In the midst of this affliction, our Missionaries found themselves in great danger; for, since the Savages are extremely superstitious, they imagined that the Fathers had cast upon them some spell of witchcraft, in order to avenge the death of their people who had been assassinated. The Missionaries narrowly escaped the burning of their houses and Churches, and a like fate for themselves. A Chief, who had heard some one say that they ought to get rid of these Religious, came to live near them, in order to ward off attacks upon them. A Frenchman who had considerable ascendancy over the minds of those Peoples¹ told them that the Fathers were incapable of feeling a resentment which could extend to vengeance; that they bore the word of the Spirit who made all things, and who forbids vengeance. He told them that the Fathers employed no spell to make men die; that, on the contrary, they strove to mollify and appease that spirit when he corrected them; but that their crimes and in-

¹ Evidently a reference to Nicolas Perrot.—Ed.