

setting fire to them, might have burnt our works. And besides, it was important in order to defend ourselves in case of an attack, which very soon took place. It becomes us to render thanks to the Lord for his mercies. We should have been lost if I had not formed this determination. I put on the best countenance I could, encouraging the French, who were in consternation, believing themselves lost. The apprehension I entertained, that some accident might happen to the French, who had not yet arrived, and the necessity of sowing our grain and pasturing our cattle, prevented me from refusing them permission to enter the fort to trade, for fear they should suspect I was aware of their object. The only thing I could do was to tell them that I apprehended the Miamis would attack me, because I permitted them to remain so near, and therefore I was about to repair my fort. They did not appear to give much credit to my assertions. Our men were obliged to draw some posts of which the Indians had taken possession, in order to repair the fort as soon as possible, and I succeeded perfectly well in effecting the repairs with material taken from some of the houses. They wished to preserve a pigeon house from which they might have assailed us, but I deceived them and took possession of it. I placed it immediately opposite their fort and pierced it with loop holes. I mounted two swivels upon logs of wood to serve as cannon, in case of necessity.

The thirteenth of May, while I was impatiently awaiting the arrival of my allies, who were the only aid I could expect, Mr. De Vincennes arrived from the Miami country with seven or eight Frenchmen. He brought me no news of the Indians, which gave me much trouble, and I did not know on what saint to call. But Heaven watched over our preservation, and when I least expected it there entered a Huron, all breathless, who said to me, "My Father, I wish to speak to you in secret. I am sent to you by our peace chiefs." There were then in their village but seven or eight men. It seems that our deliverance was miraculous, for all the others arrived two hours after, and the Ottawas also. The messenger said "God has pity on you. He has decreed that your enemies and ours should perish. I bring you information that four men have just arrived at our