

his design, he had with Him but those sixteen men (for the savages of his party had asked him to allow them time to hold a feast), he acted in this affair with still less prudence and circumspection since—in addition to the fact that there was no question of coming into conflict with the Sakis or with any other nation to secure the Renards—the Very objection of the Sakis at the outset to deliver up the remainder of that nation, and their request to Him not to use violence to get them because it was not yet time, should have induced him to have had some consideration for the Sakis, and to have attempted to win them by means of the presents that I had entrusted to him, especially as his forces were not yet assembled. The Sieur de Villiers, not heeding all these considerations and guided solely by rash Bravery and courage, brought on the misfortune that happened, which it was impossible for me to foresee owing to the measures that I had taken. He tried to enter the Sakis fort, He being the tenth, to force and tear down the barrier, in the hope that such boldness would overawe them. Some Chiefs told him to withdraw; that their Young men had no longer any sense and that if he persisted he would be a dead man. Nothing stopped that Officer. A gun-shot Was fired by a Sakis or by a Renard, and killed the son of the Sieur de Villiers who was at his side. The Father fired his gun at the first who presented himself, and this Was followed by a volley from the warriors of the Village and he was killed. I would have had the honor, Monseigneur, of giving you these particulars last year in our joint letter on the subject of this affair, had I been informed of them. But the news only reached me last Summer, and I was all the more surprised at it, since the orders I had given to the Sieur de Villiers were very different from the manner in which he acted. In any case he had engaged in this affair which would, in truth, have done honor to the French, had he (although Without orders) employed his forces judiciously.

You will observe, Monseigneur, in the reply to the King's memorial the measures that I have taken to prevent the Consequences of this affair and to put an end to the same, if possible by conciliatory means as far as the Sakis are concerned. I