

been met by this bold opposition on our part would not have left a trace of our settlements. There were also to be heard the confusion and the lamentable cries of the women and children who had been shut up in the house of the commandant, defended by twenty men under the lieutenant of infantry, Don Francisco Cartabona;¹¹ the dolorous echoes of which seemed to inspire in the besieged an extraordinary valor and spirit, for they urgently demanded to be permitted to make a sally. The enemy at last, seeing that their force was useless against such resistance, scattered about over the country, where they found several farmers who with their slaves were occupied in the labors of the field. If these hungry wolves had contented themselves with destroying the crops, if they had killed all the cattle which they could not take with them, this act would have been looked upon as a consequence of war, but when the learned world [*mundo filosofico*] shall know that this desperate band slaked their thirst in the blood of innocent victims, and sacrificed to their fury all whom they found, cruelly destroying them and committing the greatest atrocities upon some poor people who had no other arms than those of the good faith in which they lived, the English nation from now on may add to its glorious conquests in the present war that of having barbarously inflicted by the hands of the base instruments of cruelty the most bitter torments which tyranny has invented. The number of dead, wounded and prisoners is detailed in the report and information is constantly looked for as to the end of the prisoners, which is believed to be as unfortunate as that of their companions, perhaps more so.

¹¹ Sylvio Francisco de Cartabona was lieutenant in the Louisiana regiment, and advanced to the Illinois with De Leyba, who left him to command at Ste. Geneviève. Upon his summons to assist in the defense of St. Louis, he enrolled the local militia under Charles Vallé, who acted with spirit and courage. When he felt his own death approaching, De Leyba again sent for Cartabona, and the latter succeeded him as acting lieutenant-governor of Illinois, until the arrival of Francisco Cruzat in September, 1780. Then he returned to the command of Ste. Geneviève, which he retained until 1784.—Ed.