

appointed to relieve the *Sieur de la Véranderie*, who could undertake the task of conciliating all the tribes."¹

Under date of the 14th October, 1737, Beauharnois again writes the Colonial Minister,² forwarding an extract from the Journal of the *Sieur de la Véranderie*, containing a fuller account of the circumstances which led up to and surrounded the Lake of the Woods tragedy. The extract is as follows:—

"During the month of June, 1736, this officer held a meeting at Fort St. Charles, Lake of the Woods, as to the mode of obtaining provisions and ammunition, and it was resolved unanimously to send three canoes to Kamanistigouia and thence to Missilimakinac. To this end *Sieur de la Véranderie* distributed powder and bullets to those who were to take part in this journey, and Father Auneau, Jesuit, along with the eldest son of this officer, left on the expedition.

"The officer in question received during the same month of June, a letter from *Sieur Bourassa*, informing him that having been met by the Sioux they pillaged all that he possessed, without, however, causing him any personal injury, and upon his asking these Indians why they were taking him in custody, being good friends and brethern, they answered that it was the custom of warriors not to recognize anyone on their path.

"The party which had gone to Kamanistigouia and Missilimakinac not returning when due, *Sieur de la Véranderie* sent *Sieur Gras*³ with a canoe and eight men commanded by a sergeant, to go and meet the expedition, but the sergeant having returned on the same day, reported that those forming part of the expedition had been massacred; that the great majority of the bodies had been found decapitated, and lying in a circle one next to the other, the heads being wrapped in beaver skins. Amongst the dead were found Father Auneau and the eldest son of *Monsieur de la Véranderie*. An account of this adventure was given last year, though at that time it had not, however, been confirmed.

"During the month of August following, two *Monsonis* Indians having gone around the Lake of the Woods, found two canoes belonging to this party, with more than twenty Sioux canoes, fastened together two by two, and in which there was a great quantity of blood. The two Indians, moreover, found human limbs which had been buried

¹ This translation is taken from *The Aulneau Collection*.

² *Canadian Archives MSS.* Nouvelle France—Postes des Pays de l'Ouest. 1679-1759 (F. 126), pp. 349-367.

³ The *Sieur Gras* (or *Legras*) mentioned here would appear to have been one of the sons of Jean de Gras (b. 1656), a merchant, of Montreal. This is the only family of the name mentioned by *Abbé Tanguay* in his *Dictionnaire Généalogique*. Mr. Benjamin Sulte is of the same opinion. See *Tanguay*, p. 372.