They even attacked women, striking and insulting them ; but as soon as they saw men in bands of three or four, they took good care to retire or to give no sign of provocation when passing by.

In presence of this new style of attack, Gannat organized another system of defense. He allowed the gendarmes to enter La Palue, where, at a given signal, they were surrounded by a band of men armed with guns. They were kept in sight until morning, when the pilgrims were already far off, they were allowed to depart, after having sworn that they would not attack separately any one of those who kept them prisoners, under pain of being mercilessly shot on the first occasion.

On this subject we have heard the following fact related : The first time that he kept them in this manner, Gannat, in the morning, before allowing them to leave, wished to give the gendarmes a specimen of his skill. He shot successively fifteen birds on the wing. At the sixteenth shot, he missed, when, turning to the prisoners : " If, said he, instead of a bird, I had had a gendarme to fire at, I would not have missed him ! " Whereupon, he let them go. Furious at having been treated thus, the gendarmes would not return to the barracks without having at least tried to secure l'abbé Le Garrec and his companions. On the skirts of the little village of Brélar, they learned from a little shepherd boy that *Monsieur le vicaire, who was not a citizen* (they thus designated l'abbé Le Garrec), had passed there on his way to the Kerangal forest. They immediately started to join him, and would probably have seized him, for the heavy morning-dew enabled them to follow his foot-prints on the grass. They thus reached the heart of the wood, but they fell upon a band of wood-cutters and of wooden shoe-makers. As soon as they saw the gendarmes, these honest men, who just a moment before, had shared their coarse bread with the priest, sprang to their axes : they surrounded the gendarmes, and easily gave them to understand that it was dangerous to hunt priests on such ground. Then, after having