

versed with that explorer<sup>1</sup> he no longer doubted that the Mississippi emptied into the Gulf of Mexico; but he also flattered himself that by ascending that river to the north, he would be able to discover the object of his researches, and that at all events the mere discovery of its mouth would lead to something that would establish his fortune and his reputation. He had very cleverly succeeded in winning the good graces of Count de Frontenac, whose inclinations he had carefully studied: he exposed his designs to that governor, who promised to aid him with all his power. 1676-8.

The first things to which he had to turn his attention were to obtain funds for the expense of the expedition, to invest himself with a character to authorize it, and to obtain forces capable of holding the Indians in respect. La Sale had made all these reflections at his leisure, and his plan was all clear in his own mind. He knew how much Count de Frontenac was wrapt up in Fort Cataracouy. He accordingly proposed to increase the fortifications, garrisoning it with a force sufficient to defend it against any attack which the Indians might make should they renew war, to plant settlers there, in order to draw thence in case of need both provisions and men, and to build vessels there to navigate Lake Ontario.

Nothing was better conceived, considering only the advantage of the colony, and Frontenac was of opinion that La Sale should go to France to explain his design to the

He returns to France. What he obtains from the king.

September, 1673, and apparently descended at once to Montreal, which he seems not to have reached till about August, 1674: Frontenac's Dispatch, November 14, 1674; Shea's Discov. and Exp. of the Mississippi, xxxiii.; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 121.

<sup>1</sup> La Salle was sent early in 1673 to Onondaga to invite the cantons to send deputies to meet Frontenac at Quinté (N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 97).

After the fort was erected in July, 1673, he was made commandant: Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 117. La Salle was at Montreal in May, 1674, and sought to ingratiate himself further with Frontenac by denouncing a sermon of Fenelon, one of the Sulpitians: Failon, iii., 497. He, therefore, in all probability met Jolliet on his return, either at Frontenac or at Montreal.