

1676-8. minister. He accordingly embarked on the first ship which sailed from Quebec.¹ On arriving at court, he learned the fact of Colbert's death, and delivered to the Marquis de Seignelay, who succeeded his father in the Navy Department, the letter of Count de Frontenac, of which he was the bearer. He then had several private conversations with him, and that minister, who liked his ability, obtained for him from the king all that he coveted.² His majesty issued to him letters of nobility,³ granted him the seigneurie of Catarocouy and the government of the fort, on condition that he should build it of stone,⁴ and invested him with all powers necessary to conduct trade freely, and continue the explorations already begun.⁵

The
Chevalier
de Tonti
joins him.

The prince de Conti, to whom he had found access, had strongly supported him with the king, and had greatly contributed to obtain all those favors of which I have just spoken. The only return he exacted was, that he should accept an officer whom that prince honored with his goodwill and esteem. His name was the Chevalier de Tonti, and he had a brother in New France already, who died there a captain.⁶ La Sale regarded this request of

¹ He apparently went in the fall of 1674, although Frontenac's dispatch of November 14 does not allude to him. His petition may be found, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 122.

² Charlevoix here confounds the visit made by la Salle in 1675 with that in 1678. Colbert did not die till 1683.

³ Patent, dated at Complègne, May 13, 1675: N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 125; Shea's Discovery of the Mississippi, p. 265.

⁴ Grant of Fort Frontenac: Canada Doc.; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 123.

⁵ La Salle returned to Canada, received investiture of Fort Fontenac October 12, 1675, rebuilt it of stone,

and made it his chief trading post: Faillon, iii., p. 473; Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 139; Hennepin, Nouvelle Découverte, p. 32, says the work on the fort lasted ten years. In 1677 he again visited France (Hennepin, Description de la Louisiane, p. 14; Le Clercq, p. 138), and obtained, May 12, 1678, a license to discover the western part of New France: N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 127; Canada Doc., I, ii., p. 17.

⁶ They were sons of the author of Tontine. (*Charlevoix*.) Margry, Mémoires Inédites, p. 3; Le Clercq, Etablissement de la Foi, ii., p. 139. The father, Lorenzo Tonti, who had been governor of Gaeta retired to