

eries as very important ; finally, that la Sale seemed to have very evil designs.<sup>1</sup> 1682-3.

In another letter, dated April 30th, in the following year, he says that he is at last convinced of the falsity of all that had been published as to the discoveries reported to the minister by la Sale through a Recollect Father; that that voyageur was actually with a score of vagabonds, French and Indian, at the head of (Green) bay, where he set himself up as a sovereign, pillaged and set ransom on his countrymen, exposed the nations to the incursions of the Iroquois, and covered all these acts of violence by the pretext of a permission which he had received from his majesty to possess the exclusive trade in the countries which he might discover ; that for this claim he had no foundation, as the bay (Green Bay) and the adjacent country were known and frequented by the French long before he arrived in America ; finally, that his privilege would expire on the 12th of the succeeding May, after which he would be compelled to come to Quebec, where his creditors, to whom he owed over 30,000 crowns, impatiently awaited him.<sup>2</sup>

Such is the lot of those men whom a mixture of great defects and great virtues draws from the common sphere. Their passions hurry them into faults ; and if they do what others could not, their enterprises are not to the taste of all men. Their success excites the jealousy of those who remain in obscurity. They benefit some and injure others ; the latter take their revenge by decrying them without moderation ; the former exaggerate their merit. Hence the different portraits drawn of them, none of which are really true ; but as hatred and the itching for slander always go further than gratitude and friendship, and calumny finds more easy credence with the public than praise and eulogy, the enemies of the Sieur de la Sale disfigured his portrait more than his friends embellished it.

---

<sup>1</sup> N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 204.

<sup>2</sup> Canada Doc., II., iv., p. 153.