

1683. tunes, he was deceived by the Iroquois; and those who showed him most forbearance, said openly that his advanced age rendered him credulous when he should distrust, timid when he should show energy, sensitive and distrustful of those who deserved his confidence, and deprived him of the vigor necessary for acting as became him in the crisis in which the colony was placed.

1684. Be that as it may, at the very time that he relied with
The Iroquois plunder French voy-
ageurs. most assurance on the protestations of the Iroquois, an army of those Indians took the field to capture Fort St. Louis. On their way they met fourteen Frenchmen who were going to trade with the Illinois, and were travelling without mistrusting any thing. These the Indians attacked and defeated, plundering them of fifteen thousand francs, worth of goods.¹ In the sequel, they gave as an excuse that they took these traders for some of Mr. de la Salle's people, whom Mr. de la Barre had permitted them to plunder, a statement not entirely destitute of foundation.² This occurred on the last day of February, 1684. The Iroquois pursued their route towards Illinois River, and appeared in view of Fort St. Louis, where they supposed themselves entirely unexpected.³

They were mistaken. The Sieur de Baugy and the Chevalier de Tonti had been warned of their march, and were ready to receive them. This the Iroquois discovered on their first attack, in which several were killed, and on the 28th of March they retired.⁴ Mr. de la Durantaye, a Breton gentleman, formerly a captain in the Carignan regi-

They are
repulsed at
Fort St.
Louis.

¹ De la Barre to Dongan, June 15, 1684, N. Y. Col. Doc. Hist., i., pp. 67, 70; N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 232; de la Barre's Memoir, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 239; Belmont, Histoire du Canada, p. 16; Colden, History of the Two Nations, p. 73, represent it as a seizure of arms and ammunition which they were carrying to the enemies of the Iroquois.

² La Salle's Remonstrance, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 215.

³ They appeared March 21: Tonti in Margry, p. 22; Louisiana Hist. Col., i., p. 66.

⁴ They kept up the siege six days: Ib.; de la Barre's Memoir, N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 239; Canada Doc., II., iv., p. 251.