

1687.

The general, before marching from this post, shot the Frenchman who had acted as guide to the English to go to Michillimakinac, and who was taken fighting against the service of his sovereign. This the Baron de la Hontan denounces as unjust,¹ because, he says, we were then at peace with England, and the English pretended to be masters of the lakes. As though this chimerical pretension, never mentioned to my knowledge by any one but this author, restored to innocence a deserter who was serving another nation to the detriment of his sovereign.

Engage-
ment with
the Senecas.

From Fort des Sables the army took its way inland;² and on the 13th, after having passed two very dangerous defiles, it reached a third,³ where it was vigorously assailed

toire du Canada, p. 21 ; Mgr. de St. Valier, *Etat Présent*, p. 94 ; Tonty, *Memoirs*, p. 26.

¹ La Hontan, *Nouv. Voyage*, i., p. 97. La Hontan represents himself as of Bearn, son of one who had done service to the State, as having come out with three companies of troops of the marine sent to de la Barre in the autumn of 1683, as in de la Barre's expedition in 1684, in Dénonville's in 1687, and the next year as sent to take command of Fort St. Joseph. His property in France having been seized, he asked leave of absence to return to France in 1688, and finally reached France early in 1692, after having discovered and explored, as he pretended, the Long River. It is a curious fact that no author alludes to such a personage as the Baron la Hontan or his doings in Canada at the time. In the series of papers in the N. Y. Colonial Documents covering the period from 1683 to 1692, his name never occurs: nor does it in Tonty or any of the other writers on la Salle's affairs in Illinois. Feller represents him as born about

1666 at Mont de Marsan, in Gascony. He was sent to Placentia in 1693 as king's lieutenant, but quarreling with the governor, was cashiered, went to Portugal, and thence to Denmark. He published his voyages in 1703-5 at the Hague, aided by Gueudeville. He seems to have died before 1716, when Leibnitz published his posthumous *Reponse à la Lettre d'un Perticulier*, etc.

² Three companies of French Canadians, under la Durantaye, Tonty, and du Lut, with Indians on the flanks, formed the van under de Callières, then the governor followed with the regulars and militia: St. Valier, *Etat Présent*, p. 94 ; Tonty, *Memoire in Margry*, p. 26.

³ Two Mohawks, Garistatsi and Gannagenrogen deserted to the Senecas, and revealed Dénonville's plans: *Ib.*, p. 95. St. Valier gives the march clearly. First day, four or five hours through open wood ; next day, good road ; after a time, grass neck-high between hills, then a marshy ground till within half a league of Gaze-roaré.