

whom he consulted for information did not deserve the confidence he reposed in them. Several even abused it, to make him follow their peculiar ideas or to subserve their own ends. Under a governor who declares openly in favor of virtue, and does not sufficiently distrust those who surround him, interest, ambition, and the other passions have only to assume a mask, the easiest thing in the world to men who are not guided by conscience and honor.

1687.

This was never more sensible than under the administration of the Marquis de Dénouville. This general possessed, in a sovereign degree, all that can constitute a perfectly upright man in the eyes of God and in the eyes of man. He lacked no quality necessary to form the mind and heart of a young prince destined to govern a great kingdom; and it is known how his example caused virtue and religion to be respected at court. He was, moreover, of tried courage; he was well versed in war. He had solely in view the advantage of the colony and the progress of religion, and he zealously embraced every proposition for causing either to flourish. No one gave the court more just or sound advice as to what was to be done in Canada, and seldom but in his time were the three who shared authority guided by that good understanding which is so necessary for the happiness of the people and the good of the service.

His
eulogium.

But he sometimes lacked activity and vigor. He did not apply himself to know well those who approached him, and he did not always persevere in what he undertook, as in the case of Fort Niagara. Before undertaking to establish that post, he should have been well resolved to maintain it without being discouraged by difficulties, and not expose himself to the contempt of all the nations by abandoning it. Moreover, the mortality which ensued there, and which deprived the colony of the Chevalier de Troye, an officer of great merit, with an entire garrison of a hundred men, and which committed ravages equally as great at Catarocouy, did not arise, as Mr. de Dénouville sup-

Errors that
he
committed.