

at Montreal) succeeded to that office, which he retained until his death (1726).

The fort at Niagara was built upon the site of the blockhouses erected by La Salle in 1679,—a spot whereon a succession of forts have stood, since that time, and now occupied by Fort Niagara,—on a point of land at the eastern angle between Lake Ontario and Niagara River.

24 (p. 281).—The Iroquois thus captured (*note 10, ante*) were seized in accordance with orders from Louis XIV. that able-bodied Iroquois should be sent to France, to serve on the royal galleys (*N. Y. Colon. Docs.*, vol. ix., pp. 233, 315, 323, 375). The Iroquois tribes were, of course, exasperated at this shameful act; and both they and Dongan insisted that these captives should be sent back to America. Frontenac, when coming back as governor (1689), brought with him such of these savages as had survived the cruel life of the galleys—Parkman says (*Frontenac*, p. 194), thirteen in number. Margry gives, however, a list (*MSS. relat. à Nouv. France*, t. i., p. 454) of these Iroquois whom the king had ordered to be released, twenty-one in number.

25 (p. 281).—Henri de Tonty was born about 1650, the son of Lorenzo Tonty, a Neapolitan banker who invented the insurance system known as "tontine." At the age of eighteen, Henri became a cadet in the French army, in which he won distinction, and promotion as far as the rank of captain. In 1677, he met at Paris Robert de la Salle, who was then endeavoring to secure in France aid for his plans of exploration and colonization in America (vol. lvii., *note 2*). Tonty became La Salle's lieutenant, and shared his fortunes until the latter's death, manifesting a loyalty and devotion that never wavered. It was he who directed the building of the *Griffon*; who built and afterward maintained Fort St. Louis, on the Illinois; who gathered there the colony of Illinois and other confederated savages; and who in 1688 went down the Mississippi, at the risk of his life, to seek and rescue La Salle—only to find that his friend and chief had been treacherously slain. Tonty remained at his fort on the Illinois until the year 1700, laboring amid numerous discouragements and hindrances—the opposition of jealous rivals, the indifference of the French government, and deficiency of funds and men—to carry out La Salle's plans for the development of a French empire in the West, to maintain the fidelity of the Western tribes to the French, and to keep back the Iroquois hordes. Frontenac's aid and friendship were long helpful to him; but, after the governor's death, a royal decree obliged him to abandon Fort St. Louis, and Tonty went (1700) to join Iberville's colony at Biloxi. There he rendered invaluable aid through his courage, skill, and knowledge of the