

French régime. See Shea's sketch of the Detroit church and neighboring missions, in his *Church in Colon. Days*, pp. 619-635.

Regarding the early history and settlers of Detroit, see Lanman's *Hist. of Michigan* (N. Y., 1839); Farmer's *Hist. of Détroit and Michigan* (Detroit, 1884); Hubbard's *Memorials of a Half-Century* (N. Y., 1887); and Hamlin's *Legends of le Détroit* (Detroit, 1884). At the end of the last-named work are sketches of the French families who first came to the colony. Cf. also Denissen's *Navarre* (Detroit, 1897)—an account of the descendants of Robert Navarre, a royal officer at Detroit from 1709.

46 (p. 283).—Pierre Gautier, sieur de la Vérendrye, was a son of René Gautier (seigneur de Varennes), and grandson of Pierre Boucher, governor of Three Rivers (vol. xxviii., note 18). Pierre was born at Three Rivers in 1685; he entered the military service, and won distinction among the Canadian officers of his time; he also served in France during 1708-10. In 1712, he married Marie Anne Dandonneau, by whom he had six children. During many years, he maintained a trading post at La Gabelle, near Three Rivers. In 1726, Governor Beauharnais made La Vérendrye commandant of the Northwest. He spent the next seventeen years in that region, not only in charge of the French interests there, but making extensive and important explorations. He traversed the region north and west of Lake Superior, as far as Lake Winnipeg, opening communication and trade with the savages, and establishing French posts. By the end of 1737, he had four forts—St. Pierre, on Rainy Lake; St. Charles, on the Lake of the Woods; Maurepas, at Lake Winnipeg; and Rouge, at the mouth of the Assiniboine River. In 1738, he built Fort la Reine, farther toward Lake Manitoba; and from this post he and his sons made long voyages of exploration to the west and south. In 1742-43, his eldest son, Pierre, accompanied only by his brother and two other Frenchmen, made the memorable discovery of the Rocky Mountains, and took possession of the Missouri Valley for France. Notwithstanding all his achievements, the French government long neglected La Vérendrye, and refused to aid him; and in 1744 he was obliged to surrender his position as Northwestern commandant. Finally, in 1748, he was restored to that office, and promoted from the rank of lieutenant to that of captain—through the influence of Governor Beauharnais, who had always been his friend. At once La Vérendrye began to plan further explorations; but he was attacked by an illness, from which he died on Dec. 6, 1749. For detailed account of his career and achievements, see Sulte's *Canad.-Fran.*, t. vi., pp. 137-158, and t. vii., pp. 3-12; therein are found copious extracts from the memoirs left by the explorer. These papers, with other documents relating to the