

arrived at Niagara, who informed M^r de Lavalterie that he had not seen that soldier at the fort, nor met him on the way. 'Tis to be feared that he has been killed by Indians, and the despatches carried to the English. M^r de la Valterie has not failed to recommend to this Indian to make every search on his way back to his village, and to assure him, that should he find that soldier, and convey the despatches entrusted to him to the storekeeper of Toronto, he would be well rewarded.

M^r de Celoron's letter is accompanied by one that M^r Desligneris⁵² wrote to the late M^r de la Jonquière on the 4th of January. 'Tis from this last letter that I learned more particularly the unfortunate state of our affairs.

From the accounts which M^r de Celoron transmitted to the late M^r de la Jonquière subsequent to those, a detail of which that General had the honor to give you, and previous to M^r

⁵² François Marchand des Ligneris (Lignery) was born in 1704, made second ensign in 1733, first ensign in 1738, lieutenant in 1744, and captain in 1751. He is first noted at Three Rivers, where his father, who died in 1732, was town-major. In 1735 he accompanied De Noyelles on the latter's expedition against the Fox Indians, and in 1739 participated in the Chickasaw expedition. King George's War found him in Acadia (1745-47), and in 1748 he assisted in arranging an exchange of prisoners between the two colonies. He appears to have served at Ouïatanon as commandant in 1750-53. In 1755 he accompanied Contrecoeur's expedition to Fort Duquesne, and participated in the attack on Braddock. In the closing months of 1756 he succeeded Dumas as commandant of Fort Duquesne, and for his services received the cross of St. Louis and a pension. During his command of Fort Duquesne, Des Ligneris sent out many raiding parties against the frontiers of Pennsylvania and Virginia. In 1758 he led in person the troops that defeated Maj. James Grant and captured many of the latter's Highlanders. Finding Fort Duquesne untenable upon the approach of Gen. John Forbes, Des Ligneris burned the works and retreated with his forces to Fort Machault. There, during the winter, he was engaged in preparations for a descent upon the English at Fort Pitt; but the advance of Prideaux and Johnson against Niagara called him thither to bring succor. In attempting to force his way into the fort, Des Ligneris was defeated and captured by the English. He is said to have been ill-treated while prisoner, probably in retaliation.