

more than doubled while that of furs has decreased in the same proportion. Consequently he cannot exploit that post except at a loss so long as the war lasts.

I venture to hope, Monseigneur, that you will be pleased to grant me these two favors for my brother. He has done very good service and has been wounded. He greatly contributed to the reduction of the forts of Chouaguin, and I may truthfully say that, without him, the officers of the colony, the Canadians and the savages, they would still be in the enemy's possession.

I remain with very profound respect, Monseigneur, Your very humble and very obedient servant,

VAUDREUIL.

[Letter from Vaudreuil to the French minister, dated Sept. 21, 1756. Source, same as preceding document, but folio 102.]

MONTREAL, September 21, 1756.

MONSEIGNEUR—I have received the letter you did me the honor to write me on the 15th of July of last year. I highly appreciate, Monseigneur, the kindness you have been pleased to manifest by procuring my brother, de Rigaud, the continuation of the enjoyment of the post of La Baye for two years. I beg you, Monseigneur, to rest assured that my gratitude equals his. You will see, by the letter I had the honor to write you regarding him, the reasons that induce me to ask you for the continuation of that post for three more years. That which impelled me the most to ask that favor of you is the zeal which I know he has for the King's service and whereof he has just given proofs in the expedition against the Chouéguen forts in which he distinguished himself.⁸ I flatter myself, Monseigneur, that

⁸ Rigaud was second in command of the expedition that captured Oswego (Chouéguen), Aug. 14, 1756. He had charge of the Canadian troops and Indian auxiliaries, and went in advance of Montcalm, established himself at what is now Sackett's Harbor, and reconnoitred the surrounding country. Proceeding with the army to Oswego, he was sent to cross the river with his forces—a movement successfully executed, which alarmed the garrison of Old Fort Oswego into im-