

and the proprietorship of Fort Frontenac, which he rebuilt in stone. He also considerably developed his trade. In 1678 and the following years, he sent out several expeditions from Fort Frontenac to the Indian villages in the Upper Countries and also to the South, exchanging merchandise for skins, the sole species of trade at that early date. The beaver was the only currency, and de La Salle himself informs us that in 1678, the trade of Canada aggregated 60,000 or 80,000 beavers per annum. Margry, t. 1st p. 415. In the course of his voyages in 1678 and afterwards, de La Salle thought necessary to erect new establishments at Niagara, Detroit, Michillimackinac, Illinois and elsewhere, thus creating so many monopolies as regards the trade with the nations of the great lakes. The Ville-Marie, Lachine and St. Annes' merchants perceived the necessity of also penetrating the forests to the Indian villages. This state of affairs gave origin to a new occupation known as *coureurs des bois*, some on their own account, but the greater number as clerks, agents, or even servants, *eau de vie* or rum being in every case an important element of trade. Merchants believed they could reach the Indian villages just as had been done by Jean Nicolet for years, in 1634, and previous thereto, by Des Groseilliers before and after 1659, by Nicolas Perrot, Louis Jolliet, Duluth, La Salle, and so many others (1) in 1669 and afterwards. In 1680 Jean Guenet had encountered the Indians in the woods, and in 1685, Frs. Le Noir dit Rolland reached Illinois. Even in the year 1677, Jacques Le Ber was thinking of a partnership with Jolliet, and of obtaining the concession of Illinois; but this the Court of France refused to grant. Margry, t. 1st, p. 324.

The constant warfare carried on by the Five Nations from 1686 to 1698, hampered considerably the colonisation and trade of the Upper Countries and the island of Montreal. The peace of 1700 gave new life to the traffic with the Indians, at Detroit and the great lakes in the first instance. The Indians pretty often did no business there, coming down the St. Lawrence to Ville-Marie. The western and northern tribes followed the route of the Ottawa river, stopping at the stores situated at St. Annes and Lachine before reaching Montreal.

(1) Other names are to be found in the appendix.