

How long those primitive fortifications withstood the attacks made by hostile tribes, we know not, and Champlain who visited the island in 1609 and 1611 makes no mention of them. It was during Champlain's second visit that he chose a site on the island, and cleared ground for a proposed trading post. The spot chosen was immediately above a small stream (now covered by Commissioner Street and St. Anns Market) which entered the St. Lawrence at what is now known as Pointe à Callière.* Here, on the margin of the stream, in order to test the effects of the ice shove, he erected the first wall built on the island with mortar and bricks, the bricks being made from clay found near the spot. On, or near this spot, 31 years later, landed the intrepid Maisonneuve, and his little band of ardent followers—"The grain of mustard seed that was to grow until its branches overshadowed the land." May 18th, 1642, was the birth day of Ville Marie, as Montreal was named by its pious founders. It was a wild, yet beautiful scene which lay before their view, but they knew full well that amid the green woods which surrounded them, there were foes against whom they must defend themselves, and their first thought was to erect their homes with a view to mutual protection. Their dwellings were built closely together, and the whole was surrounded by palisades of wood and stone, known as the Fort and Chateau of Ville Marie,† and it was immediately outside these walls that the first Hospital (under the management of Mademoiselle Mance) was erected, and likewise enclosed with palisades.

* So called after the Chevalier Hector de Calliere, a native of Torgny in Normandy, who came to Canada as a member of the Montreal Trading Company, and was appointed Governor of the City. In 1698 he succeeded Frontenac as Governor of New France, and held the appointment until 1703. The great wisdom manifested by him during his term of office endeared him to the people. In 1701 he concluded a favorable treaty (at Montreal) with the Indians, thereby securing a long term of peace.

† The fort was built of wood, and was constructed by Maisonneuve, in accordance with plans made under the direction of M. Louis D'Ailleboust, Governor of Canada.—*Viger's Notes to Dollier de Casson's His. of Montreal, published by the Montreal His. Soc.*