

his pilot disobeyed his express orders, and caused the shipwreck of the vessel which contained the supplies of the expedition, and the almost total loss of its cargo. "This," says Hennepin, "would have made any other man give up the enterprise." It only nerved La Salle to fresh exertions. He forthwith established his second fortified post upon the high point now occupied by Fort Niagara, and gave it the name of his friend, the Prince de Conti. Then leaving Tonty to complete the construction of a brigantine above the falls, the dauntless leader returned to Fort Frontenac to replace the outfit so needlessly destroyed. He made the journey of two hundred and fifty miles on foot, in mid-winter, over the ice of Lake Ontario.

Completing his preparations, the summer found him again at Niagara. Tonty had finished the vessel, which he named the Griffin, after the armorial bearings of Count Frontenac, and on August 7, 1679, they embarked on Lake Conti, which we call Lake Erie, in the little craft of forty-five tons burden. She deserves honorable mention, for she was the pioneer of our lake marine, the fore-runner of a vast commerce, and it was perhaps a prophetic incident that her flag bore not only a griffin, but an eagle. She landed the party at the entrance to Green Bay, and was sent back with a cargo of furs to return with supplies for a new colony at the