

countrymen at Lachine and Montreal, determined upon evacuation, and escape down the River St. Lawrence. Charlevoix, speaking of this evacuation, by Sieur De Varennes and his followers, says that the Sieur lost six of the forty-five men who composed the garrison, while shooting a rapid in his course from Frontenac to Lachine. He had buried, or thrown into the water, all the stores and ammunition likely to encumber his march, sunk in the Harbor of Cataragui three barks, with their anchors and iron cannon, and transported the bronze pieces as far as Lake St. Francis, and there concealed them. He mined the bastions, walls of the Fort, and towers, and put in several places slow matches, lighted at one end, and, three or four hours after his departure, heard a great noise, and had no doubt that the building which he had so recently left was entirely blown up. The Iroquois, finding the Fort abandoned, took possession of its ruins. Niagara, too, was left to be occupied by the all-conquering Iroquois, and not a vestige of French power remained on Lake Ontario. Denonville disgraced, was removed from his position, and Count Frontenac, an old man still full of vigor, was sent from France to win back what had been lost. He came out in 1689, bringing with him reinforcements from France. He organized three expeditions against the English, more or less successful, and the English, in reprisal, attempted the capture of Quebec, and failed. Once more the French flag was in the ascendant, when in 1694, Frontenac, in opposition to the wishes of the French Government, determined to restore and reoccupy Fort Frontenac. In July of that year, he sent 600 men, of whom a portion were Indians, to rebuild the stronghold. The force,

under the command of Chevalier Crisafy, did its work efficiently. Before the close of August, a building 120 feet long was constructed, along one of the old curtains, in the walls of the garret of which building, was a range of loop holes, as in the remainder of the Fort. This building was used as a chapel, officers quarter, a bakery, and a storehouse of provisions sufficient to feed the garrison for eighteen months. Two pieces of artillery and a quantity of grenades were left by the troops, on their departure for Montreal. Forty-eight men were retained as a garrison. Five extensive breaches in the walls, the result of the explosions when the Fort was evacuated in 1689, were repaired, some old mortar having been broken, and mixed with rich clay, leaving the walls as solid as if built with cement. The whole expedition was a great success, as the time consumed from its departure from Montreal, to its return, occupied but twenty-six days, while not a man had been wounded; and the ever vigilant Iroquois were off their guard, and knew nothing of re-occupation, until the stronghold was once more defensible. In 1696, Frontenac renewed the offensive against the Iroquois, proceeded up the St. Lawrence with 1,500 men, and rested for some days at Cataragui, before crossing the Lake. As a result of this expedition, a Fort was established at Oswego, and a few Oneidas were captured. Frontenac for the last time, landed on the shores of the Cataragui, on the 15th August, and soon after started for Quebec. In 1697, the soldier and statesman, to whom France was so deeply indebted, passed away in his seventy-eighth year, proudly conscious of the fact that he had restored the prestige of his country amongst her Indian enemies, and had done much to-