

account of a visit to the St. Maurice Forges in the year 1752, which we have translated for the benefit of the readers of this article :—

Monsrs. Franquet's Visit to the St. Maurice Forges, 1752.

"Mr. Bigot, 'Intendant' of New France, who resides at Quebec, had recommended me to visit the St. Maurice Forges, as the establishment was extensive, and as he had no doubt that I would be pleased to be in a position to give an account of it. By stopping at Trois Rivières, I could reach the forges in two hours, so having settled upon that course, I requested Mr. Rigaud, who was then in charge of that post, to accompany me. We left Trois Rivières at 5 o'clock, A. M., with Mr. Tonnacour and other friends, whom Mr. Rouville, Director of the Forges, had invited to accompany us. In leaving the town, we ascended a hill covered with sand, crossed a plain and passed through a wood of stunted trees, on emerging from which, we stood on a hill overlooking the valley in which the said forges of the king are situated ; we crossed a wooden bridge built over a small stream, and disembarked from our conveyance at the door of the Director's dwelling. After the first ceremony of reception by the Director, his wife and the other employées, we proceeded to visit the works. The stream which drives the machinery of the establishment is dammed up in three places ; the first dam drives the wheel for the furnace, the second and third, each a trip hammer. Each dam has a water pass to prevent overflow in high water ; it is supposed that the stream or water power is sufficiently strong to drive two other hammers. The buildings of the post are irregularly situated on the banks of the stream, and little or no taste seems to have been displayed in placing them. The principal building is the Director's residence, a very large establishment, but scarcely large enough for the number of employées who have to be accommodated*. On entering the smelting forge I was received with a customary ceremony ; the workmen moulded a pig of iron, about 15 feet long, for my especial benefit. The process is very simple ; it is done by plunging a large ladle into the liquid boiling ore and emptying the material into a gutter made in the sand. After this ceremony, I was shewn the process of stove moulding, which is also a very simple but rather intricate operation ; each stove is in six pieces, which are separately moulded, they are fitted into each other and form a stove about three feet high. I then visited a shed where the workmen were moulding pots, kettles and other hollow ware : on leaving this part of the forge, we were taken to the hammer forges, where

*The house here alluded to is still habitable, and is generally known as the "Big House" La Grande Maison des Forges.