

*Relation of* HENRI DE TONTY.

113

On the 30th of December he joined me; and during the winter we built upon an impregnable rock Fort St. Louis, to which M. de La Salle induced the Shawanoes to come. The Miamis united themselves with him, and later the Illinois, to whom, in the month of March, 1683, I made a journey of more than a hundred leagues across the prairies. After I had made them great presents in behalf of M. de La Salle, whom they called their Father, they gave me their word that they would join us.

December,  
1682.



Fort St.  
Louis.

I will not weary you, Sir, with all the difficulties we encountered in collecting these tribes, whose minds were preoccupied with the evil reports which the French enemies of M. de La Salle had spread among them. Then, after M. de La Salle had placed his fort in a state of defense, he resolved to return to France. Leaving me in command, he set out in the month of August, 1683, taking with him two Shawanoes. Fourteen leagues from the fort, he met the Chevalier de Baugy, who brought him a letter from M. de La Barre, Governor General of Canada, ordering him to return to give an account of his discovery. This Chevalier de Baugy reached the Fort with letters from M. de La Salle, who advised me to receive him well and to live with

*La Salle's  
French  
enemies.*