

## LAHONTAN.

BY THE EDITOR.

*(Continued from page 250.)*

We begin with a letter, written at Michilimackinac in May, 1688, addressed by Lahontan to the Marquis de Seignelay, Minister for the Colonies, in relation to a leave of absence, which had been obtained for him to visit France for the purpose of attending to some private family affairs. We give this letter first, because in it Lahontan records some particulars in regard to his father. Also the family business which it mentions, repeatedly comes up in subsequent letters, and requires to be borne in mind. The document will explain itself. The Marquis de Seignelay is the son and the successor in office of the famous Colbert. Louis Quatorze is the reigning king. "Honoured Sir," Lahontan says, "I am the son of a gentleman that spent three hundred thousand crowns in deepening the water of the two Gaves of Bearn. He had the good luck to compass his end by conveying a great many brooks to these two rivers; and the current of the Adour was by that means so far strengthened as to render the bar of Bayonne passable by a fifty-gun ship, whereas in former times a frigate of ten guns durst not venture over it. It was in consideration of this great and successful attempt that his Majesty granted to my father and his heirs forever, certain duties and taxes amounting to the sum of three thousand livres a year. This grant was confirmed by an act of the Council of State, dated January 9th, 1658, signed Bossuet, collated, &c. Another advantage accruing to the King and the Province from my father's services, consists in the bringing down of masts and yards from the Pyrenean mountains, which could never have been effected, if he had not by his care, and by the disbursing of immense sums, enlarged the quantity of water in the Gave of Oleron to a double proportion. These duties and taxes which had been jointly entailed upon him and his heirs, ceased to be ours when he died; and to inflame the disgrace, I lost his places, viz: that of being an honorary judge of the parliament of Pau and Reformateur du Domaine des Eaux et Forêts for the Province of Bearn, all which were mine by inheritance. These losses are now followed by an unjust seizure which some pretended creditors have made of the Barony of Lahon-