

DUQUESNE'S OHIO EXPEDITION.

From Francis Parkman's "Montcalm."



OWARDS the end of the spring of 1753 the vanguard of the expedition sent by Duquesne to occupy the Ohio, landed at Presquise, where Erie now stands. This route to the Ohio, far better than that which Céloron had followed, was a new discovery to the French; and Duquesne called the harbor "the finest in Nature." Here they built a fort of squared chestnut logs, and when it was finished they cut a road of several leagues through the woods to Riviere aux Bœufs, now French Creek. At the farther end of this road they began another wooden fort and called it Fort Le Bœuf. Thence, when the water was high, they could descend French Creek to the Alleghany, and follow that stream to the main current of the Ohio.

It was heavy work to carry the cumbrous load of baggage across the portages. Much of it is said to have been superfluous, consisting of velvets, silks, and other useless and costly articles, sold to the King at enormous prices as necessaries of the expedition. The weight of the task fell on the Canadians, who worked with cheerful hardihood, and did their part to admiration. Marin, commander of the expedition, a gruff, choleric old man of sixty-three, but full of force and capacity, spared himself so little that he was struck down with dysentery, and refusing to be sent home to Montreal was before long in a dying state. His place was taken by Pean of whose private character there is little good to be said, but whose conduct as an officer was such that Duquesne calls him a prodigy of talents and zeal! The subalterns deserve