

The solitary canoe that Tonti had watched drew near to the landing. Its occupant disembarked and approached the fort. A few moments later the boyish voice of the *Sieur de Boisrondet* rang across the yard:

"*Capitaine Tonti!* A messenger from *Quebec!*" as he quickly approached the lovers on the rampart. "A messenger from *Quebec*, bringing dispatches! One is for you personally. I thought I would bring it at once. Those pertaining to official business the *Chevalier* will discuss with you later."

Tonti recognized the scrawling writing of *Frontenac* on the outside of the large oblong package. He opened it, and out fell a document bearing the royal seal. With it was a letter that read as follows:

"*MON CHER TONTI,*—I have good news for you. *Colbert* is dead. The King, no longer under his influence, hastens to make amends for your father's cruel treatment and to reward your bold endeavors for him in the wilds of *New France*. I send you the royal commission granting you unlimited rights to trade, and appointing you commander-in-chief of all the forces of the King in the *Mississippi Valley*, together with the powers of Governor (shared in by *La Salle*) of all additions to the royal domain that by right of settlement or exploration you may acquire. You are to receive a salary of five thousand *livres*. On the other hand, if you prefer