

January,
1679.



*Ship-
building
and ship-
wreck.*

hiding with our missionary Father Louis, the Recollet, and four Frenchmen. The next day M. de La Salle set out to look for a place above the Falls suitable for the building of a vessel. Having found it, he sent for a part of his men, while I remained behind at the house. While his vessel was on the stocks, the one he had left nine leagues from the mouth of the Niagara went to pieces on the coast on the 8th of January, 1679. M. de La Salle, getting word of this, hastened to the spot, and did what he could to save a portion of the iron-work, for use in the construction of the new ship above the Falls. Returning, he sent for me on the 30th to take command. As he had resolved to go back to Fort Frontenac upon the ice, I accompanied him as far as the lake; and, on the 1st of February, he staked out at the mouth of the river a fort which he named Conty. Then, taking leave of him, I returned to the shipyard, and on my way was seized with curiosity to see the fall of the Niagara, which separates Lake Erie from Lake Frontenac. I can say that it is the most beautiful fall to be seen in the world. As well as we could judge, the water has a perpendicular fall of five hundred feet, and is about two hundred fathoms in breadth. The rising vapor can be
seen

*Niagara
Falls.*