

spoke of the manner in which the assessment had been made, and further stated :

"It is in view of that decree that the tax has been made, the Seminary however pretend to ignore it, although it had full knowledge of it before and after, and the counsel remember the trouble that the Abbé de St. Aubin took formerly to hinder it." The counsel does not think that anything which has been done ought to be changed.

(Signed,) L. A. DE BOURBON.
LE MARECHAL D'ESTREES.*

In 1717, (18th August), De Lery forwarded to France a lengthy report as to the advantages offered by Montreal for the purpose of fortifications. From it we gather the following interesting facts as to the condition of the town at the time named, and also of the proposed improvements. Reference to plate 6, will explain some of the principal points referred to by him. "The town of Montreal is very extensive, its circumference is three quarters of a league, its fortification having 1819 toises (fathoms) enclosed. It is enclosed only by a poor enclosure of stakes, a part of which are rotten. The inhabitants, have made in it several openings, and there is no door in a state to be shut. It is not shut during the whole year, and as we are in this country exposed every day to be at war with the English, and with the Indians, and as we cannot hear of the declaration of war in Europe, except after the English, they could very easily take the town in the state in which it is. What remains of the enclosure of stakes will last at most four or five years. Therefore I have determined to commence an enclosure capable to resist the artillery that the English might bring from Orange.† If I had commenced it weaker, it would be no good for defence, and no advantage. The ground gets frozen so deep in this country that a wall alone can last any time.

* See Autographs, Plate 4, figs. 3-4.

† Now Albany.