

It has been stated by some writers, by Garneau for example, that Fort Toronto was a structure of stone; but this was not so. We have particulars of the fort from various sources. It was simply a stockaded, wooden store-house, with quarters for a keeper and a few regular soldiers. The rule of the Governor-General, who gave the order for the erection of a fort here, M. de la Calissonière, was brief. The building of the fort was accomplished by his successor, the Marquis de la Jonquière. It was expected to intercept the Indian trade which was being drawn to the English post across the lake, at Chouéguen (Ochouéguen, Oswegon, Oswego). Persons interested in the trading-posts at Fort Frontenac and Niagara demurred to the establishment of the fort at Toronto; but the authorities overruled the objections. In 1752, the Abbé Picquet visited Fort Toronto. He found there, he says, "good bread and good wine, and everything requisite for the trade; while they were in want of these things at all the other posts." According to the Abbé, some of the Mississagas expressed their sorrow to him here that the French had only established a canteen at Toronto, and not a church.

The situation and dimensions of the fort at Toronto are given with a good deal of minuteness by M. Pouchot, the last French commandant at Fort Niagara, in his "Memoir upon the War in North America, 1753-60." "The Fort of Toronto," he says, "is at the end of the bay (*i. e.*, the west end) upon the side which is quite elevated and covered with flat rock. Vessels cannot approach within cannon shot. This fort or post," he continues, "was a square of about thirty toises on a side, externally with flanks of fifteen feet. The curtains formed the buildings of the fort. It was very well built, piece upon piece; but was only useful for trade. A league west of the fort is the mouth of the Toronto river, which is of considerable size. This river communicates with Lake Huron by a portage of fifteen leagues, and is frequented by the Indians who come from the north."

In 1752 war was in active progress between England and France. The keeper of the solitary fort at Toronto was full of anxiety. He was convinced that the English were stirring up the Indians to destroy his post. "The store-keeper at Toronto," M. de Longueuil reports in 1752, "writes to M. de Verchères, commandant at Fort Frontenac, that some trustworthy Indians had assured him that the Salteaux (the Otchipways of the Sault, the same in fact as the Mississagas) had dispersed themselves round the head of Lake Ontario; and seeing himself surrounded by them, he doubts not but they have some evil design on his fort. There is no doubt," M. de Longueuil continues, "but 'tis the English who are inducing the Indians