

DETROIT UNDER CADILLAC.

A List of Property Owners and a History of the Settlement from 1701 to 1710.

The early history of Detroit is scarcely known. The records that contain its story are to be found in Montreal, Quebec and Paris. Mackinac was established long before Detroit was thought of, but it existed merely as a missionary post, and as a rendezvous for voyageurs and a depot for supplies for the Indian trade. It was never a colony, and no thought of colonization was ever coupled with its name, nor was it established or maintained with any expectation that a colony would be founded. It was so far north, and the climate was so cold that there was no certainty of a corn crop any year, and Indian corn was the only bread food that was raised until after the establishment of Detroit. The Indians friendly to French interests were all living in the north, for they had been driven from this part of the country by the Iroquois in the long series of wars, which immediately preceded the establishment of a military post at this point.

Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac had been the commandant at Mackinac from 1694 to 1698, and while occupying that position had cast his eye southward as a better location than Mackinac for founding a colony. With the foresight of a skillful diplomat he reasoned that the location of a permanent colony on the Detroit river would tend to keep the English from trading among the upper or French Indians and, moreover, if the post once estab-

lished was properly managed, the commandant could draw around it all the Indians of the west, and their numbers, added to the strength of a French garrison, would compel a peace with the warlike Iroquois. He was right in his reasonings and if his plans had been carried out as he laid them one may reasonably think that the French power would still be strong in America. Having obtained permission from his government to found a colony at Detroit, he set out on his errand in the spring of 1701, and reached the site of the future city on the 24th of July. The palisades, at once erected for the post, inclosed an arpent of land, a French acre of 192 feet on a side.

HUNTING FOR FURS.

Most of the business carried on in this western country was hunting the fur-bearing animals, preparing their furs for market, and transporting them to Montreal. But the hunters had to live, and a trade was carried on between the latter place and the upper country, as this was called, by means of canoes and bateaux. These canoes were loaded at Montreal and brought to Detroit either over the Ottawa river away up north, coming down through the Georgian bay, or through the Niagara route, over the Lakes Ontario and Erie. The latter route was the easier of the two, for there was but one portage at Niagara