

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

Inasmuch as this version of Tonty's narrative is to be subjected to the test of "the deadly parallel-column," the translator begs leave to call attention to the difficulty of making anything like a literal rendering. Tonty was evidently not a master of French style. Perhaps his Italian origin may explain this. His syntax defies all the rules, and his pages are sprinkled with locutions not to be found in Littré. It is often difficult, sometimes impossible, to be sure of his meaning. Any attempt to imitate in English the confusion, crudity, and quaintness of his narrative would be out of keeping with the sober purpose of this publication. While the translator has taken the liberty to break up long sentences,—which sometimes begin at Dan and end in Beersheba,—and to run together short ones, as grammar or perspicuity seemed to require, he has been at pains to preserve the simple tone of the original. He has aimed at clearness and has endeavored to avoid expressions which might have seemed, from Tonty's pen, stilted.

Those who compare this version with the French may find some passages touching the meaning of which they may disagree with the translator. It has not, however, been thought best to encumber the text with footnotes discussing the meaning, as an opportunity is given