
THE MARTYRS OF NEW FRANCE

fort there, and use this as a base for an expedition across the Rockies. But all his plans were doomed to be sacrificed to the avarice of two men who should have been the most forward in promoting instead of thwarting them. De la Jonquière had succeeded La Galissonnière as governor, and he and the Intendant Bigot were as unscrupulous as they were greedy, and not only refused to renew in the names of the sons the commission to discover the Pacific which had been granted to the father, but practically confiscated the trading forts which the latter had built at his own cost, as well as a large quantity of goods he had sent there preparatory to the expedition he had in view at the time of his death. Robbed by the very officials who should have vouchsafed to them encouragement and protection, refused even the use of one of the forts which were their own by right, the two brothers found themselves destitute and in debt. The trade which they had secured by their operations in the West now went to swell the coffers of designing officials, while they, who sought for nothing further than the means of serving their country, found themselves face to face with misery and want. The elder brother writes: "We spent our youth and our property in building up establishments so advan-