

The compiler deems it fitting as introductory to this "Souvenir," that the reader may form some idea of how Detroit appeared in 1701, as compared with Detroit of to-day, and therefore gives a verbatim report made by Antoine La Mothe Cadillac to Count Ponchartrain, dated October 8th, 1701, and translated by Hon. Theodore Parsons Hall, of this city.

"The profession of war differs from that of the writer and I cannot without this latter qualification draw the picture of a Country so worthy of a better pen than mine, but since you have instructed me to return some account, I will do so promising that the Detroit (le Détroit) is properly a canal or river of moderate breadth and of forty-five leagues in length (his estimate includes Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River from Lake Erie to Lake Huron), situated north-north-east and south-south-west from where gently flow together the living crystalline waters of Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron (which are so many fresh water seas) into Lakes Erie, Ontario or Frontenac, whence finally they mingle in the River St. Lawrence and the waters of the Ocean." The banks are so many vast prairies—where the freshness of these ever beautiful waters—give the grass a verdant green. These same prairies are bordered by long and extensive groves of fruit trees which have never felt the solicitous hand of the skillful gardner and these young and old fruit trees bend and curves their branches toward the fertile soil which has produced them. It is in this so fertile land that the ambitious vine, which has not yet wept under the knife of the painstaking vinedresser forms for itself, a dense canopy, with its luxurious branches and its bunches of grapes heavy on the head of whoever leans against it, often choking the one who ventures to embrace it too closely. It is in these vast thickets, we can see congregated by hundreds the timid deer and shrinking doe with the roe buck bounding eagerly to gather the apples and plums with which the ground is paved. It is there that the watchful turkey calls together and conducts her numerous brood for harvesting the grapes. \* \* \*

The golden pheasants, the quail and partridge, the abundant