

The Paschal of the Great Pinch

An episode in the history of Fort Niagara; being an extract from the hitherto unknown Memoirs of the Chevalier de Tregay, Lieutenant under the Sieur de Troyes commanding at Fort Denonville (now called Niagara) in the year of Starvation, 1687, with Captain Desbergeres at that remote fortress from the joyful Easter of 1688, till its abandonment. Soldier of His Excellency the Sieur de Brissay, Marquis de Denonville, Governor and Lieut. General in New France and humble Servitor of His Serene Majesty, Louis XIV.

Done into inadequate English by

FRANK H. SEVERANCE.

The following vivid picture of early days in Fort Niagara was written by Mr. Frank Severance, Secretary of the Buffalo Historical Society, and appeared in the Buffalo Express, April 18th, 1897, and by the kind permission of Mr. Severance is reprinted here. Although it owes much to the imaginative powers and the skillful pen of the writer it presents such a true picture of that sad year, the historical setting being so strictly accurate that it may find a place in an historical pamphlet.

It has been my lot to suffer in many far parts of the earth; to bleed a little and go hungry for the King, to lie freezing for fame and France—and gain nothing thereby but a destemper, but so it is to be a soldier.

And I have seen trouble in my day, I have fought in Flanders on an empty stomach and have burned my brain among the Spaniards, so that I could neither fight nor run away; but of all the heavy employment I ever knew naught can compare with what befel in the remote parts of New France, where I was with the troops that the Marquis de Denonville took through the wilderness into the cantons of the Iroquois and afterwards employed to build a stockade and cabins at the mouth of the Strait of Niagara on the east side in the way when they go a beaver hunting. "Fort Denonville" the Sieur de Brissay decreed it should be called, for he held great hopes of the service which it should do him against both the Iroquois and the English; but now that he has fallen into the dis-