

FIEF BOIS-BRIANT.

Bois-Briant is an historic fief. It was conceded in 1672 to Sidras Dugué, Sieur de Bois-Briant, captain in the Carignan regiment. He built thereon a house before getting the deed of concession. In June 20th, 1679, Bois-Briant sold his fief to Jacques LeBer and Charles LeMoine de Longueuil. In 1681, according to the *livre terrier*, Bois-Briant passed to the sons of Jacques LeBer, Jos. LeBer, Sieur de Senneville, and Jean LeBer, Sieur de Saint Paul. Since that time, it has been known under the name of De Senneville. In the *terrier*, the following note appears : "Permission to the said Sieur LeBer de Senneville, by Mr. Dollier (1), August 18, 1686, to build on the said fief, a wind-mill." It was built in stone on the 30th September, 1687, since the burial register of Ste. Anne, of that date, shows that Louis Jets, "miller of Jean LeBer," had been killed by the Iroquois, together with the Sieur de La Londe and eight other Frenchmen. This mill served as a fort until the construction, in 1692, of Fort Senneville, in stone, at the bottom of the hill, the ruins of which can still be seen. Tourists should not overlook the ruins of these noteworthy structures, which recall to mind the heroic time of our history. The fief passed in 1772 to the Chevalier de Lorimier ; then to J. B. Testard de Montigny ; then to Dr Forbes, and finally to Sir John Abbott, whose summer residence it has been for a quarter of a century. It would be impossible to find a more beautiful situation. It is not, therefore, surprising that the end of the island should have attracted the attention of the early aristocratic settlers (2).

(1) I said "Jolliet" in the *Vieux Lachine*, but upon again going over the manuscript I discovered the error.

(2) The following passage from Faillon, *Vie de Mr. Le Ber*, page 319, confirms and also supplements the text :

"Il (Jacques Le Ber) fit plus encore, il construisit à la tête de l'île de Montréal un fort de pierres qui put contribuer à la mettre à couvert des insultes des barbares. Il fut ainsi le premier ou plutôt le seul d'entre les particuliers qui sacrifia une partie de sa fortune à la sécurité publique. Déjà MM. du Séminaire, pour fortifier cette île contre les Iroquois, avaient accordé un certain nombre de fiefs nobles, sans droit de justice, à des officiers des troupes du Roi, dans l'espérance qu'ils s'y établiraient, et y feraient les constructions nécessaires pour s'y défendre, en cas d'attaque, tels : les fiefs du Gué, d'Alloboust, de Chailly, du Puy de Saint-André, de Carillon, de Morel. M. Le Ber, et Charles LeMoine, son beau-frère, ayant acquis de M. du Gué, en 1679, pour la somme de 1768 livres, le fief qui lui avait été concédé, au haut de l'île de Montréal, ils le possédèrent en