



DETROIT.—A GLIMPSE OF THE WATER FRONT.

Cadillac, The Founder of Detroit.

Antoine de LaMothe-Cadillac is a typical representative of those many-sided, irrepressible sons of France who so gallantly advanced her banner from post to post through the vast stretches of the American forest in the 17th and 18th centuries. As a soldier, *coureur de bois*, explorer, founder and governor he is closely identified with an important phase of that advance—from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

The governor of Canada who first conceived such a policy and recognized the value of such agents in carrying it out was Frontenac. In 1694 LaMothe-Cadillac was living in Montreal, where the site of his house in Notre Dame street is still pointed out. He had already spent eleven years in Acadia and Canada, had acquired some military experience, and had become skilled in the ways of the woods and the management of Indians. Like Frontenac himself, he was a man of bold, impatient temper, with a fine turn for incisive and sarcastic phras-

ing. The two had an instinctive liking for each other.

In 1694 Frontenac appointed his friend to take charge of Michillimackinac near the junction of the three upper Great Lakes. His residence at this important post profoundly impressed Cadillac with the value of the fur-trade and the importance of the whole region to the French. In 1699 he proposed to Callières, Frontenac's successor, a plan to establish a strongly fortified colony on the waterway between Lakes Erie and Huron. This, he claimed, would effectually exclude the English from territories above, and preserve the French monopoly of trade. It would also serve to guard the direct routes from Canada to Louisiana by way of Lake Erie and the tributaries of the Ohio and Mississippi. The Indian tribes of the surrounding region were, as far as possible, to be gathered around the new post and the fur-trade of the west would be concentrated there.

Accordingly, Cadillac was dispatched from Montreal in the early summer of

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