

seed that was to grow until its branches overshadowed the land." May 18th, 1642, was the birth day of Ville Marie, as Montreal was named by its pious founders. It was a wild, yet beautiful scene which lay before their view, but they knew full well that amid the green woods which surrounded them, there were foes against whom they must defend themselves, and their first thought was to erect their homes with a view to mutual protection. Their dwellings were built closely together, and the whole was surrounded by palisades of wood and stone, known as the Fort and Chateau of Ville Marie,* and it was immediately outside these walls that the first Hospital (under the management of Mademoiselle Mance†) was erected, and likewise enclosed with palisades.

The Fort was the scene of many attacks by the Indians, and at times it was dangerous to pass beyond the palisades. In front of its walls, Maisonneuve proved to his followers that while he desired their safety, he himself was no coward, but ready if needs be, to face single handed the savage hordes. Near this fort was also erected a windmill for the use of the colonists. The fort gradually fell into decay ‡ and the remaining portion of timber and stone was used in the erection of part of the first Parish Church in Place d'Armes

* The fort was built of wood, and was constructed by Maisonneuve, in accordance with plans made under the direction of M. Louis D'Ailleboust, Governor of Canada.—*Viger's Notes to Dollier de Casson's His. of Montreal, published by the Montreal His. Soc. pp. 228.* M. Louis D'Ailleboust was appointed Governor of Canada in 1647. He was of German descent. He came to Canada, but a short time anterior to his appointment, with about 100 Colonists; bringing also with him his wife and sister. Replaced by De Lauzon in 1651, he settled in the Country, and died at Quebec in 1660. See Autograph, Plate 4, fig. 1. For plan of the Fort and Chateau, see Plate 3.

† Mademoiselle Mance was a descendant of an ancient family in France. She accompanied Maisonneuve and his party to Montreal, for the purpose of superintending the hospital which the Colonists had decided to erect on their arrival. At this time she was 34 years of age, and although of delicate constitution, was ready to face any hardship, so that she might spread the cause of her Church. See Autograph, Plate 2, fig. 5.

‡ On or near this site DeCalliere subsequently erected his private residence, known as the Chateau Calliere. Mr. Viger in his Notes to the History of Montreal, says, that in his early days he had seen traces of the old fortifications at Point a Calliere.