François Michel Le Tellier: *Louvois*

* I was born in Paris in 1641, and from an early age my prestigious father, Michel le Tellier, began training me for my job. My father and I both worked under his majesty Louis XIV, and I succeeded him as war minister after his death.
* From the instruction received by my father, my talent in the state of military affairs quickly won me the trust of his majesty. Soon, I was made a secrétaire of war for the entire French army. King Louis XIV took matters into his hands personally, and passed all his instructions and demands to the army through me. I was literally the link between the king and his military. Together, my father and I implemented a chain of restructurings for the French armada at the will of his majesty.
* …sadly, the army was in a dismal state when I received it. The first step was to win private control the armies. Through a series of reforms, I abolished private noble-owned military forces and installed a unified army for all of France. I applied a system of regimentally ranking soldiers, which allowed my officers and commissioners to mind the individual battalions while secrétaires like me dealt with greater matters in the court of the king. In the court is where I aided his majesty the most; I am one of his favorite advisors.
* I created cadet training schools for new soldiers, provided organized uniforms and magazine for troops, formed hospitals and care centers for the wounded, and confirmed effective transportation for military personal. No one in France knows the army better than me. Singlehandedly, I increased the prestige of the French Army and created the most powerful military force in Europe by the motivation of his royal majesty Louis XIV.
* My troops received orderly uniforms, the most modern weaponry (infantry carried the flintlock musket recently invented for his majesty called the Chareville), prevailing medical care, and more importantly, the fighting spirit every warrior needs to be successful. Wars came and went, and the king’s army was always victorious. While my generals watched the troops, my esteemed achievements landed me a high place in the court hierarchy. Next to old Colbert, I was the king’s greatest minister. Therefore, it was only my duty to help him with day-to-day issues of national concern.
* Being a father of six children myself, I know what it is like to worry about their safety. Lately with all these crooked Protestants out on the streets stealing babies and disrupting peace, the good Catholic population of France has been endangered. Not only are they trying to steal our souls, but they also hog our businesses, commerce, and wealth. It was my responsibility, for the good of the people and the State both, to encourage our wonderful king to revoke the Edict of Nantes.
* More importantly, it was my job to enforce the Revocation after it was passed. Louis XIV trusted me to ensure public safety, so I cut no corners. Really, it was quite humane as well. I formed the *dragonnades*, which gave each Protestant the opportunity to do the right thing and convert, before any actual penalty was executed. If they converted, they not only got to save their souls, but also got a new life of employment in my army. It was a win-win situation. Converted Protestants are forever grateful and indebted to his glorious majesty the king for their souls and their second chance, while my ranks soon filled with fresh troops and the stolen wealth was returned to the rightful Catholic recipients. Praise his divine majesty for being so merciful.
* Of course, the stubborn devils that wouldn’t convert were dealt with harshly by my fierce, belligerent troops. In just two months of vigilant patrols, it was ensured that there was not a single scoundrel Huguenot roaming the streets. This isn’t genocide: it’s safety. For the sake of our children, our state, and our future. The dragonnades and the annulment of the Protestants was most definitely an improvement to our society that both the king and I had the right to apply.
* After the dragonnades, I had been taking a lot of heat from the commoners. People were angry about my discipline, occupation of soldiers, and methods of hire. In my opinion, it is really all just petty frustration from the lower classes. As the secrétaire of war, the king’s prized advisor, and a advocate of the state, I believe every action taken by the king thus far has been extremely beneficial for the wellbeing of myself and the army. My influence and close contact with his majesty has nothing to do with the claims being stated at this trial. All actions I have taken thus far are either at the will of the king, or for the grant of the king.
* In the end, I remain the most loyal and faithful minister of King Louis XIV, and till my death will stay his greatest courier in soldierly affairs.

Works Cited

"The French Army." *The Spanish Succession and the War of the Spanish Succession*. Web. 12 Oct. 2011. <http://www.spanishsuccession.nl/french\_army.html>.

Kinard, Jeff. "Charleville Musket." *Wikipedia*. Web. 12 Oct. 2011. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charleville\_musket>.

"Lauffers in Germany." *Christian Lauffer The Pioneer*. Web. 12 Oct. 2011. <http://www.lauffer.us/LauffersinGermany.htm>.

"Louvois Work - French, War, Army, Officers, Armies, Service and Europe." *GluedIdeas.com*. Web. 12 Oct. 2011. <http://gluedideas.com/Encyclopedia-Britannica-Volume-9-Part-2-Extraction-Gambrinus/Louvois-Work.html>.