

in this contest for the mastery of Acadia. Instead of fulfilling his pledge like an honorable man, he hanged all the defenders with the exception of one person, whose life was spared on his consenting to act as executioner. Even at that moment his hard, false heart could not feel pity for the unfortunate lady, who had been so credulous as to believe in his plighted word, for he forced her to stand by, with a rope round her neck, and witness the murder,—for it was nothing else under the circumstances,—of the brave men who had so nobly assisted her in defending her husband's rights. This terrible tragedy so preyed on the poor lady's mind,—already wrecked by the excitement and trials she had undergone for many months,—that she became almost insane, and died a few weeks after the occurrence of these events we have narrated. Madame La Tour appears to have been naturally of a loving, gentle disposition; beneath her quiet exterior was the spirit of that Spanish maid whose name must ever live in the annals of her country.*

Bereft of wife and estate, La Tour gave up the unequal contest for the present. He went to Boston, and subsequently to Newfoundland, where Sir David Kirk was the governor at that time; but in neither place could he obtain the assistance he needed. He then resolved on a trading voyage, and after some delay obtained a vessel and freight through the means of Major Gibbons, a Boston merchant, with whom he had had considerable dealings since his residence in Acadia. One account of this voyage represents him as having acted dishonorably towards his creditors; but the writer appears to have been misled by the reports of prejudiced witnesses, and we are unwilling to believe, that a man who had previously given evidence of the possession of so many

* The wives of the French commanders, in America, seem to have been very often women of more than ordinary strength of character. When Louisburg was attacked by the British for the second time, in the year 1758, Madame de Druceur, lady of the governor, fired a cannon with her own hands, and did all she could to animate the soldiery.

manly qualities would have descended to the level of a mere trickster.

La Tour, in the year 1648, presented himself at Quebec, where he was received with the most gratifying demonstrations of respect by his countrymen, who admired the heroic fortitude he had displayed in the Acadian struggle. Of his history for some years we are comparatively in the dark. It is stated that he visited the regions of Hudson's Bay, as a fur trader, and met with considerable success. In the meantime, however, his rival, D'Aulnay,* died, leaving a widow and several children; and as soon as La Tour ascertained this fact, he went to France, where he met with a most satisfactory reception. The French Government acknowledged the injustice with which it had treated him in the past, and appointed him Governor and Lieutenant-General of Acadia, with enlarged privileges and powers. The next step he took was also calculated to strengthen his position, and that was his marriage with D'Aulnay's widow, Jeanne de Motin, some time in the latter part of February, 1653. This was clearly a *mariage de convenance* on both sides, but it was the best means that could be devised to save Acadia from becoming once more the scene of discord and strife; for the widow of the deceased D'Aulnay had many powerful friends in France, who were quite ready to assist her in sustaining all her rights in the new world. Peace then reigned for some months in Acadia,—many new settlers came into the country, the forts were strengthened, and the people were hoping for an era of tranquility and prosperity. But there was to be no peace or rest for the French in Acadia.

As the number of the French increased, the jealousy of the British colonies in New England was excited, until at last they ordered that any one who carried provisions to the Acadian settlements, should forfeit both vessel and cargo. La Tour, ever

* Both Garneau and Ferland agree in representing D'Aulnay as a rapacious, grasping tyrant, who did everything he could to prevent any extensive settlement in the province.