

Despite the importance Moreau attaches to the documents which came into his possession; despite the evident disadvantage, and the exaggerated blame he throws on Latour in the course of his rivalry with d'Aunay, the object of these accusations strikes him, and, contrary to his custom, he places before this passage observations which, from his pen, have a singular effect in weakening the authority of their MSS. "It must be admitted," he writes, "that all the assertions of d'Aunay have some foundation; *in form they may be exaggerated*, but they are not false." But we must not expect to learn from an extravagant admirer of d'Aunay if the accusations of this man against his enemy are exaggerated in form or otherwise; these facts must be examined, and fortunately we are in possession of authentic and impartial documents treating of the events and personages of this period.

The rivalry of Latour and d'Aunay, whose consequences were so unfortunate for Acadie, has been diversely interpreted. Denys, Lafargue, Charlevoix, Garneau, even blame Latour most; the fault was entirely his according to Moreau. Without entering into details, which would only weary the reader, it may be affirmed that the French government is to be blamed more than any one else for having encouraged this deadly quarrel by granting now to one and now to another of the two pretenders, and sometimes even to both at the same time, the government of Acadie, and that through ignorance of the geography of the country, and often condemning one rival on the testimony of the other. Afterwards, when the country was ruined beyond redemption, the court granted to one of the ruined rivals fruitless rights, which availed little towards the advancement of the affairs of the colony, and only proved with what unfortunate precipitation judgment had been given.

Latour, having become master of Fort Lamaron by the death of Biencourt in 1623 or 1624, and of Fort St. Louis, built about the same time, was confirmed in possession, or rather in the lieutenancy of the two forts, in 1631, by a commission given by Richelieu.* D'Aunay, as we have already seen, had established

* Latour already held, through the agency of his father, a commission from Sir William Alexander, dated November 30th, 1630. At this time, it must be remembered, Acadie belonged to England. This commission made him Seigneur "of the regions, coasts and isles from Cape and River Ingogan (near Cape Clouen) to Fort Latour, thence to Mirliguistre and beyond (near Port la Heve), the lands extending fifteen leagues towards the North." He had another commission from the Company.