

of service had already expired. Though La Tour offered a high reward to those who might be tempted to serve for pay, with a stern, yet virtuous resolution, they declared, that "their consciences could not be bribed, by all the gold of France."

There were a few, however, who stood firmly by Arthur Stanhope, and he generously consented to give up his own vessel to accommodate the remainder, if they would return directly to Boston. La Tour offered him a pinnace then lying at the fort, for the expedition to Penobscot, and it was to be manned by those of his own people who still adhered to him, and some Scotchmen from the garrison. Soldiers and seamen at that period served indifferently on land and sea, and some of the greatest generals of the age were skilled as well in the manœuvres of a sea fight, as in leading an army to conquest. It was at a somewhat later period, that the tactics of the two professions became clearly defined, and the naval service assumed an independent rank.

The various arrangements occasioned some delay; and La Tour's impatience was vented in "curses not loud but deep," on all those, whose conscientious scruples had interfered with his own selfish projects. When all the preparations were completed, an adverse wind set in, which delayed their departure still two days longer; but La Tour's impatient spirit could ill brook delay, and he embarked his men at sunset, hoping that a favorable change might take place in the night, which would enable him to weigh anchor at early dawn, or sooner, if the sky cleared, and the wind shifted to the right point. Stanhope remonstrated against this haste, as his nautical experience led him to apprehend an approaching storm; the clouds indeed seemed passing away, but dark masses still lingered in the horizon, and the turbid waters of the Bay of Fundy, into which the River St. John's emptied, just below the fort, assumed that calm and sullen aspect, which so often precedes a tempest. But La Tour was obstinate in his resolution, and as it was important for the vessels to be in readiness to sail in company, Stanhope repaired to his pinnace, with that dreariness of heart which ever attends the moment of parting from the objects of our love.

What a changed world did that isolated fort appear to Lucie, from the moment that Stanhope left it! She went out in the open air to indulge her feelings, her regret and her hopes, without restraint or observation, and from a spot which love had already marked as a trysting place, to look again upon the tall masts of the pinnace, which still rested on the wave, but before morn-

perhaps, would spread its white sails, and bear *him* far away.

Madame La Tour also, soon after her husband's departure, passed the gate, on a visit of charity to a neighbouring cabin. The long summer twilight was deepening on the hills as she returned, and as she passed near a tuft of trees which grew near the river's edge, she was surprised to observe Lucie standing alone, and half hid by the leafy screen. She approached her without being observed; for Lucie's attention was wholly engaged by a light boat, which had just pushed from the shore, and the person who occupied it, was rowing rapidly towards Stanhope's vessel. It was not difficult to identify Arthur Stanhope as that person, and it was natural to suppose he had been there to seek a parting interview with Lucie.

Madame La Tour had not been unobservant of the good understanding which seemed to subsist between Mr. Stanhope and her niece, but she had observed it in silence, though not without displeasure, for Lucie, usually so warm and open in the expression of her feelings, was reserved on this subject, and sought neither counsel nor approbation. Madame La Tour had always favored De Valette's suit, and, till Stanhope came, had believed that in time it would prove successful. As she now looked at Lucie's glowing face, and tearful gaze, fixed on the receding boat, she felt that Eustace had little room for hope.

"You are abroad at an unusual hour this evening, Lucie," said Madame La Tour, abruptly addressing her; "but I can scarcely feel surprised, since I perceive that Mr. Stanhope has but just now quitted you; once, I should indeed have felt greatly surprised, but of late you have asked counsel only of your own experienced judgment, or of one in whom you would perhaps repose more confidence than in the friend of your earliest years."

"Dearest Aunt," cried Lucie, and her eyes filled with tears, "forgive me, if in this one instance I have sought concealment, or rather acted less openly than my heart prompted me to do. I should have answered you freely and frankly. But I did not wish to involve you in the displeasure which an avowal of my feelings would surely excite against me, and which I confess, I was anxious to avert as long as possible."

"Rather say, Lucie," returned Madame La Tour, "that your feelings were concealed to suit the wishes of your lover; but was it honorable in him, to engage your affections, and seek your hand clandestinely; or to bind you by promises which were unsanctioned by your friends?"