

The Heroine of Acadia

every side. There are only two contemporary accounts of the siege and capture of Fort Latour, one by Governor Winthrop, who has recorded the event briefly in his diary, and the other by Nicholas Denys, a neighbor and friend of LaTour, who relates the events of the siege in his book, which was published in 1672 in Paris. Denys says :

“Charnisay would have had great difficulty in accomplishing his design had he not been advised of the absence of Sieur de LaTour, who had taken with him a part of his garrison, leaving only his wife and the remainder of his people to keep the fort. After having sustained for three days and three nights all the assaults of Charnisay, and having obliged him to withdraw beyond reach of her cannon, she was finally obliged to surrender on the fourth day, which was Easter Day, having been betrayed by a Swiss who was on guard while she, hoping for some respite, was making her followers rest. The Swiss, bribed by Charnisay's men, allowed them to mount to the assault, which was resisted for some time by the lady commander at the head of her garrison. She only surrendered at the last extremity and under condition that Charnisay should spare all, which, indeed, he did not do, for, after making himself master of the place, he threw them all into prison, along with their lady commander. Then, with the advice of his Council, he hung them, with the exception of