

time in the year 1641, to seek some assistance for La Tour, and when she had fulfilled her mission,—she met with little encouragement, it seems,—she took passage on a vessel belonging to Boston; but the master, instead of taking her to St. John within a specified time, spent nearly six months in trading on the St. Lawrence, and then carried her to Massachusetts. On her arrival at Boston, she brought an action against the master and consignee of the vessel, and after a full hearing of the cause, the Court gave her a verdict of £2,000. After considerable difficulty, she succeeded in obtaining a large portion of this sum, with which she hired three vessels, and then sailed to rejoin her husband on the St. John. But before she had left the colony she had learned that her husband could not rely any further on the friendship of the people of Massachusetts. A few days after Madame La Tour arrived in Boston, an envoy from D'Aulnay presented himself to the Massachusetts Council. He remonstrated against the course pursued in reference to La Tour, and proffered terms of peace and amity. The Council, after some consideration, agreed to a treaty of peace with Charnisay's agent, but it was not ratified by his principal until some time afterwards.

La Tour's prospects now appeared exceedingly gloomy, and his rival's star was clearly in the ascendant. Encouraged by the success of his envoy, D'Aulnay prepared to attack La Tour in the spring of 1645. On the way he met with a New England vessel carrying supplies to his enemy, and after he had seized her, he turned all the crew upon a desolate island, where they had great difficulty in preserving their lives, for the season was very inclement, and they had only a portion of their clothes allowed them by their captors. D'Aulnay soon found himself off the fort, which he expected would soon fall into his hands, as La Tour himself was absent at the time; but he calculated wrongly. Madame la Tour rallied the defenders, and conducted the defence so energetically that D'Aulnay lost a large

number of his men, and was obliged to retire with his ship exceedingly damaged. On his return home he took off the New Englanders from the island where they had been exposed, and subsequently sent them to Boston, where their story created a deep feeling of indignation against the treacherous and cruel Frenchman. D'Aulnay was evidently determined at this time to carry matters with a high hand, for he refused to ratify the agreement made by his messenger Marie: but, a few months later, he reconsidered the matter, and came to terms with the British colonies. These terms were afterwards ratified by the Commissioners of the Confederate colonies of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Haven, and Plymouth.

Having succeeded in ensuring the neutrality of the New Englanders, D'Aulnay once more turned his attention towards the fort still occupied by La Tour. The latter, in the spring of 1647, again left his fort in charge of his wife, whilst he went away on a trading voyage or for supplies. D'Aulnay, always watching for his opportunity, immediately laid siege to the fort, and was again met with the most determined resistance of the garrison, nerved and stimulated by the voice and example of the heroic lady, who was present at every vulnerable point. The besiegers were on the point of giving up the contest, when a traitor within the walls—one of those mercenary Swiss who have been ever ready to sell themselves to the highest bidder,—gave them information which determined them to renew the assault. D'Aulnay and his men again attempted to scale the walls, but were forced to retire with a considerable loss. Unable to accomplish his object by force of arms, D'Aulnay had recourse to an infamous stratagem: he offered fair terms if the garrison would capitulate. Madame La Tour, anxious to spare the lives of her brave garrison, which was rapidly thinning, agreed to the proposal, and surrendered the fort; but the sequel proved the falsehood and treachery of D'Aulnay, and gives us additional reason to sympathize with La Tour