
CANADIAN HISTORY READERS

successful fur-trader with the Indians, an intrepid adventurer, and under the French king, Louis XIII, a veritable feudal chief with unlimited powers.

At the time of his marriage young La Tour was approaching the age of thirty. That he was reckless, self-seeking, and not very loyal to either his church or his king, we may read from the pages of history. Parkman says that he was "a chameleon, whose principles took on the colour of his interests." Yet we feel that he must have possessed a gay and winsome personality, by the way he made friends and held them to his cause.

About the year 1635 Charles La Tour moved his wife and household possessions to a large new fortress and trading-post at the mouth of the St. John river, a strategic position in the control of the fur-trade. The five arms of the sea here run inland like the fingers of a human hand, with rocky headlands jutting out between. Since the St. John river took second place only to the St. Lawrence as a trade route, it was considered that he who possessed its harbor controlled the way to the Baie Chaleur district and to Quebec.