

contemporary with La Tour, had settled at Miramichi and maintained a large establishment; his servants being engaged in fishing and the fur trade. These were all the settlements that had been formed in New Brunswick up to the year 1670, when Acadia again became a French possession.

In 1671 the Chevalier de Grand-Fontaine, who was then Governor of Acadia, sent his ensign to St. John to re-establish the old fort. In 1672 de Marson, who took the title of Soulanges, was in command at Fort Jemseg. Here in 1674 he was captured by a detachment from a Dutch armed ship and the fort ruined. The French establishments in Acadia had at this time fallen into a very neglected state. In 1676 Michael Le Neuf Sieur de La Valliere arrived in Acadia from Quebec, obtained a large grant of land at Chignecto, now in the parish of Sackville, and established a fishing station at St. John. In July, 1678, he was appointed Governor of Acadia, but was displaced in 1684 and M. Perrot appointed. After this La Valliere devoted himself to his farm at Chignecto, and about this time three sons of Councillor D'Amours, of Quebec, received grants of land in this Province. In 1686 a census of Acadia was taken by M. de Meulles, intendant of New France, who visited the country in that year. The number of inhabitants in New Brunswick was at that period very small. On the St. John the only inhabitants were Martin d'Aprendistigue and his wife, a daughter of Charles La Tour, and Louis, Mathieu and Rene D'Amours, the first two being married. At Chignecto La Valliere lived with his eight children and five servants, and near him were a number of other private settlers, forming a population of 127 souls. At Miramichi Richard Denis resided with four or five servants and at Nepisiquit was Enaud and three or four servants.

In 1690 Port Royal was captured by a squadron from New England under command of Sir William Phips, and Menneval, the Governor, was carried off. This led to the re-establishment of the headquarters of the Government of Acadia on the Saint John River. Villebon, who was appointed Governor, occupied the old fort at Jemseg from 1690 until 1692, when he removed to Fort Nashwaak, at the Junction of that river with the St. John. In 1696 Fort Nashwaak was besieged by a New England force of 500 men under Colonel Church, but the attack failed. In the autumn of 1697 Fort Nashwaak was abandoned and Charnisay's old fort at Portland Point, which had been rebuilt, was again occupied. In July, 1700, Villebon died and two years later the fort at St. John was evacuated and the garrison removed to Port Royal. The territory of New Brunswick, with the exception of Chignecto, was left almost destitute of inhabitants.

For the half century which followed the abandonment of the fort at St. John, New Brunswick has, properly speaking, no history. None of its settlements, with the exception of Chignecto, was in a flourishing condition. The last census taken of the River St. John, prior to the abandonment of the fort, shows that only nine families, numbering 41 persons, were settled upon it. Of these families one was at Jemseg and eight were at Freneuse, a name given to the territory at the Mouth of the Gromocto River. How slow was the growth of settlement on the St. John will be seen by a comparison of these figures with a census taken in 1733, when the total number of inhabitants was 105, divided into 20 families. Of these 82 persons lived "below Ecoupay," probably on the present site of Fredericton; 12 were at the mouth of the river, and 11 were at Freneuse. A year or two later, however, a number of persons from other parts of Acadia removed to the mouth of the river, so that in 1736 there were settled at St. John 77 persons, divided into fifteen families, besides Jean Pierre Danilo, the Missionary priest. In the meantime Chignecto grew and flourished. A census taken in 1731 shows that 150 families, numbering some 750 souls, were settled there.