

pointed in the result of his meditated attack on the Fort of St. John's, he had recourse to various petty means of injury and annoyance. He had interrupted friendly vessels, trading with La Tour, and detained the crews, subjecting them to much loss and embarrassment, and in various ways endeavoured to injure his rival's interest and reputation.

Father Gilbert returned to the fort, after an absence of three weeks, and with these reports, he brought other intelligence which moved still more deeply the indignation of La Tour. M. d'Aulney had entered into a negotiation with the magistrates of Boston, by which he sought to engage them in his interest, to the exclusion and evident disadvantage of La Tour, with whose colony they had hitherto maintained a friendly intercourse. He had sent commissioners, duly authorised to conclude a treaty of peace and commerce with them, and also a letter, signed by the Vice-Admiral of France, which confirmed his right to the government.—To the same seal was annexed a copy, or pretended copy of certain proceedings, which proscribed La Tour as a rebel and a traitor. Governor Winsthrop, in behalf of the Massachusetts colony, in vain endeavoured to heal the differences which subsisted between the French commanders, in Acadia; M. d'Aulney refused to accede to any conciliatory measures, and his authority now seemed so well established, that they consented to sign the articles in question. They, however, refused to enter into any combination against La Tour, or to debar their people from the usual friendly intercourse with him.

La Tour listened to these details in moody silence, but the dark frown that gathered on his brow, portended a coming storm. He learned from Father Gilbert that the fort at Penobscot was at that time weakly defended, and he instantly resolved to fit out all the force he could command and sail with the greatest expedition to attack the enemy in his strong-hold. Stanhope readily offered his assistance, as a private volunteer, hoping that his own men, over whom he exercised a merely nominal command, would be induced to follow his example. But his protracted stay at St. John's had already occasioned much discontent and repining. Most of his people had become weary of their inactive life, and were impatient to return to the friends and occupations they had left; while the laxity of the French soldiers,—the open celebration of Popish ceremonies within the fort,—the very appearance of a priest, excited indignation, in the more rigid and reflecting.

The zeal, not always according to prudence, of

Mad. La Tour's chaplain, was not calculated to allay their irritated feelings. One of the most austere of the Scotch Covenanters, Mr. Broadhead, had been induced by religious zeal to follow the fortunes of his patron, Sir William Alexander, when, in 1621, he received a grant of Acadia, or Nova-Scotia, and established the first permanent settlement in that country. It was afterwards alternately claimed and neglected, both by French and English, till at length Sir William relinquished his grant to M. La Tour, whose title was confirmed by a patent from the King of England. La Tour's conduct in command, was guided solely by motives of interest and ambition; and it seemed a matter of indifference to him, to what master he owed his allegiance. By the well known treaty of St. Germain's, Acadia was ceded to the crown of France, on which alone it depended, till finally conquered by the English, when, at a much later period, its improvement and importance rendered it worthy of national contest.

Mr. Broadhead, glad to escape the storms of his native country at that unhappy period, remained through all these changes of government and religion, and at last found an unmolested station, in the household of Madame La Tour. His spirit was indeed often vexed by the emblems of Romanism around him, and his zeal for proselytism was unbounded. His own imprudence created a strong feeling of personal animosity among the Catholic soldiers, which would not always have been confined to words, if Madame La Tour had not often interfered, and restricted him to the circle of his own immediate duty. Among the volunteers of the New England vessel, which so long anchored idly before St. John's, Mr. Broadhead found many who listened with sympathy to his grievances. Without intending to injure the interests of La Tour, his complaints naturally weakened the confidence of his allies, many of whom began seriously to repent their engagement in a cause which they had espoused in a moment of enthusiasm, and without due consideration.

Arthur Stanhope, engrossed by his own happy feelings, took no note of their growing discontent, and it was therefore with equal surprise and displeasure that he received from a large majority, a decided refusal to enter into any new arrangements with La Tour. It was the second time that Stanhope had been placed in this awkward position, at an important moment, by the obstinacy of his people. But it must be borne in mind, that the services of La Tour's New England allies were entirely voluntary, that the religious scruples of their sect at that day were severe, and their time