

The Heroine of Acadia

was little powder left in the fort and that much decayed, and if he made a vigorous attack he might easily capture it. This was in February, 1645. Encouraged by this intelligence Charnisay entered the harbor of St. John and ranged his vessel in front of Fort LaTour. He expected to see its flag hauled down immediately, but he had miscalculated the spirit of the lady who held the command. She had inspired her men with a courage equal to her own, and Charnisay's attack was met by a still more vigorous defence. The cannon of the fort were handled so well that in a short time Charnisay's vessel was reduced to a sinking condition, and to keep her from going down beneath him he had to run her ashore on Sand Point, out of the range of the guns of the fort. In this affair the besiegers had twenty men killed and thirteen wounded. Lady LaTour had well vindicated her right to be the leader of brave men.

Charnisay repaired his shattered ship and sent to Port Royal for reinforcements. As the traitorous friars were able to tell him of the weak points in the defences of the fort, he resolved to attack it again from the land side. Fort Latour lies upon a long point of land, which is connected with the mainland on the west side of the harbor by a narrow neck. Charnisay's forces were landed and took up a position which commanded this neck, so that those in the fort were cut off on