

# THE STORY OF ST. JOHN

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instead of being at Paris it is recorded that he was that year in Quebec, where he officiated as sponsor for the son of Abraham Martin—Charles Amador Martin. The latter gave his name to the Plaza of Abraham. His eldest son, Eustache, born in 1621, was the first white child born in Quebec.

## Charnisay's Undermines La Tour.

THE next year, Charnisay secured orders of the King directing La Tour to return immediately to France to answer the charges against him, and also directing Charnisay, if La Tour disobeyed to seize his person and make an inventory of his vessels, and to employ all the force at his command to accomplish this. Thus La Tour was to be made a prisoner and deprived of his property and effects, summarily and without trial. A further order was made revoking his commission of governor, which he had held for ten years. A vessel the "St. Francis" was sent to Acadia and arrived in August that year with the despatches and with orders to take La Tour back to France.

LA TOUR refused to obey the orders of the King. He alleged they had been obtained by misrepresentation and fraud. "St. Francis" returned to France without him but with documents alleging his contumacy. La Tour could snap his fingers at Charnisay for the latter had no force at his command to enforce the King's order. Charnisay then sailed for France to secure military assistance, and La Tour sent a messenger—a Huguenot, named Rochette, to Boston to enlist help to protect himself in the approaching struggle. Rochette proposed to Richard Bellingham, the Governor of Massachusetts Bay, a treaty with three provisions—first free trade, second assistance against Charnisay, third trade with England. While Rochette was well received, he accomplished nothing. The Governor claimed he was not properly accredited by La Tour. The next year La Tour made a second application, sending his lieutenant in a shallop with fourteen men. John Winthrop, then Governor, received them well and entertained them pleasantly; but gave no official aid. La Tour's agent appealed to a number of merchants on the score of opening up trade. This was more to the purpose and they sent a small cargo of merchandise to St. John. Charnisay in France had purchased De Razilly's property for fourteen thousand livres, which he mortgaged to Emmanuel La Borne in 1649, for two hundred and sixty thousand livres—money raised and expended to ruin La Tour.

THIS supplied with the money, Charnisay was able to enlist five hundred men, which he armed and embarked in five vessels, to wrest the fort of St. John from La Tour. With this flotilla he sailed and a few weeks after cast anchor in St. John harbor. He attempted to carry the fort by assault, but failing in that, determined by blockading the fort to starve the garrison into submission. He, however, in stirring up La Tour had created a subtle and active foe, who had already prepared an answer, for Charnisay had scarcely commenced to speculate on the number of days before the fort would be his, when suddenly to his dismay five armed vessels appeared off the harbor.

## La Tour Seeks Aid in Boston.

HIS vessels were lying beside Partridge Island, but he did not wish to try conclusions; he hastily weighed anchor and steered for Digby Gut, with La Tour's vessels in close pursuit. Charnisay's vessels arrived at Port Royal and were beached there. He disembarked his men and proceeded to

Boston saw the unusual sight of an armed French vessel sail rapidly up the harbor, anchor at Governor's Island and send a boat load of men ashore. It turned out to be the "Clement" with La Tour. His mission was to secure further aid. Governor Winthrop called the notabilities of the town together, to consider what aid could be given La Tour. The Puritan element protested against the Governor hav-

ing any commerce with the "idolatrious," quoting from Old Testament writers, from the example of Jehoshaphat, Josiah and Amaziah that it was wrong to associate with the ungodly. However, the "unco guid" can generally find a way to beat the Devil and fill their own pockets in one operation and it was decided, that while it would be wrong for the Governor to enter in any way into the enterprise, it would be lawful and right for private individuals, as a commercial speculation, to engage in it. Accordingly La Tour hired from Edward Gibbons and Thomas Hawkins four vessels and secured fifty-two men and thirty-eight pieces of ordnance. He also enlisted ninety-two soldiers, whom he armed and embarked, and on the 14th July La Tour's flotilla sailed from Boston, carrying with him the good wishes of the townspeople—La Tour having with his admirable

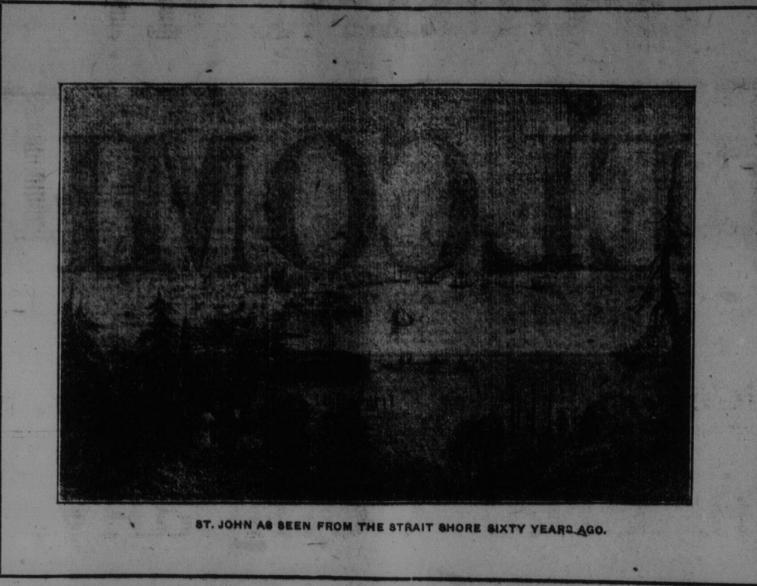
## La Tour Attacks Charnisay at Port Royal.

HAWKINS went with the expedition in command of the vessels, but not of the men, and La Tour with some thirty men landed, attacked the mill at Port Royal, driving the garrison out with loss. Hawkins refused to attack Charnisay's vessel on account of insubstantial complications, and hastened the Bay to St. John, falling in with a vessel of Charnisay's laden with four hundred muskets and the same number of beaver. Hawkins' Puritan principles which would not permit him to attack Charnisay's vessel, permitted him to rob him of his booty. The vessels then returned to Boston, having been absent thirty-seven days in all. Charnisay with his vessels intact, was not daunted by this contretemps. He abandoned what was known as the "Scotch fort," opposite Goat Island, on the Cranville side, and commenced the construction of the present fort at the mouth of L'Equille (Annapolis) river. He then set sail for France where he learned Lady La Tour had preceded him. He procured an order for her arrest as a traitor to the King. She learning of it, escaped and fled to England where she chartered a vessel and purchased provisions and munitions of war for Fort La Tour, and set sail for Acadia. La Tour, in July 1644, was again on the move to seek aid from his Boston friends. The Governor and Magistrates, being called together, gave no aid, but decided to send a letter of remonstrance to Charnisay. He left Boston on 9th of September accompanied by a vessel with provisions, and was fortunate to escape Charnisay who was awaiting off Penobscot waiting to pounce on him. Just after La Tour sailed, a London vessel entered Boston harbor, with two important personages on board, Roger Williams, the founder of the Providence plantation and Lady La Tour. The vessel had cleared for Fort La Tour, but on the Bay of Fundy she was intercepted by one of Charnisay's vessels. By a ruse she escaped the vigilance of Charnisay—Madame La Tour and her people being hid in her hold. This deviation to Boston was contrary to the charter party and Madame La Tour sued the owners for damages and recovered two thousand pounds. She seized the cargo and chartering three vessels, she with her belongings sailed and arrived safely at Fort La Tour.

## Madame La Tour Heroically Repels Charnisay's Attacks.

LA TOUR went to Boston in the early winter of 1644 for supplies. During his absence Madame La Tour discovered that two friars in her garrison were agents of Charnisay and plotting against her. Instead of hanging them, she turned them loose and walked them out of the fort. They gained one of Charnisay's vessels and gave him information as to the absence of La Tour and the condition of the fort, which contained but fifty men and little powder. Charnisay heard this with savage glee and in February he sailed for St. John and ranged his vessels opposite the fort, and commenced the attack. From one of the bastions Madame La Tour directed

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ST. JOHN AS SEEN FROM THE STRAIT SHORE SIXTY YEARS AGO.

fortify his mill.

THE sudden improvisation of La Tour's fleet and little army to meet an emergency, is an evidence of the amazing address and resourcefulness of the man, and the means he adopted to secure them deserves a word. Keeping track of Charnisay's movements in France, he sent Rochette to Rochelle for aid. The sympathies of the merchants there were readily enlisted to La Tour's danger and they fitted out a large armed vessel with warlike stores and embarked November, 1641 on her, one hundred and forty fighting men, well armed. This vessel, the "Clement" sailed, but could not enter St. John harbor owing to the blockade. La Tour and his wife ran the blockade at night on a canoe and joining the "Clement" set sail for Boston. One day in June 1643, the people along the water front at

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