

At the death of de Razilli, his brothers conceded their rights. In his principality in Acadia to a nobleman named Menou d'Aulnay, Count de Charnissay, who no sooner came to the New World than he insisted on it that La Tour should restore the original grant of Razilli to him.

The father of La Tour, named Charles St. Etienne, Count de La Tour, was said to be descended from the leader of the first crusade, Godfrey de Bouillon, who was made King of Jerusalem—a title which passed to the family of de Lusignan, yet represented in Canada. La Tour, the father, had espoused the cause of the Huguenots and had been exiled from France. During a stay in Britain, he pleased the King of Scotland, James VI, who created him baronet of Nova Scotia as well as bestowed a like title on his son. He married a relative of William Alexander, Earl of Stirling, who was made governor of Nova Scotia, chief of the baronets of Nova Scotia and first baron of Canada. It was on the land obtained from King James of Scotland that the La Tours were established at the time of the restoration of Acadia from the crown of Scotland to the crown of France, and it was by the high-minded courtesy and regard for international usage that they were allowed to retain it by de Razilli, although the same land had been in his own concession from the King of France.

But de Charnissay was not satisfied with the agreement which had existed between de Razilli and La Tour, and as La Tour refused to part with his possessions, both prepared their armaments and retainers for war.

Most of the long period of hostility between these independent lords of domain passed in small skirmishes and in overtures to the Puritan settlement at Boston to purchase aid in men and arms, which the Puritans, when safe for them to do so, were but too glad to give for the sake of profit and with a desire to intermeddle in the affairs of their neighbors. A little later these Puritans carried their pretensions so far as to claim some of the land east of the Penobscot, but La Tour captured their party and returned these crestfallen ancestors of the Yankees back to their own town of Boston.

But a tragedy occurred in this warfare that has left a more vivid remembrance in history. It seems that when La Tour was absent from his capital at St. Jean on one occasion, de Charnissay having a numerous fleet and many soldiers

at hand, laid siege to it, and demanded its surrender of Madame de La Tour, who was regente in the absence of her husband. But Madame de La Tour was not terrified; she summoned the garrison and inspired them with confidence in her and in their strong position. In vain the ships of de Charnissay poured shot at the high battlements; the guns of the fort were depressed and their replies plunged through the decks of the vessels, crippling some.

Then de Charnissay landed men lower down on the shore and attempted to take the place by assault, but was beaten off with loss.

At length, however, he succeeded in bribing one of the guards, who was a Swiss, and when he was on duty he allowed de Charnissay's men to approach his side of the ramparts until they were perceived by others, who gave the alarm. But it was too late, and a desperate struggle ensued in which neither side was successful.

At this, de Charnissay offered to give the garrison their lives, liberty and goods and to respect the property of La Tour provided that the fort be surrendered to him.

Madame La Tour, wearied and nerve-shaken and desirous of avoiding any further bloodshed, agreed to these terms. But no sooner was de Charnissay master of the place than he retracted his word, especially when he saw how few were the garrison and how great havoc they had wrought among his own ships and men. He hung every one, but he who acted as executioner for the rest—and it must have been the treacherous Swiss. Moreover, he compelled Madame La Tour to be present herself with a rope around her neck.

Although her life was spared, Madame La Tour did not long survive this fearful experience, and de Charnissay himself died soon after her. La Tour, however, after a period of mourning for the heroic lady who had borne his name, married the widow of de Charnissay and it seemed that the feud was ended.

But this seeming did not last long. In his struggle against La Tour, de Charnissay had transferred the title of his principality to Emmanuel Le Borgne, a rich and powerful merchant in France, who, when he heard of de Charnissay's death, fitted out an armed expedition to come over and take possession of his lordship. He had taken the precaution beforehand, to obtain judgment in his favor by presenting the legal aspect of his claim to the High Court or Parliament, at Paris.