

Winthrop is more concise, but as we would expect from a New Englander, he gives us exact figures: "We understood for certain afterwards that Monsieur La Tour's fort was taken by assault and scalado, that Monsieur d'Aumay lost in the attempt twelve men and had many wounded, and that he had put to death all the men (both French and English) and had taken the lady, who died within three weeks after." The year of the event was 1645.

Such is the brave story. Should not Canadians ever wish to point to the spot where it was enacted? But where was Fort La Tour? At the present day no man can point with certainty to its site. It is in the effort to help towards the settlement of this important question that the present argument is submitted to this society.

There are three several localities which have been claimed as the site of the fort, and to these a fourth must now be added.

- I. At the mouth of the Jemseg, 35 miles up the river from St. John.
- II. On St. John Harbour, west side of the entrance, where Fort Dufferin now stands.
- III. On St. John Harbour, west side, at Carleton Point, opposite Navy Island, where Fort Frederick afterwards stood; now known locally as "Old Fort."
- IV. On St. John Harbour, east side, and probably on the present Portland Point.

We shall very briefly examine the evidence for and against each locality.

I.—THE JEMSEG SITE.

At least two writers whose views are entitled to consideration have placed Fort La Tour at Jemseg, where, as is well known, the French had a fort about 1670. The late Moses H. Perley, in a lecture delivered in St. John in 1841, of which the MS. is now in possession of his son, Mr. Henry F. Perley, of Ottawa, gives this locality, but no substantial reasons therefor. Apparently Mr. Perley had not access to either Denys' or Winthrop's works. M. E. Rameau de Saint-Père, in both editions of his "*Une Colonie Féodale*,"² likewise gives us this view and with no reasons, merely the bare statement that it was at Jemseg. It will take but few words to dismiss this supposition. The evidence for it we do not know; against it are the facts.

(1) All known maps, marking the fort, place it at the mouth of the river.

(2) Denys' full description, quoted below, places it at the mouth.

(3.) The mortgage of the fort, signed by La Tour himself, and given to Major Gibbons, of Boston, in security for large loans made to La Tour, is preserved in the Suffolk County Records in Boston and reads as follows: "his fort called fort La Toure and plantacon w^{thin} y^e northerne part of america wherein y^e s^d monns^r together with his family hath of late made his Residence, scituate & being at or neere the mouth of a certajne River called by y^e name of [St.] Johns River."

¹ History of New England, II, p. 238.

² Paris, 1877, and Paris and Montreal, 1889.

³ Suffolk County Records, Vol. 1, fol. 9, 10; Hazard, State Papers, Vol. 1, p. 541. Jack, History of St. John, p. 156.