

"I spoke to you of freedom," replied M. D'Aulney, "but since you persist in believing my intentions evil, it would be useless to name the terms on which I offer it."

"You can offer no terms," said La Tour gloomily, "which it would comport with the honor of a true knight, and a soldier, to accept."

"Are you ignorant, M. De La Tour," asked D'Aulney with a sneer, "that your name is proscribed,—that an order is issued for your arrest, and that a traitor's doom awaits you, in your native land?"

"It is a calumny, vile as your own base heart," exclaimed La Tour, "and so help me heaven, as I shall one day prove its falsehood."

"You have been denounced at a more impartial tribunal than mine," said M. D'Aulney, deliberately unrolling a parchment which he held in his hand, and pointing to the seal of France. "These characters," he added, "are traced by high authority, and need you any further proof that your honors are wrested from you, and your name consigned to infamy?"

"Your malice has invented this, and abused my sovereign's ear, with tales to my dishonor," said La Tour, glancing his eye indignantly over the contents of the scroll; "but even this shall not avail you, and, cunningly as you have woven your treacherous web around me, I shall yet escape the snare, and triumph over all your machinations!"

"It is vain to boast of deeds, which you will never be at liberty to perform;" replied M. D'Aulney. "Your escape from this prison is impossible, and, of course, your fate is at my disposal. But, grossly as you have injured me, M. De La Tour," he added, "I am yet willing to reconcile past differences, not from any hope of personal advantage, but for the welfare of the colony, which has so long been rent by our differences, and to preserve the honor of the royal government."

"That mark of disinterestedness and patriotism," said La Tour scornfully, "is well assumed; but beahrew me! if it does not hide some dark and selfish purpose. "Reconcile!" he added in a tone of bitterness,—"that word can never pass current with us; my hatred to you is so strong, so deeply rooted, that nothing could ever compel me to serve you, even if by so doing I might advance my own fortunes to the height of princely grandeur."

"Your choice is too limited to admit of dainty scruples," said M. D'Aulney tauntingly; "but you may be obliged to grant from necessity, what you would refuse as an act of policy. You must

be convinced, from a glance at this patent, which confers the late divided government on me alone, that your title and authority in Acadia are now abolished; and you have every reason to apprehend the severity of the law, for certain malpractices preferred against you, if you are returned a prisoner to France. I offer you, immediate liberty, with sufficient privileges to render you independent, on condition that you make a legal transfer of your late government to me, and thus amicably reunite the colony which was so unhappily divided at the death of M. De Razilly. Put your signature to this deed, and you are the next moment free."

"Now, by the holy rood!" exclaimed La Tour, bursting into a laugh of scorn, "but that I think you are jesting with me, I would trample you beneath my feet, as I do this;" and snatching the parchment from his hand, he tore it in pieces, and stamped violently on the scattered fragments.

"You reject my proposal then?" asked D'Aulney, pale with angry emotions.

"Dare you again ask me to accept it?" returned La Tour. "Think you I would sanction the slanders you have fabricated, by such a surrender of my rights? that I would thus bring reproach on my own name, and bequeath poverty and disgrace to my children?"

"It is well," replied D'Aulney sullenly, "and the consequences of your folly must fall on your own head; but when too late, you may repent the perverseness which is driving you to destruction."

"Were the worst fate which your malevolence could devise, at this moment before me," said La Tour, "my resolution would remain unalterable. I am not so poor in spirit as to shrink before the blast of adversity; nor am I yet destitute of followers who will fight for my rescue, or bravely avenge my fall."

"We shall soon find other employment for them," D'Aulney coolly replied. "This unfortunate expedition of yours has scattered your vaunted force, and left your fort exposed to assaults, which it is too defenceless to resist."

"Make the experiment," said La Tour proudly, "and again you may return, vanquished by a woman's prowess. Try the valor of men who, though few in number, burn to redress their master's wrongs; and, if you dare, once more prove the dauntless courage of a wife, anxious for her husband's safety, and tenacious of her husband's honor."

"You are fortunate," said D'Aulney scornfully, "to possess so brave a representative, and I trust it has long since reconciled you to the chance which thwarted your alliance with one less valiant