

cross the Bay and reach the coast of Nova Scotia, where they met with some trading vessels belonging to St. Malo. Father Biard and the others were taken to Virginia by Argall.

But how prospered the fortunes of Poutrincourt whilst the fate of Port Royal was hanging in the scale? As we have previously stated, he had been put into prison by his creditors, and had there lain ill for some months. When he was at last liberated, and appeared once more among his friends, he succeeded in obtaining some assistance and fitting out a small vessel, with a limited supply of stores for his colony. His prospects appeared brightening, and he set sail in the spring of 1614 for his domain in Acadia, where was now all his worldly wealth—where he had expended so large an amount of money. When his fortunes looked the darkest,—when his enemies were in the ascendant,—he was buoyed up by the hope that he might yet overcome his difficulties, and pass the remainder of his life in his Seigneurie, on the banks of the beautiful Equille, amid the fir forests of Acadia. But none of his name or lineage were destined to live in that Acadian land.

Poutrincourt entered the Basin of Annapolis for the last time, to find his son and followers wanderers in the woods, and only piles of ashes marking the site of the buildings on which he and his friends had expended so much time and money. The fate of Port Royal may be very briefly told. The Governor of Virginia, Sir Thomas Dale, was exceedingly irate when he heard of the encroachments of France on what he considered to be British territory by right of prior discovery, and immediately sent Argall, after his return from St. Sauveur, on an expedition to the northward. Argall first touched at St. Sauveur, and completed the work of destruction, and next stopped at St. Croix, where he also destroyed the half-rotten deserted buildings. He finally reached Port Royal, and lost no time in burning the fort and all its buildings, though some authorities declare he spared the mill and barns on the river. It is very

questionable, however, if he left a single building standing, for we are told to such an extent did he show his enmity, that he even erased the fleur-de-lis and initials of De Monts and others from the massive stone in which they had been carved. Biencourt and nearly all the inmates of the fort were sent some distance in the country, and returned to see the English in complete possession. A parley was held between Biencourt and Argall; but it resulted in no satisfactory issue. The French were much incensed at the appearance among the English of Father Biard, who, according to a declaration subsequently made before the Admiralty of Guienne, wished to persuade his compatriots to desert Biencourt, and enlist in the service of Argall. One of the Frenchmen is represented to have made the very conclusive reply to this attempt to pander with his loyalty: "Begone, or I will split your head with the hatchet." The same Jesuit has also been charged with having been instrumental in persuading the British to destroy the fort at Port Royal. No doubt Biard was little disposed to be friendly to Biencourt, with whom he had so many disputes during his residence in Acadia. The fact is, Biard—indeed he acknowledges it himself in the account he left behind—was mistrusted by both French and English, who were more ready to think evil than good of him. *

The destruction of Port Royal by Argall ends the first era in the history of Acadia as a French colony. Poutrincourt bowed to the relentless fate that drove him from the shores he loved so well, and returned to France, where he took employment in the service of the King. He addressed a statement of his wrongs to the Admiralty of Guienne, but the time was unfavorable for the consideration of his case. The country was then greatly agitated on account of the aversion of the people in general to the Spanish marriages which had been arranged

* Biard subsequently reached England, and was allowed to return home. All the rest of the prisoners taken at St. Sauveur also reached France.