

that outside the fort. It would have been in my opinion better placed behind the island where vessels anchor, and where it would have been higher, and, in consequence, not commanded by other neighbouring places, and would have had good water, as in that which was built by the said late *Sieur de la Tour*,¹ which was destroyed by *d'Aunay* after he had wrongfully taken possession of it,—as he had no right whatever to do, and which he would have found great difficulty in accomplishing had he not been advised of the absence of *Sieur de la Tour*, who had taken with him a part of his garrison, leaving only his wife and the remainder of his people to keep the fort. After having sustained for three days and three nights all the assaults of *d'Aunay*, and having obliged him to withdraw beyond reach of her cannon, she was finally obliged to surrender on the fourth day, which was Easter day, having been betrayed by a Swiss who was on guard whilst she, hoping for some respite, was making her followers rest. The Swiss, bribed by *d'Aunay's* men, allowed them to mount to the assault, which was resisted for some time by the lady commander at the head of her garrison. She only surrendered at the last extremity, and under condition that *d'Aunay* should spare all, which, indeed, he did not do, for after making himself master of the place, he threw them all into prison along with their lady commander. Then by advice of his council, he hung them, with the exception of a single one, whose life was spared on the condition that he would do the hanging; and the lady commander had to be present at the scaffold with a rope around her neck as though she was the vilest criminal.² This is the title which *Le Borgne* has made use of to claim as creditor of the said *Sieur d'Aunay* the proprietorship of the River St. John.

The island of which I have spoken being passed,³ below which vessels anchor in order to be under shelter, it is only a good cannon shot to the Falls, where it is impossible to pass except for boats and small vessels at high tide only.⁴ But before entering farther into the river there is one thing surprising enough; in

¹The site of Fort La Tour has been matter of controversy. I think it stood on the knoll at Portland Point. The reasons for this are given in an article in the *New Brunswick Magazine* for July, 1898. Mr. James Hannay believes it stood at "Old Fort" Carleton, and gives his reasons in the same magazine for August.

²This is the only early account of the capture of Fort La Tour which has come down to us, and along with one or two references to the event by early writers is the basis for the descriptions given by the various historians who have recounted it. Some authentic documents recently discovered in England state that *Madame de la Tour* was believed in Acadia to have been poisoned by *D'Aunay*. She died three weeks after the capture of the fort.

³Navy Island.

⁴Not strictly correct. Vessels cannot pass at high water, but at a time before and after it, when the river and harbor are at the same level. At high water there is a fall inward. This remarkable fall, inward at high water, outward at low water, a tidal phenomenon, has attracted attention from the earliest times.