

the injuries he had suffered. As a result of his efforts he received a confirmation of his grant and a commission from the king appointing him King's governor and lieutenant general "in all the country, territory, coasts and confines of the Great Bay of St. Lawrence, beginning from Cape Canso unto Cape Rosiers, the Island of Newfoundland, of Cape Breton, St. John, and other Islands adjacent." In the spring of 1654, Denys returned to St. Peters where he found his fort in charge of an officer whom Le Borgne had placed there. This person surrendered the fort to Denys on the grant of the company and the King's commission being produced. This ought to have ended the troubles of Denys, but it would seem that ill luck pursued him, for his fort at St. Peters caught fire and everything in it capable of being burnt was destroyed. His losses were so heavy that he was no longer able to maintain himself at St. Peters, but settled at the Nepisiguit near the site of the modern town of Bathurst. We may assume that the fact that the English had possession of most of Acadia, from 1654 to 1667, had something to do with his determination to remove from St. Peters. There he would have been exposed to constant attacks, but at Nepisiguit he was so far from the English colonies that he might hope to escape molestation. This was the case, and there he lived for many years in peace and comfort.

In his work, Denys thus describes his Nepisiguit property: "My plantation of Nepisiguit is on the shore of this basin at the distance of one league at the right of the entrance. At low tide a canoe could not approach it. I had to retire there after the burning of my fort at St. Pierre in the Island of Cape Breton. My house is flanked by four small bastions with a palisade, the pickets of which are eighteen feet high, with some pieces of ordnances in battery. The land is not of the best as there are rocks in some places. I have a large garden." The site of this fort and establishment can still be recognized. It is on the west side of Bathurst harbor, not very far from Bathurst village. Denys also founded a settlement on the Miramichi and established a fishery there. He returned to France in 1670 and left his son Richard in charge of the property. He was then seventy-two years old, and the next two years of his life seemed to have been devoted to the writing of his book, which was published in 1672. He did not go back to Acadia, but remained in France, dying there in 1688, at the great age of ninety years.