

should be spared and they should be free to go wherever they pleased. But barely had he taken possession of the fort, when, enraged at finding how small a garrison had so long and so successfully kept him at bay, his cruelty and want of faith were shown. Every man of the devoted band was put to death, except one whose life was spared on condition that he should act as the hangman of his comrades. Lady La Tour was forced to witness the terrible sight with a rope around her neck. Thus was one page of the early history of Acadia made bright by the brave deeds of a heroic; the next was fouled by the cowardly act of a base and pitiless foe. The unfortunate lady, broken hearted, died three weeks after and was buried near the scene of her glory and her misfortune. Her only child, a little girl, was sent to France, where, it is supposed, she died soon after. Her husband was ruined and became for a time an outcast. His rival did not long enjoy the fruits of his victory. He was drowned a few years after (1650) in the river near Port Royal. But the sequel to this tragic story robs it of some of its romance. La Tour was put in possession of Acadia by the king of France and made its governor; and to settle the claims of D'Aulnay's widow he married her. The capture of Acadia by an English fleet in 1654 did not disturb him. He readily became an English subject, and was permitted to retain his possessions. He shortly after sold his rights; but lived in the country until his death, in 1666. In the following year Acadia was restored to France. At that time it contained not more than four hundred and fifty settlers, four-fifths of whom were at Port Royal.

The Jesuit Fathers.—Equally slow was the progress made on the banks of the St. Lawrence. The colony of Canada, or New France, numbered scarcely 2,000 people (1663). The ravages of the Indians and the greed of the fur traders kept back settlement. The strong hand of Champlain had preserved some appearance of order, but after his death there seemed to be no guiding power. The five governors who succeeded him were not able to stem the tide setting against the young colony. The Jesuit priests, by their brave and unselfish efforts to convert the savages, saved the country in the days of its greatest peril. By night and by day, amid the frost and snows of winter or the heat of summer, they went boldly among the Algonquins, the Hurons, and even the savage