

appear at other convenient points. "The simple Acadian peasants" grew rich and multiplied. They had little care for what went on in the outside world. They were happy; and it mattered little to them whether the king of France or the king of England ruled over them.

Story of Lady La Tour.—At the mouth of the River St. John, there was a small fort and trading post. On the death of De Razilly, the governor of Acadia, in 1635, the Chevalier D'Aulnay (shev'-a-leer' dole'-nay'), succeeded him and had his headquarters at Port Royal. On the opposite side of the Bay of Fundy, Charles de la Tour held the fort of St. John. These men had been lieutenants of De Razilly. They had long been rivals and bitter foes, and now each was bent on destroying the other, although there was land and wealth enough for both. D'Aulnay had the favour of the French court; La Tour had some influence in England and in the English colony at Boston. But the greatest support of the latter came from his wife, whose brave defence of the fort at St. John, and whose unhappy fate, furnish one of the most interesting pages of early Acadian history.

After years of varying fortune for both, D'Aulnay succeeded in capturing La Tour's fort, on Easter Sunday, 1645. During all the previous winter, while La Tour was in Boston seeking in vain for help, his brave wife had defended the fort, inspiring her soldiers with her own heroic spirit. In February, she repulsed an attack of her enemy with such success that D'Aulnay was glad to escape with the loss of twenty-two killed and thirteen wounded. On the 13th of April following, D'Aulnay again attacked the fort, this time on the land side. For three days and three nights he made but slight headway against the little band within the fort, which, led by the brave woman, repelled every onset. But while the garrison were at prayers on Easter morning, a Swiss sentry, who had been bribed by D'Aulnay, treacherously allowed the enemy to approach; and before the besieged force thought that anything was wrong, D'Aulnay's soldiers were climbing over the walls of the fort. Even then the heroic Lady La Tour and her little company drove back the enemy with the loss of many killed and wounded. Anxious to save the lives of her soldiers, she too readily listened to terms of surrender proposed by D'Aulnay, which were that the lives of all