

not, it is true, a queen, like Semiramis,¹ Boadicea, or the Ranee of Jhansi;² neither was she a religious enthusiast, like Joan of Arc; nor was she a woman enamored of the din of battle, like the Maid of Saragossa.³ There is no reason to believe that war and combat had any attractions for her. She is rather to be compared to Maria-Theresa, the Empress-Queen, who became a leader of her people for the sake of her husband and her children. It was to preserve their interests and to save them from ruin that she assumed the part of a warrior and commander, and undertook the defense of her husband's stronghold, Fort La Tour.

Very little is known of Lady La Tour's family, or of the time of her coming to Acadia. Her name was Frances Marie Jacqueline, and it is stated, in a volume published by the Charnisay family, that she was a native of Mons, in France. She was a Huguenot. Her husband, Charles de St. Etienne, Seigneur de La Tour, had come to Acadia with his father in 1609 when a mere boy. The La Tours were people of property in France, but had been ruined by the civil wars which afflicted that country prior to the reign of Henry IV. The elder La Tour was a Huguenot, but his son, the husband of Lady La Tour, seems to have been in his latter years, nominally at least, a

¹ Wife of Ninus, founder of the Assyrian Kingdom, a woman of extraordinary beauty, passion and military prowess, who flourished nearly 2,200 years B. C., survived and eclipsed her husband, and after a reign of forty-two years abdicated in favor of her son, Ninyas. Much that is written of her is admitted to be mythical.

² The ranee, or chieftainess, of Jhansi, a district and walled town of North-western India, put herself at the head of a body of mutinous townsmen, June 4, 1857, and a massacre of Europeans took place at her instigation. During her brief career which followed, this mail-clad amazon led her forces with masculine valor and ferocity. She was slain in battle, June, 1858, a few days before the storming of Gwalior.

³ Agustina, the "Maid of Saragossa," greatly distinguished herself during the siege of that town by the French in 1808-9, and died at a very advanced age in 1857. She was called *la artillera* from having snatched the match from the hands of a dying artillery man, and discharged the piece at the invaders. She was made a lieutenant in the Spanish army and received numerous decorations. Byron extols her in *Childe Harold*, canto 1, stanzas 54, 55, 56. We quote the last:

" Her lover sinks — she sheds no ill-timed tear;
Her chief is slain — she fills his fatal post;
Her fellows flee — she checks their base career;
The foe retires — she heads the rallying host;
Who can appease like her a lover's ghost?
Who can avenge so well a leader's fall?
What maid retrieve when man's flushed hope is lost?
Who hang so fiercely on the flying Gaul,
Felled by a woman's hand, before a batter'd wall?"

[Byron says that when he was at Seville she walked daily on the Prado, decorated with medals and orders, by command of the Junta.]