

The Heroine of Acadia

In 1635 LaTour removed his establishment to St. John and took possession of the fort whose ruins still speak of its former strength. Prior to this change of residence he had received a grant from the Company of New France of the fort at St. John and the lands surrounding it, comprising about 600 square miles of territory. This grant carried with it not only the ownership of a splendid domain, but the control of the trade of the vast St. John river, a trade which carried with it the potentiality of great wealth. Denys, a contemporary of LaTour, states that in those days the trade of this territory amounted to 3000 moose skins a year, besides large quantities of beaver skins and other peltry. Unfortunately for LaTour the prosperity which had thus fallen upon him provoked the jealousy of rivals and ultimately proved his ruin.

Fort Latour was a structure of four bastions, one hundred and eighty feet square, and enclosed by palisades after the fashion of that age. It mounted twenty-four cannon and usually had a garrison of 200 men. From its position it commanded not only the entire harbor to the south of it, but the entrance to the river, so that no boat or vessel could pass up without the permission of LaTour. Here he lived in state like a great feudal baron, the master of a region as large as a European kingdom, surrounded by armed retainers, and with the spoils of the sea, river and forest at his com-