

The vessel was under command of his brother Simon, whose title was De Vitray, and who afterwards became a captain in the French navy. De Vitray, however excellent as a commander, was not a good trader. He suffered himself to be defrauded of the proceeds of his cargo by the Portuguese and a ruinous loss was the result. A still worse misfortune was soon to follow, for Isaac De Razilly died in 1636. There is no doubt that the death of this man was the greatest misfortune that ever happened to Acadia, for it threw everything into confusion and brought on a civil war. It was particularly unfortunate for Denys; for it not only deprived him of the capital necessary to carry on his business with success, but also of the protection of a friend who was the master of Acadia. The colonization of Acadia by Isaac De Razilly, was under the auspices of that powerful association which Richilieu had founded, The Company of New France. De Razilly's death naturally led to a division of the authority which he had exercised, and Denys became governor of the whole coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Isles adjacent from Cape Canso to Cape Rosiers. It was a vast domain which the company had entrusted to his care, but without any white inhabitants except a few fishermen and the Jesuit missionaries who were settled at Miscou. Denys continued the shore fishery, and in connection with it erected two small forts—one at Guysboro and the other at St. Peters, in the Island of Cape Breton. He had also a fishing station at Miscou. Being a man of enterprise and ability, he soon began to do a profitable business, and would no doubt have become wealthy but for the troubles in Acadia in which he became involved.

We know very little of Denys' career in Acadia for many years; for while Latour and Charnisay were making war upon each other, Denys, who was far from the scene of the strife, was allowed to pursue his business in peace. But the capture of Latour's fort at St. John, in 1645, made Charnisay master of the situation and left him without any one in Acadia fit to oppose him. He soon proceeded to turn his attention to Denys who was occupying territory which he considered should be his own. Charnisay had obtained a new commission from the King as Governor of Acadia, and under the authority of this, captured Denys' forts, seized his goods, broke up his fishing establishments and ruined his settlers. Denys and his family had to leave the country and take refuge in Quebec.