

MADAME LA TOUR

IN THE early years of the seventeenth century there grew up in the town of Mons, France, a young woman by the name of Françoise Marie Jacquelin. She was not "a noble lady," for her father was but a humble barber. Françoise Marie, however, was high-spirited to a degree, and doubtless dreamed of a future that would carry her far beyond the boundaries of her native place, though during her early years she saw no chance of having her dreams come true.

Then without warning fate stepped in and marked her out a course more adventurous than anything she could have planned. She was approached by a man named Desjardins, who introduced himself as the agent of Charles Saint-Etienne de la Tour, a gentleman adventurer in Acadia, Canada. The delicate subject which Desjardins had come to discuss had to do with Monsieur La Tour's urgent need of a wife. In fact, La Tour had instructed his agent to ship out to Acadia a healthy young French woman, whom he could install as mistress of his fur-
