

and in the edict she was forbidden to leave France under "pain of death." But edicts had no terrors for her. She escaped from France and went to England. There she chartered a ship named the *Gilliflower* to convey her back to her fort. This ship, contrary to agreement, performed a long trading cruise. Six weary months passed before she sighted the coast of Acadie. Then D'Aunay, aware of her flight from France, was on the watch, and one of his cruisers boarded the *Gilliflower* at Cape Sable. But D'Aunay did not find Madame La Tour. She had hidden below the hatches among the cargo. The vessel reported as being from London, bound for the Massachusetts Bay, and was allowed to proceed, bearing a letter from D'Aunay to Governor Endecott. Thus D'Aunay missed a precious prize to him, and it would have gone ill with Madame La Tour if she had been captured at this time.

The course of the ship was now laid for Boston, where it arrived in September, just after La Tour himself had been there. Madame La Tour brought a suit against the vessel for damages, being prevented from reaching her fort by the delay. She had a full hearing before a special court and jury at Boston and was awarded £2,000 damages for breach of charter. The merchants of Boston and Charlestown were keenly interested in the suit and it also seriously affected British and colonial relations.

Madame La Tour now chartered three ships to convey her to her fort and carry supplies. The consideration was £700 sterling, payable in moose skins, beaver skins, coal or other commodities. With this little squadron she bore up for Fort La Tour, where she safely arrived in December, 1644, after an absence of sixteen months, three months of which had been spent in Boston. The vessels she had chartered received a payment in beaver skins and "a small chain of gold to the value of thirty or forty pounds," with an obligation for balance due, signed, "De la Tour, Françoise Marie Jacquelin."

La Tour, after hearing his wife's report, took his departure at once for Massachusetts, to make an attempt, as a last resort, to have the English take over Fort La Tour. Besides, he felt safer there. Fort La Tour saw him no more for over seven years.

Madame La Tour was now in command. Her garrison was reduced to forty-five men and her

supplies were not large. But she declined all overtures from D'Aunay and held Fort La Tour like her compatriot, Charlotte de la Trémouille, at famous Lathom House, in England, just a year previous. D'Aunay, aware of the conditions, expected an easy conquest, and made an attack on the fort, but Madame La Tour's guns were so well aimed that his vessels were disabled and compelled to retire with heavy loss. He, however, renewed his blockade at the mouth of the river and captured a vessel from Boston bearing supplies and letters for Madame La Tour. La Tour could not have got back to the fort if he had wished. All through the inclement months of the winter D'Aunay watched at the entrance of the Saint John and Madame La Tour stood behind her guns in her fort, ever hoping that aid would come from France or from New England. D'Aunay had now gathered five hundred men, all that were capable of bearing arms in his different settlements, and had several armed ships. In the early spring he landed part of his forces, with cannon, and built earthworks. The Lenten season was over. When Easter Monday dawned, on April 17, 1645, he made a last demand upon Madame La Tour for surrender. Her reply was a volley of cannon shot and the hoisting of a red flag.

But the end was at hand. There was no succor for Madame La Tour. Drawing his ships close in to the fort D'Aunay opened a general cannonade from land and sea. All day long, on this Easter Monday, his guns pounded the walls of the fort, and those of Madame La Tour spoke in reply. By evening the walls were badly breached. Then Sieur D'Aunay gave the order for assault and his men swept forward. Through the breaches and up scaling-ladders they swarmed into the fort, where Madame La Tour, in person, directed a last desperate resistance. Her men were too few. They were swept back and Fort La Tour was carried by storm, with the dead and wounded lying thick about its ramparts. Madame La Tour's extraordinary persistence and bravery had not availed.

The next day witnessed a rueful scene at Fort La Tour, when most of the survivors of the garrison were executed, as an example to posterity of "so obstinate a rebellion," said D'Aunay's report. Madame La Tour herself was obliged to be present at the executions, with a rope around her own