

in Acadie and desiring to control its rich fur trade, now faced each other on opposite sides of the Baie Française, as the Bay of Fundy was called by the French. In clear weather they might see each other's coasts. D'Aunay was a relative of Cardinal Richelieu, while La Tour was of Huguenot extraction. There were collisions between them at once, which brought on a civil war in Acadie.

D'Aunay, about the time of his removal, took unto himself a wife. La Tour would do likewise. In 1640 his agent at Rochelle escorted out to Acadie a lady of no mean parts, the fair and strenuous Marie Jacquelin, who became Madame de la Tour, our heroine. She was still young, and proved, in the words of Francis Parkman, "a prodigy of energy and mettle." For five years she fought for La Tour's cause, before various tribunals, at last at the cannon's mouth, ere her bones were laid at rest by the tides of the Baie Française.

La Tour and his bride paid a visit to Port Royal and on their return encountered in mid-bay a vessel bearing Sieur D'Aunay. A fierce fight ensued, which ended by La Tour's captain being killed and himself and Madame La Tour carried prisoners to Port Royal. D'Aunay released his captives, however, as he had not sufficient authority at this time to hold them. The following year La Tour's commission was revoked and a commission given D'Aunay, who had now the full support and confidence of Richelieu. He was empowered to seize La Tour. The latter, deserted by the French government, but spurred on to continued resistance by Madame La Tour, sought help from the English in Massachusetts Bay, and sent deputations there.

D'Aunay established a blockade at the mouth of the Saint John River and matters assumed a serious aspect for the defenders of Fort La Tour. But, in the spring of 1643, a vessel named the Saint Clement, from Rochelle, arrived in the bay bearing reinforcements and supplies for the La Tours. This vessel was unable to force D'Aunay's blockade, but one dark night a shallop left the fort bearing La Tour and a small company, including Madame La Tour. Silently and undetected this little craft slipped past the blockading vessels. Its occupants boarded the Saint Clement and set sail for Boston, Massachusetts.

There was perturbation among the Puritans when this vessel, bearing a considerable company

of Frenchmen and one French woman, came sailing up to Boston town, then a very small place, on a fine day in June. It was soon discovered, however, that their mission was a friendly one. La Tour and his wife were guests of Major Edward Gibbons and ably presented their case before the Puritan authorities. They attended Puritan "meeting" on Sundays and were much impressed with the order preserved in the community, as well as with the wonders of the Puritan blue-laws. They gave a drill of their men on Boston Common, in company with the Massachusetts militia, on "training day," and ended by a fiery charge across the common. The Puritans were divided in their opinions as to the propriety of taking up the cause of the La Tours. The Hebrew Scriptures were fully consulted for precedents in such a matter. Solomon, as well as Jehoshaphat, Nehemiah, Jehoram and many other authorities were quoted. The La Tours were finally permitted to hire ships and men, and in Boston was heard, according to New England custom, the "beating up of drums"—for volunteers for La Tour. Governor Winthrop's countenance of the La Tours led to his defeat in the next election.

Five ships, carrying about fifty pieces of ordnance and "murderers" (small cannon), were quickly fitted out. The hire of the Boston vessels was £520 per month, payable "in peltry," and they were not disappointed as to getting some "booty and pillage." July 14, in the evening, the La Tours gave to the winds their banner and sailed from Boston for the relief of Fort La Tour. This formidable array took D'Aunay by surprise, the blockade was raised, and his vessels pursued to Port Royal. A dozen men were killed and wounded. La Tour and his Madame had the freedom of the Saint John river again.

Thus far successful, Madame La Tour now made a final effort for La Tour's cause in France. She sailed by the returning Saint Clement and remained in France during the winter of 1643-1644. But D'Aunay was there, too, and the forces arrayed against Madame La Tour were too strong even for her to overcome. On March 6, 1644, a final edict was issued against La Tour and all connected with him. Madame La Tour was permitted to send a vessel with necessary supplies for Fort La Tour, but with no munitions of war. D'Aunay did not wish to face her again in Acadie,