

a continued resistance, but she determined to fight to the last. A second attack on the fort was begun, and for three days she and her little company of brave men held at bay the larger force. On the fourth day, Easter Sunday, 1645, Charnisay succeeded in bribing one of the sentries, and before Lady LaTour was aware of his approach he and his men were scaling the walls of the fort. Despairing but dauntless, Lady LaTour urged on her men to the defense of the garrison, with so much success that Charnisay was constrained to offer terms of peace. He promised life and liberty to the defenders if they would yield. Lady LaTour thought that in this way she could do the most for her men, and she accepted his terms. Then was revealed the baseness of character of the man whom a noble act could inspire only to revenge. He caused every man in the garrison to be hanged, except one, who was given his life in return for acting as the executioner of his fellows. He compelled Lady LaTour to witness this dreadful spectacle with a rope around her neck. The strain which she had undergone which culminated in this last indignity broke the spirit and the heart of Lady LaTour. She survived the double catastrophe only three weeks, and then was laid to rest, the first Acadian heroine, beside the river which she had loved so well.

For many years the fort at the mouth of the Saint John River was merely a trading post. There Indians bartered priceless furs for paltry trifles, and many a French lord grew rich upon the ignorance of the Red man. There minor skirmishes between the French and the English took place at frequent intervals. Finally, in 1700, the French abandoned the fort, by order of the government, on the ground that the harbor was too small. Thus France, through her own ignorance, lost one of the most strategic points in Acadia.

The last event pertaining to Saint John which I shall relate took place eighty-three years after the abandonment of the fort by the French. On the eighteenth of May, 1783, there sailed into the harbor of Saint John the vessels which carried the founders of the sturdy, loyal race with which New Brunswick is peopled today—the United Empire Loyalists. As these exiles from their homeland stepped upon the shore which is now the site of the city of Saint John, they did not see, even dimly in the future, the city which now watches over the entrance to the river, but they did see a land of promise of new life and new liberty, a promise which has never been belied.

—DOROTHY ALWARD, '17.