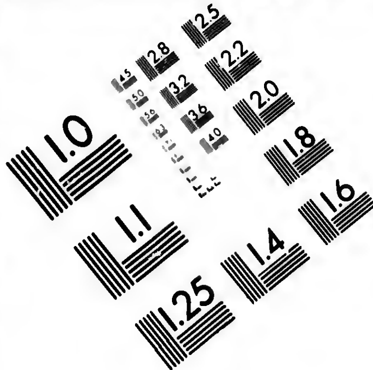

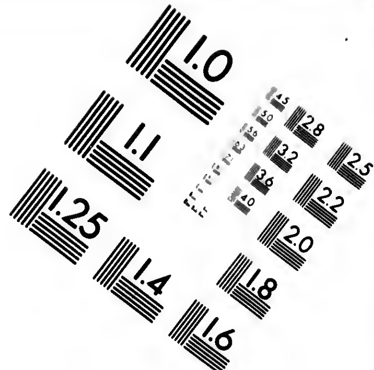

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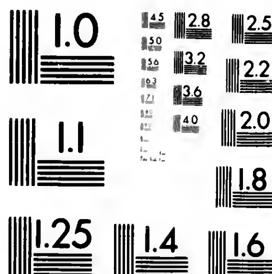

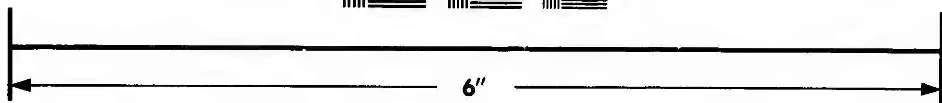

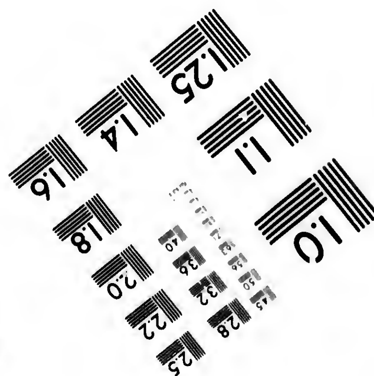

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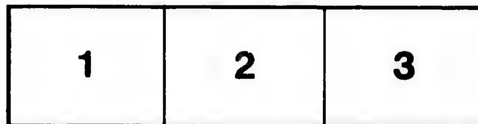

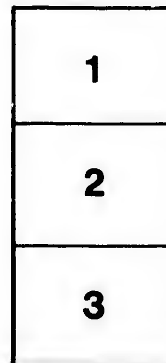

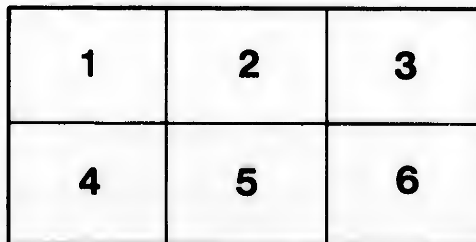

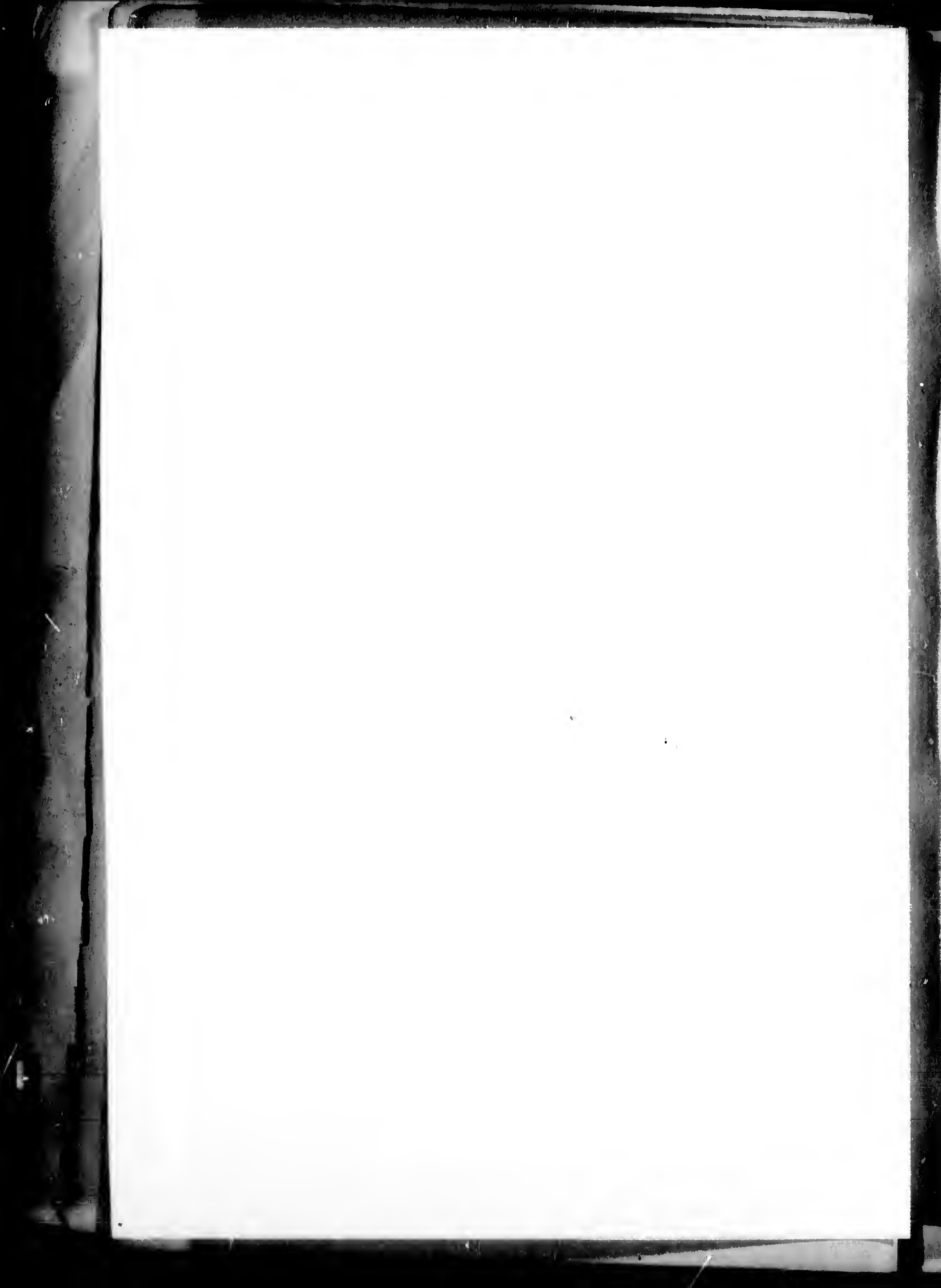

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GENTLEMEN ADVENTURERS IN ACADIA.

BY J. G. BOURINOT.

I.—BARON DE POUTRINCOURT.

Those adventurous tourists who have left the beaten path of American travel, and wandered for some time over Nova Scotia, must have returned home with exceedingly pleasant impressions of the scenery presented in the western part of that fine province. There they will not see the wild and picturesque features of the Restigouche, the St. John, or the Bras d'Or; but a lovely prospect of nature, robbed of its ruggedness and toned down by art. The counties of King's and Annapolis show a wide expanse of charming orchards and farms, and abound in associations of the historic past. On all sides, we will see the lands reclaimed from the sea, which swells away beyond and periodically comes rushing up its estuaries, as if about to sweep all obstacles before it and overwhelm the whole country. There to the northward, is tall dark Blomedon, with its overhanging cliff, under which the tumultuous tide struggles and foams. Here, in a large meadow close at hand, is a long row of Lombardy poplars, speaking eloquently of another race and another century. Here, embowered in trees, is a pile of college buildings,—there a tall white spire rises into the pure blue sky. We see pretty villas and cottages, with their wealth of honey-suckle and grape vine; with their gardens where the rose, the tulip, the dahlia—a thousand flowers,—bloom in spring, summer, and autumn. This is the garden of Nova Scotia, once the home of those "happy Acadian farmers," who first won the land from "the turbulent tides," and lived quiet pastoral lives, until the stern mandate came which scattered them far and wide—

> From the cold lakes of the North to sultry Southern Savannas;
> From the bleak shores of the sea to the lands where the Father of Waters
> Seizes the hills in his hands, and drags them down to the ocean,
> Deep in their sands to bury the scattered bones of the mammoth.

Delightful as is the scene, we must not linger, but pass from the fertile fields and pretty villages of King's to the adjoining County of Annapolis. If it is in the spring we are travelling, the country is one mass of pink and white blossoms, which load the passing breeze with delicate fragrance; if it is in autumn, the trees bend beneath their wealth of apples, of a size and quality that cannot be surpassed anywhere. We drive through a fertile valley by the side of a river, which at last empties into a fine basin, communicating with the bay so famous for its tides. We are at last in a quiet old town, whose roofs are verdant with the moss of more than a century; where the landscape shows a harmonious blending of sky, mountain, and water. Unpretending as is this little town in its external appearance, it has a history of its own;—for we have arrived at the spot where the French, two centuries and a half ago, made their first permanent settlement in America.

In the year 1604, when Henry of Navarre was King of France, Sieur De Monts, one of his favorites, obtained leave to colonize that large and ill-defined territory, then and long afterwards known as L'Acadie.

The bold fishermen of Normandy, Bretagne, and the Basque country had, from a very early period, frequented the fisheries of Newfoundland, and some of the more adventurous had now and then visited the coasts of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, previous to the seventeeth century. * All attempts however, to settle Canada and Acadia before the sailing of De Monts' expedition, had proved entirely abortive.

When the king and his able minister, Sully, had been once won over to the project, they willingly consented to give De Monts and his associates an entire monopoly of the fur-trade throughout the wide domain of which he was to be the Viceroy. The expedition was chiefly supported by the merchants ot the Protestant town of La Rochelle, and was regarded with much jealousy by St. Malo and Dieppe, and other commercial cities. Nor did devout Catholics look very favorably upon an enterprise whose leader was a professor of the hated Calvanistic creed, and whose charter expressly declared that the Protestant adventurers should enjoy, in the new colony, all the privileges they possessed in France. The Catholics were, however, propitiated by the stipulation that the Huguenots should take no part in the work of converting the natives, which would be reserved especially for the priests who accompanied the expedition. In those days religious feeling was carried to extremes. The king had long been the champion of the French Protestants, and though he had been pursuaded at last to recant and profess the Roman Catholic faith, yet there was always a latent distrust of his sincerity among those who were the most ardent supporters of the predominant religion. It is not, therefore, surprising that the movement of the Huguenots to found a new empire on the American Continent should have been watched with suspicion by those who had the interests of the Catholic church chiefly at heart. As we shall soon see, religious difficulties arose to mar the success of the early Acadian colonists.

After a great deal of trouble and expense, De Monts succeeded in getting together the number of men required at that stage of his enterprise. Some had served their time in the prisons and galleys of France, others were Catholic priests and Protestant ministers, others were volunteers of noble birth. Among the latter class was Jean de Biencourt, better known in the history of the times of which we are writing as Baron de Poutrincourt. Like the majority of the nobility, he was a soldier, and had distinguished himself throughout the wars which had ended in placing King Henry IV on the throne of France. His family belonged to the maritime province of Picardie, and was possessed of considerable landed estates. A brave soldier, a man of great energy, and conciliatory manners, he was well-fitted to assist in the establishment of a new colony.

Another distinguished associate of De Monts was Samuel Champlain, whose history is so replete with interest to the people of the New Dominion of Canada. He, in later times, was to make himself a famous name in New France; for he it was who founded the noble old city on the crest of that lofty promontory, which overloooks the St. Lawrence, and forms, with the surrounding landscape, one of the finest panoramas to be seen throughout America.

De Monts and his associates reached without accident the low fir-covered shore of Nova Scotia, visited several of its harbors and bays, and finally sailed into the Bay of Fundy, which was then called La Baie Française, and explored its shores. At St. Mary's Bay, a priest of the name of Aubrey went ashore and lost himself in the woods,—an incident which led to much wrangling and dispute; for the Catholics charged the Huguenots with having made

* L'Escarbot mentions an old fisherman at Canseau, in 1607, who had been visiting those seas for 42 successive years. When De Monts entered the present harbor of Liverpool, he met a fur-trader by the name of Rossignol. Many other facts might be mentioned to show that the French were frequent visitors to the coast of Nova Scotia, previous to the expedition of 1601. La Roche's expedition, which never went beyond Sable Island, was in 1598.

away with him. Happily, for the peace of the expedition, Aubrey turned up a few weeks afterwards, almost a spectre, after his weary wanderings through the inhospitable wilds of Acadie.

The expedition discovered the Ouigondi river, which they called St. John, as they saw it first on the festival of that saint, and visited many other bays and inlets. But the fact most interesting to us at present was the discovery of the basin and river of Annapolis. So delighted was the Baron de Poutrincourt with the scenery in that part of the country, that he immediately obtained a grant of a large district for a Seigneurie from De Monts, and named it Port Royal.

The place chosen as the site of the first settlement was a barren islet, which they called St. Croix. Champlain has left us some quaint drawings and descriptions of the first settlement on this islet, which they chose, with such singular infelicity, in preference to the many far more available places that could have been found in Acadie. Poutrincourt, whose fortunes we have here chiefly to follow, soon left his companions in their dreary new home, and sailed for France, with the object of making arrangements for settling his domain of Port Royal. He, however, found his private affairs in such a condition that he was unable to leave at the time he wished. Indeed, very little interest was taken in the new colony, of which very unsatisfactory reports were brought back by Poutrincourt's companions. He himself, however, was very sanguine, as to the future of Acadia, and spoke very eloquently of its varied resources, of the riches in and around its coasts, of the furs in its forests, and of the minerals that doubtless lay beneath its soil. To the King he presented a fine specimen of amethyst, which he and De Monts had picked up in the vicinity of Cape D'Or, in the Bay of Fundy. But this little blue stone was the only evidence Poutrincourt had to show of the mineral wealth of the country. Many centuries were to pass before the [illegible] ld learn of the existence in A[illegible] precious metal which has drawn so many adventurers across the sea since the time of Columbus.

While Pontrincourt was still in France, he was surprised to learn of the arrival of De Monts with very unsatisfactory accounts of the state of affairs in the infant colony. The adventurers had very soon found St. Croix entirely unfitted for a permanent settlement, and had removed to the sunny banks of the Annapolis, which was then known as the Equille,* and subsequently as the Dauphin. Poutrincourt and De Monts went energetically to work to obtain assistance for the colony, and though they succeeded in obtaining the services of all the mechanics and laborers they required, their difficulties never ceased until they set sail. The new expedition was necessarily composed of very unruly characters, who constantly broke loose, and sadly offended the staid folks of that orderly bulwark of Calvanism, the town of La Rochelle. Many of the men were in the hands of the authorities, and then, the "Jonas"—not a very auspicious name certainly—a ship of some 150 tons, which had been fitted out by two merchants of La Rochelle, went agronnd in a heavy storm, and could not be got ready for sea until several weeks later than the day appointed for the departure of the expedition. At last, on the 13th of May, 1606, the "Jonas," with its unruly crew all on board, left for the New World, under the command of De Poutrincourt and L'Escarbot, the latter a Paris advocate, a poet, and an historian, to whom we are indebted for a very sprightly history of early French settlement in America. De Monts was unable to leave with his friend.

The "Jonas" proved false to her name,and took the voyageurs safely across the ocean. Their first sight of the land, on the 15th of July, was under circumstances of a very favorable character, for, in the language of L'Escarbot, "the sky began to salute us, as it were, with cannon-shots, shedding tears,

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*Champlain says the river was named after a little fish caught there, "de la grandeur d'un esplan;" probably the squid which is used as bait by the fisherman of the Province.

as being sorry to have kept us so long in pain; but whilst we followed on our course there came from the land odors incomparable for sweetness, brought with a warm wind so abundantly that all the orient parts could not produce greater abundance." Not till the 27th of July, however, did the ship enter the basin of Port Royal with the flood-tide, and see the wooden walls and roof of the French fort, peering above the spruce. They were soon seen from the shore, and a peal from the rude bastion awoke the echoes of the surrounding hills, and gave testimony to the joy of the two solitary Frenchmen, who, with a faithful old Indian chief, were the only inmates, at that time, in the fort. These men, La Tailee and Miquilet, explained that Pontgravé and Champlain, with the rest of the colony, had set sail for France a few days previously, in two small vessels which they had built themselves. But there was no time to spend in vain regrets. De Poutrincourt broached a hogshead of wine, and the fort was soon the scene of mirth and festivity. Then, to add to the prevalent gaiety, Pontgravé re-entered the fort, having fortunately met off Canseau with a boat which had been left there by De Poutrincourt, for the purpose of exploring the west. A few days later, however, Pontgravé and a number of others sailed again for France.

Much work had to be done in that new colony before its comfort could be assured. Poutrincourt and his associates set energetically to improve the condition of things, by making additions to the buildings, and clearing the surrounding land, which soon gave evidences of the agricultural ability of the apothecary, Hebert.* As we need not tell those who have ever visited or read of the western section of Acadia, the soil is exceedingly rich. Besides the fertile uplands, there are extensive alluvial grounds, the value of which was immediately appreciated by the French, for L'Escarbot speaks of them in glowing terms.

The fort stood on the north side of the Equille, and was built not only with regard to the security of its inmates, but with regard to their convenience and comfort as well. It is described as having consisted of a quadrangle of wooden buildings, surrounding a fine court. A path led through an arched gateway at the south-east corner, to the water. The magazine and storehouses stood on the east side of the quadrangle; the men's quarters on the west side; the dining-hall and lodgings for De Poutrincourt and his principal associates on the north; the kitchen, forge, oven, and offices on the south. Four cannon were mounted on a bastion at the south-west corner; a row of palisades flanked the fort. Some patches of ground were cleared about the river and in the vicinity of the fort. As far as the eye could reach was the forest, chiefly spruce, but relieved here and there by groves of maple, birch, and beech, whose lines of crimson, russet, and gold perfectly bewitched the French, when they first saw the American woods in all their autumnal glory.

All the members of the colony had their time well occupied. De Poutrincourt himself passed the rest of the summer of 1606 in an exploring voyage as far as Cape Mallebane. He visited the island of St. Croix, and after having met with many misadventures from storms and shoals, he finally reached his destination, which is now known as Cape Cod. Whilst off that place, several of his crew, who had gone ashore, contrary to his orders, were surprised by the savages, and all killed or fatally wounded, with one exception. According to the report of the survivor, the Indians had stolen a hatchet, whereupon the French had fired upon them. The dead were buried near the shore, but no sooner had the crew returned on board than the Indians emerged from the woods where they had been concealed, tore down the cross erected by the French, dug up the bodies, and treated them with every indignity. De

* Mr. Murdock, in his history of Nova Scotia—a laborious compilation from old documents and records—says that this Hebert afterwards went to Quebec, and settled there. Many of the old families of Canada trace their descent from him.

Poutrincourt, despairing of finding a favorable site for a new colony in a country enjoying a warmer climate, returned to Port Royal. His crew were sick and low-spirited, but they soon recovered their health and spirits when they rejoined their comrades, who listened with wonder to the narration of the perils of that unfortunate voyage.

L'Escarbot appears to have been the very life and soul of the little colony, for, naturally of a genial and lively temperament, he never liked to see anything like gloom and despondency among his companions. All his efforts were directed to infuse a spirit of kindly feeling among the little community. If anything occurred to damp their courage, his fertile mind soon devised some plan of chasing away forebodings of ill. When De Poutrincourt and his party returned in such ill spirits from Cape Mallebane, they were met by a procession of Tritons, with Neptune at their head, who saluted the adventurers with merry songs. As they entered the arched gate-way they saw above their heads another happy device of L'Escarbot,—the arms of France and the King's motto. "*Deus proteget unus*," encircled with laurels, Under this were the arms of De Monts and De Poutrincourt, with their respective mottos,—"*Dabit deus his quoque finem*," and "*Invia virtuti nulla est via*,"—also surrounded with evergreens. L'Escarbot was a man of the world, who well understood the versatile character of his countrymen—how much they were affected by surrounding circumstances.

L'Escarbot sowed crops of wheat, rye, and barley, in the vicinity of the fort; he worked night and day in a garden; he read prayers when the priests were unwell and unable to officiate; he did more good by his cheery manners and merry talk than all the medicine poured down by the apothecary; he was the pleasantest companion at the festive board; yet amid the many duties that engrossed him, he found time for study.

The inmates of the fort—thanks to the liberality of De Monts and his associates—were well provided with everything requisite to make them comfortable. But l'Escarbot's ingenious mind did not fail him, even in respect to the daily supply of fresh provisions; for he created a new order for the especial benefit of the principal table at which De Poutrincourt, himself, and thirteen others, sat daily. These fifteen gentlemen constituted themselves into l'Ordre de Bon Temps, one of whom was Grand Master for a day, and bound to cater for the company. Each tried, of course, to excel the other in the quantity of game and fish they were able to gather from the surrounding country, and the consequence was, De Poutrincourt's table never wanted any of the luxuries that the river or forest could supply. At the dinner hour the Grand Master, with the insignia of his order, a costly collar around his neck, a staff in his hand, and a napkin on his shoulder, came into the hall at the head of his brethren, each of whom carried some dish. The Indians were frequent guests at their feasts, especially old Memberton, a famous Micmac or Souriquois chief, who always retained a warm attachment for the pale-faced strangers. Songs of *La Belle France* were sung; many a toast was drunk in some rare vintage,—the flames flew up the huge chimney,—the Indians squatted on the floor, laughing like the merriest Frenchmen. When the pipe went around—with its lobster-like bowl and tube elaborately worked with porcupine quills—stories were told, and none excelled the Indians themselves in this part of the entertainment At last when the tobacco was all exhausted, the Grand Master resigned his regalia of office to his successor, who lost no time in performing his duties. Thus the long winter evenings passed in that lonely French fort, at the verge of an untamed continent.

With the coming of spring, the colonists commenced to build a mill, and to cultivate the little patches of ground they had cleared of the forest. They also built two barques, using pitch made by the gum of the fir. Well might the Indians look with astonishment at the ingenuity of these busy

Frenchmen; at times conquering their extreme reserve and breaking forth into exclamations of delight, as they saw some new evidence of the superiority of the French over themselves.

All this while, Poutrincourt and his friends were wondering how matters were progressing in France, and anxiously expecting the arrival of a ship with news from that country. At last, late in the spring, old Memberton, always on the alert, came to tell the French at the fort that he had seen a vessel sailing up the basin. The cannon thundered its welcome to the stranger; a barque, commanded by one Chevalier of St. Malo, and bringing the bad news from De Monts that the colony would have to be broken up, as his charter had been revoked, and the company would no longer support Port Royal. The Breton and Basque merchants had combined to break up a monopoly which shut them out of a lucrative trade, and had succeeded in influencing the government to withdraw its patronage from De Monts and his associates. De Poutrincourt sadly prepared, (he had then no other alternative except to obey,) to abandon his new home by the Equille and by the 30th of July, nearly all his, companions left Port Royal, which never looked more lovely in their eyes, when they passed on to the Bay of Fundy and saw the whole country in the glory of mid-summer. Poutrincourt and Champlain remained a few days behind the others, as the former was anxious to see the result of his agricultural experiments. When the torn was ripe, he pulled up some specimens to show his friends in France the high agricultural capabilities of much-abused Acadia. Then, in the middle of August, he sailed from Port Royal, in a shallop, for Canseau, where the "Jonas," with L'Escarbot and the rest of the colonists, were awaiting his arrival. The Indians, especially Memberton, watched the departure of their new friends with unfeigned regret, and promised look carefully after the safety of the fort and its contents. We shall shortly see whether the illiterate savage Indian fulfilled his promise and discharged the trust that he had voluntarily undertaken.

As soon as Poutrincourt reached his native country, he did his best to gain friends at the Court, as he was resolved on making a home in Acadia. But his prospects, for a time, were exceedingly gloomy. De Monts was able to assist him very little, and the adventurous Baron himself was involved in debt and litigations, but fortune, it is truly said, favors the brave, and he eventually succeeded in obtaining a renewal of his grant from the King, and interesting some wealthy traders in the enterprise. Then, when about leaving France, some difficulties, not of a pecuniary, but of a religious character, arose, and threatened to interfere with the success of the expedition. The Society of Jesuits was, at this time, exceedingly influential at Court, and in consequence of their representations and persuasions, the King ordered that Pierre Biard, Professor of Theology at Lyons, should accompany the expedition. Biard accordingly hastened to Bordeaux, whence it was understood the ship would sail, but on his arrival there, found, to his great surprise, that nobody knew anything about it. It afterwards transpired that Poutrincourt, although a good Catholic, mistrusted the Jesuits, and was fearful of the consequences of introducing them into his colony. Many of his associates were Huguenots, and he probably thought that the presence of the wily, energetic Jesuit, would mar the harmony of the enterprise. On this account, he changed his intention of sailing from Bordeaux, but loaded a large boat, with a great variety of articles, at his maternal barony of St. Just, in Champagne, and descended the Aube and Seine to Dieppe, where his vessel was all ready for him. On the 20th of February, he set sail from Dieppe, whilst Father Biard was angrily wondering at his absence. But the Jesuits, when they ascertained the fact of his departure, were extremely angry, and took more energetic steps to carry out their design of gaining a foothold in the New World. In this matter Poutrincourt hardly displayed his usual

tact—he must have known the consequence of deceiving so wily an adversary as the Jesuit.

The success of the voyage to Acadia was nearly marred by a mutiny among the crew, which was happily quelled by the decision of the officers, and the ship entered Port Royal basin, in the beginning of June, 1610. Here they were agreeably surprised to find the buildings and contents perfectly safe, and their old friend Memberton, now a centenarian, looking as hale as ever, and overwhelmed with joy at the return of the friendly pale-faces. Among the first things that Poutrincourt did, after his arrival, was to make converts of the Indians. Père la Flèche soon convinced Memberton and all his tribe of the truths of christianity. Memberton was named Henri, after the King; his ch f squaw, Marie, after the Queen. The Pope, the Dauphin, Marguerite de Valois, and other ladies and gentlemen famous in the history of their times, became sponsors for the Micmac converts who were gathered into Mother Church, on St. John's day, with the most imposing ceremonies that the French could arrange in that wild country. So enthusiastic, indeed, were the new converts, that Memberton, it is declared, was quite ready to destroy all the Indians within his reach, unless they became Christians like himself.

Conscious of the influence of the Jesuits at Court, and desirous of counteracting any prejudice that might have been created against him, Poutrincourt decided to send his son, a fine youth of 18, in the ship returning to France, with a statement showing his zeal in converting the natives of the new colony. Poutrincourt himself accompanied his son for some distance, and on his return in an open boat was blown out to sea, and nearly starved. At last, after nearly a month of suffering, he succeeded in getting back to Port Royal. Here we must leave him, for a short time, whilst we follow his youthful ambassador to France.

When Biencourt reached France, Henry of Navarre—who, with all his faults, was certainly the ablest king that ever ruled France—had perished by the knife of Ravaillac, and Marie de Medici was Regent during the minority of her son, Louis XIII The Jesuits were now all powerful at the Louvre, and it was decided that Fathers Biard and Raimond Masse should accompany Biencourt to Acadia. The ladies of the Court, especially Madame la Marquise de Guercheville, whose reputation could not be assailed by the tongue of scandal, even in a state of society when virtue was too often the exception, interested themselves in the work of converting the savages of Acadia, and Marie de Medici also gave a handsome contribution of money. Whilst these efforts were being used by the devout ladies of the capital for the spiritual welfare of the colony, Biencourt entered into a business partnership with one Robin de Coloignes, whose father was a man of considerable wealth, who agreed to supply the new settlers for five years with funds and necessaries, in return for certain specified profits and advantages.

When the expedition was about ready to sail, difficulties of a religious character again intervened. Two traders, by name Chesne and de Jardin, Huguenots, who were pecuniarily interested in the undertaking, objected to the departure of the Jesuits, at the same time professing their willingness to accept the services of any other priests. At this juncture, Madame de Guercheville came forward, and bought off the two Huguenot traders, whose interest was made over to the Jesuits. Thus did the indefatigable Jesuits, for the first time, engage in the work of converting the savage in the American wilderness. History cannot show examples of greater heroism and fortitude than was exhibited in after times by the successors of Biard and Masse in the Far West.

The vessel which took Biencourt and his friends back to Port Royal did not exceed sixty tons burden, but she completed her trip in four months' time. On the 22nd July, 1611, she arrived off the fort, where Poutrincourt and his colonists were exceedingly short of supplies. He had not only to

feed some fifty whites, but Memberton and his family beside, at least sixty persons in all As the vessel last arrived contained but a small quantity of provisions, he and Father Biard took a trip to the opposite coast for further supplies. At a harbor called La Pierre Blanche they found four vessels, one belonging to M. De Monts, another to Pontgravé, and the others from Rochelle and St. Malo. Poutrincourt succeeded in making them promise to assist his son, who was to act as Vice-Admiral, while he himself went on to France with the hope of obtaining further aid.

About the middle of July, Poutincourt left Port Royal in charge of his son, who appears to have been high-spirited and wanting in that coolness and tact which come with age and experience of the world. The total number of persons in the colony was twenty-two, including the two Jesuits, who immediately commenced to learn Micmac, as the first step necessary to the success of the work they had in hand. Biencourt appears to have had not only disputes with the Jesuits, but difficulties with traders coming within his jurisdiction. At St. John's he took Pontgravé's son and a number of others, who had built a trading hut; he collected tribute from traders at St. Croix and other places on the Acadian coast. This expedition occupied Biencourt until November, and he returned after a profitless voyage, worn-out and dispirited.

The two priests all the while were suffering many hardships, but they bore their troubles with a patience and resignation which gained them even the admiration of those who were not prepossessed in their favor. Masse, who had gone to live among the Indians, was nearly starved and smoked to death in their rude camps; but still he appears to have persevered in that course of life as long as he possibly could. About this time—soon after the return of Biencourt from the voyage just mentioned—the priests had the consolation of performing the last offices for the veteran Memberton. One hesitates to believe that the old savage had entirely forgotten his heathen superstitions, since the historian tells us that on his death-bed he expressed a strong desire to be buried with his forefathers. The arguments of his priestly advisers, however, overcame his superstition, and the remains of the fine old Indian sagamore were finally laid in consecrated ground. Memberton was always a staunch friend of the French, and appears to have possessed many noble qualities. Father Biard, describing his person when he was nearly a hundred, said he was extremely tall, strong-limbed, and bearded.

Matters looked gloomy by the beginning of the New Year; no news had as yet come of the ship that was to bring them supplies from the Governor of Port Royal. It was found necessary to place the settlers on rations, which were rarely supplemented by presents of game from the Indians, who, with the exception of Memberton's family, had kept aloof from the little community. On the third Sunday after Christmas, Father Biard called upon Biencourt to serve out the rest of the wine to the men, as he had a presentiment that the long anxiously wished-for vessel was close at hand. The priest happily proved a true prophet, for the vessel arrived on the 23rd of January with a store of provisions which—small as it was—came very opportunely.

The news from Poutrincourt was very discouraging. Unable to raise further funds on his own responsibility, he had been obliged to accept the proffer of assistance from Mme. De Guercheville, who, in her zeal, had also bought from De Monts all his claims over the colony; and what was still more important, had obtained from the King a grant of all Acadia, with the exception of Port Royal, which belonged to Poutrincourt. The society of Jesuits were therefore virtually in possession of Acadia, as far as a French deed could give it away. But the French King forgot when he was making this lavish gift of a continent, that the British laid claims to the same territory, and had already established a colony within its limits. After many misfortunes, the little settlement of Jamestown was commencing to show some vitality and strength.

The English were already taking an interest in colonial establishments, and Shakespeare, then in the maturity of his genius, had seen in the New World the elements of an empire to be founded under the auspices of King James:—

> 'Wherever the bright sun of heaven shall shine,
> His honor and the greatness of his name
> Shall be and make new nations; He shall flourish;
> And, like a mountain cedar, reach his branches
> To all the plains about him."

But the French thought nothing of the fact that the British were looking towards the continent of America; and certainly apprehended no danger from the insignificant colony of Jamestown, especially as the two nations were then at peace.

Such was the position of affairs at the time of the arrival of the new vessel and cargo, which were under the control of Simon Imbert, who had formerly been a servant to Poutrincourt. Among the passengers was another Jesuit father, Gilbert Du Thet, who came out as a representative of the interests of Mme. De Guercheville and of his own Order. The two agents quarrelled from the very day they set out, until they arrived at Port Royal, and then the colony took the matter up. At last the difficulties were settled by Du Thet receiving permission to return to France.

A few months later, at the end of May, 1613, another French ship anchored off Port Royal. She had been sent out with a fine supply of stores, not by Poutrincourt, but by Mme. De Guercheville, and was under the orders of M. Saussaye, a gentleman by birth and a man of ability; but wanting in the qualities necessary to manage the unruly elements around him. Poutrincourt, it appeared, was in prison and ill, unable to do anything whatever for his friends across the ocean. This was, indeed, sad news for Biencourt and his faithful allies, who had been anxiously expecting assistance from France.

The new vessel took on board the two priests, Biard and Masse, and sailed towards the coast of New England; for Saussaye's instructions were to found a new colony in the vicinity of Pentagoet (Penobscot), at a place called Radesquit. In consequence of the prevalent sea-fogs, however, they were driven to the island of Mount Deserts, then called Pemaquid, where they found a harbor which, it was decided, would answer all their purposes. A well informed writer * says that the settlement of St. Sauveur must have been on the western side of Soame's Sound, and that on the eastern shore there had been found the signs of an old Indian village, probably that of Asticon, who was the chief at the time in question. Be this as it may, Saussaye and his party commenced to erect buildings for the new colony, when an event occurred which placed an entirely different complexion on matters.

A man-of-war came sailing into the harbor, and from her masthead floated, not the fleur-de-lis, but the blood-red flag of England. The new-comer was Samuel Argall, a young English sea captain,—a coarse, passionate, but daring man. He had been for some time associated with the fortunes of the new colony of Virginia. In the May of the year in question, he set sail in a stout vessel of 130 tons, carrying 14 guns and 60 men, for a cruise to the coast of Maine for a supply of cod-fish, and whilst becalmed off Mount Deserts, some Indians came on board and informed him of the presence of the French in the vicinity of that island. A man like Argall did not hesitate long as to the course he would pursue; he looked upon the French as encroaching upon British territory; and in a few hours had destroyed the infant settlement of St. Sauveur, and taken all the French prisoners. Saussaye was perfectly parylized, and attempted no defence when he saw that Argall had hostile intentions; but the priest Du Thet did his utmost in rallying the men to arms, and was the first to fall a victim to his indiscreet courage. Fifteen of the prisoners, including Saussaye and Masse, were turned adrift in an open boat; but fortunately, they managed to

* Parkman.

cross the Bay and reach the coast of Nova Scotia, where they met with some trading vessels belonging to St. Malo. Father Biard and the others were taken to Virginia by Argall.

But how prospered the fortunes of Poutrincourt whilst the fate of Port Royal was hanging in the scale? As we have previously stated, he had been put into prison by his creditors, and had there lain ill for some months. When he was at last liberated, and appeared once more among his friends, he succeeded in obtaining some assistance and fitting out a small vessel, with a limited supply of stores for his colony. His prospects appeared brightening, and he set sail in the spring of 1614 for his domain in Acadia, where was now all his worldly wealth—where he had expended so large an amount of money. When his fortunes looked the darkest,—when his enemies were in the ascendant,—he was buoyed up by the hope that he might yet overcome his difficulties, and pass the remainder of his life in his Seigneurie, on the banks of the beautiful Equille, amid the fir forests of Acadia. But none of his name or lineage were destined to live in that Acadian land.

Poutrincourt entered the Basin of Annapolis for the last time, to find his son and followers wanderers in the woods, and only piles of ashes marking the site of the buildings on which he and his friends had expended so much time and money. The fate of Port Royal may be very briefly told. The Governor of Virginia, Sir Thomas Dale, was exceedingly irate when he heard of the encroachments of France on what he considered to be British territory by right of prior discovery, and immediately sent Argall, after his return from St. Sauveur, on an expedition to the northward. Argall first touched at St. Sauveur, and completed the work of destruction, and next stopped at St. Croix, where he also destroyed the half-rotten deserted buildings. He finally reach d Port Royal, and lost no time in burn.ng the fort and all its buildings, though some authorities declare he spared the mill and barns on the river. It is very questionable, however, if he left a single building standing, for we are told to such an extent did he show his enmity, that he even erased the fleur-de-lis and initials of De Monts and others from the massive stone in which they had been carved. Biencourt and nearly all the inmates of the fort were sent some distance in the country, and returned to see the English in complete possession. A parley was held between Biencourt and Argall; but it resulted in no satisfactory issue. The French were much incensed at the appearance among the English of Father Biard, who, according to a declaration subsequently made before the Admiralty of Guienne, wished to persuade his compatriots to desert Biencourt, and enlist in the service of Argall. One of the Frenchmen is represented to have made the very conclusive reply to this attempt to pander with his loyalty: "Begone, or I will split your head with the hatchet." The same Jesuit has also been charged with having been instrumental in pursuading the British to destroy the fort at Port Royal. No doubt Biard was little disposed to be friendly to Biencourt, with whom he had so many disputes during his residence in Acadia. The fact is, Biard—indeed he acknowledges it himself in the account he left behind—was mistrusted by both French and English, who were more ready to think evil than good of him. *

The destruction of Port Royal by Argall ends the first era in the history of Acadia as a French colony. Poutrincourt bowed to the relentless fate that drove him from the shores he loved so well, and returned to France, where he took employment in the service of the King. He addressed a statement of his wrongs to the Admiralty of Guienne, but the time was unfavorable for the consideration of his case. The country was then greatly agitated on account of the aversion of the people in general to the Spanish marriages which had been arranged

* Biard subsequently reached England, and was allowed to return home. All the rest of the prisoners taken at St. Sauveur also reached France.

through Marie de Medicis and her Italian favorite, Concini, otherwise the Marquis of Anae. The Court itself was excited by quarrels and intrigues of the most contemptible character. At last, Condé, himself a Bourbon, took up arms, and was supported by the Duke of Vendôme and other prominent notables. Marie de Medicis at first attempted her usual intrigues, with a view of bringing about a reconciliation with the disaffected; but, finally, the political difficulties resulted in a civil war, which lasted for a considerable period.

There is on the Upper Seine a little town of the name of Mèri. Here the insurgents had established themselves in the autumn of 1615, and Poutrincourt was ordered to reduce the town, as he held a prominent position in the King's army. He succeeded in the attempt, but at the cost of his own life. An epitaph inscribed on his tomb at St. Just, in Champagne, states that "he was slain by Pisander, who wickedly moved a catapult, and struck him on the heart, in the month of December, 1615, in the 58th year of his age." On the same authority we learn that there was also an epitaph of Poutrincourt cut into the trees and marble, on the coast of New France:—

"Chara Deo soboles, neophyti mei,
Novæ Franciæ incolæ,
christicolæ
quos ego,
Ille ego sum magnus Sagamo uester
Potrincurtius,
super æthera natus
in quo olim spes vestra.
Vos si fefellit invidia
lugete,
Virtus mea me perdidit; vobis
gloriam meam alteri dare
nequivi.
Iterum lugete."

Freely translated:—

"Ye progeny so dear to God,
inhabitants of New France,
whom I brought over to the
Faith of Christ. I am Poutrincourt, your
great chief, in whom was once your hope.
If envy deceived you, mourn
for me. My courage
destroyed me. I could
not hand to another
the glory that I won
among you. Cease
not to mourn for me."

Baron de Poutrincourt may justly be considered the founder of Port Royal, for though De Monts was at first the leader in the Acadian expedition of 1604, yet he virtually abandoned it after a short struggle against the difficulties that surrounded him, and yielded all the responsibility to his friend. Garneau, indeed, says that he may be regarded as "the real founder of Acadia itself, as a French colony; for the destruction of Port Royal did not cause the abandonment of the province, which ceased not to be occupied, at some point or other, by the remaining colonists, whose number was augmented from time to time by other immigrants."*

Poutrincourt's conduct throughout the difficulties which met him in attempting to establish Port Royal is certainly entitled to our admiration. In his courage, energy, and perseverance, he was a type of a class of which the history of America affords many examples. The perils of unknown seas and illimitable forests were not the chief difficulties that the pioneer of civilization in America had to encounter. A thousand obstacles, arising from commercial jealousies and rivalries, and from religious dissensions, had to be met and overcome. We have seen how often Poutrincourt's success was marred by these difficulties, and how bravely he struggled against them, though, unhappily, all in vain.

Port Royal, in later years, arose from its ashes, and the fleur-de-lis, or the red-cross, floated from its walls, according as the French or the English were the victors in the long struggle that ensued for the possession of Acadia. With the foundation of Halifax, however, Port Royal became a place of little importance, and sank into obscurity. Nothing now remains to tell of its former French owners. The scene that now meets the eye of the tourist is very different from what it was in the days of

* After the destruction of Port Royal, Biencourt and a few others remained among the Indians in Acadia, but we possess no accurate information respecting his future career. He is supposed to have died in 1623.

which l'Escarbot has written so pleasantly. The country watered by the Annapolis and its tributaries is one of the most highly cultivated sections of the province of Nova Scotia, and is the abode of a large population, whose industry and prosperity are proved by the character of their farms and orchards. When we look at the beauty of the scenery and the fertility of the soil, we do not wonder that Poutrincourt should have been so charmed with his new seigneurie, and should have so reluctantly given up all hope of making his home on the banks of the Equille.

Original.

IMPRISONED.—A CANADIAN SPRING MELODY.

BY H. B. M., HAMILTON, ONT.

Thou art bound with iron, oh, river!
  Icy mail thy breast doth case;
Steel blue lights about thee quiver,
  Frost mists shimmer o'er thy face.
Tall and stark thy shores enfolding
  Stand the trees, like spectres dread,
Thronged in serried numbers holding
  Vigil o'er the silent dead.

Wintry death and silence reigning,
  Soul and sense oppress and chill;
When a sound of drear complaining
  Sudden through the scene doth thrill;
Weird as music in a vision,
  Fitful, melancholy, drear,
Like the wail of souls in prison,—
  So it smites the startled ear.

Dost thou marvel, listening stranger?
  'Tis the sad voice of the wind,
Late a wild, free forest ranger,
  Now in icy cell confined;
By the Brigand Winter taken,
  Doomed in caves submerged to roam,
Hapless, wailing, and forsaken—
  Until Spring, deliverer, come.

When he cometh—oh, the ringing!
  Crash and crack of breaking chains!
Soar the winds, their glad way winging,—
  Wild birds freed, o'er streams and plains;
Singing freedom songs, unsealing
  O'er the world, life's frozen springs,
Bearing light and warmth and healing
  On their soft ambrosial wings!

Soft auspicious winds awaking
  All sweet voices of the woods,
Out the forest tresses shaking,
  Scattering wealth of bells and buds
Bearing joy for human bosoms,—
  Unto youth, of hope ye sing,
Unto age—of fadeless blossoms
  Of the near eternal spring.

Winds unto your sphere ascended
  Paint the moral of my psalm:
Know I spirits heaven-descended
  Prisoned in an icy calm—
Calm of death—upon their nature
  Sin hath twined his fetters dread,
Spreading bleak and wintry feature;
  Joy is silent, love is fled.

From that frozen realm there wendeth
  Oft a wailing wild and low,
Not unheard, to heaven ascendeth
  This the soul's blind cry of woe;
Not unmarked its fond desirings
  Mid its chains for freedom dear;
Not unnoted its aspirings
  For its radiant native sphere.

Breath of God vouchsafed from heaven
  Bearing spring unto the soul!
Lo! the icy bolts are riven,
  And the bursting fountains roll!
Upwards on rejoicing pinions
  Springs the captive freed, to rove
Far through limitless dominions,
  Spheres of light and warmth and love.

Love of God! oh, high and holy,
  Sweet and pure, with joy's full range;
Thirsting heart that filleth wholly,—
  Love that knows no end or change.
Love of man, which blessing giveth,
  Scattering bounty where it goes;
Scattering sunshine, and receiveth
  More of bliss than it bestows.

But of all the joy and glory
  Of those freed ones to rehearse,
And to tell the wondrous story
  Faileth thought and faltereth verse.
I shall be the theme describing,
  When with them I join the psalm,
Through Eternal Courts ascribing
  All the praise to God's dear Lamb!

at farm-houses, whose inmates were rather gruff at the rude awakening. About daylight we reached Chaffey's, the first house in Berkshire, Vermont, about one hundred rods outside of Canada, which I entered with the first feeling of security I had known for some time. I was now free. Hardly was I seated when my host brought a Montreal newspaper, and, pointing to a proclamation offering two thousand dollars reward for my approhension, inquired if I was the man? I told him I was, and that the information might have been valuable, had he found me a few minutes earlier,—a few hundred yards farther north.

The last nine days had been long, but I cannot say they were unpleasant, for there is cheerfulness under any circumstances, if one is buoyed up with hope and determination.

NOTE.—In my last communication I named Mr. "Charland," priest of St. Benoit. It should have been written "Chartier."

Original.

QUESTIONS.

BY NORMAN BRONTE, ESQ.

A perfect winter night! How peacefully
Rests on the rounded bosom of the snow,
The pale and coldly sympathizing moon,
Which, like a fair and loyal waiting slave,
Devotes her beauty to set forth the Queen,
And breaks her splendor into gems to deck
The wealthy veil which wreathes the royal
Earth.

So muse I, wand'ring lone along the road
That runs by Melbourne's clustered cottages,
More lonely here than in the growling wild,
When coming tempests fret the chafing trees,
Whose marshalled infantry awaits the trump
Of battle; while the feathered, hill-born pines,
On picket duty on the windward brow,
Croon coronachs and snuff the coming war.
For here, 'neath every roof there struggles forth,
Through curtains closely drawn, that cheery ray
Which says, "This is a home—not thine. Here
dwell
"A love-bound family of thine own sort,
"Who know thee not; here hearts beat time
with thine:
"Here thoughts that rust with thee, find voice
and answer,
"Both meet and kind; here, too, perchance,
abide
"Behind which jealous curtain who can tell?
"Ears unto which thy tuneless voice were
music;
"Eyes that would tune thy joyous thought to
song;
"Lips that would fill thy soul with melody;—
"And yet thou art without and these within."

The curling smoke hath also words for me,
Which, like an airy spirit, bears to heaven
The incense of the love which warms the home.
The eaves of graceful curve, the trellissed bower
I would myself have made, all speak to me
Impassioned words that make my breast to
heave,
Which tingle through my veins with deeper flow,
Than when Craigneish's wild artillery
Breaks and hurls back the charge of Ocean's
waves,
And all his serried ranks of pine howl triumph;
As louder speaks the touch of one we love,
Than words of patriot or man of God;
As louder than His earthquake or His whirlwind,
Elijah heard the still small voice of God.

Yea, all these well-disposed trees and shrubs,
With every branch up-pointing to a star,
And downward to the place man chose for them;
And all the harmonies with which the moon
Doth play, and which her wand calls into life,
Tell me these unknown people are my kin,
And bid me love them with a brother's love.
What is it thus shuts out the joy of love?

To-day I called upon a former friend,
Who had a child, that she would have me see.
I had been proud myself to show those cheeks,
Those bright black searching eyes, though
none of mine.
I looked upon the baby in her cot,
And loved her; and she, gazing in my face,
Began to cry. *What made the baby cry?*

And now I sit within the homeward car,
Alone amid a crowd of mine own people,
Whose every face is for the most like mine,
Though each one bears his several mark of sin,
And every mind thinks thoughts like those in
me,
Some wiser in this thing and some in that,
None but hath some rich goods to interchange;—
Why speak I nought to them, they nought to me?

Original.

GENTLEMEN ADVENTURERS IN ACADIA.

BY J. G. BOURINOT.

II.—CHARLES DE LA TOUR.

Among the adventurers whose names are intimately associated with the history of early colonization in Acadia, no one occupies a more prominent position than Charles de St. Etienne, Seigneur de la Tour. His perseverance and courage, amid the difficulties that surrounded him in the American wilderness, entitle him to a place by the side of the bravest pioneers of civilization in the Acadian land. Like many others in those days, it was the object of his ambition to win for himself and family a name in the new world, and how far he succeeded in it, will be seen in the course of the following pages. As we review the incidents of his eventful career, perhaps no feature of his character will prepossess us more strongly in his favor than the devotion which he displayed when the most resolute attempts were made to win him over to the hereditary enemy of his beloved France. Looking back to the century when he lived, we can see him often a wanderer with the savages in the depths of the forests,—anon determinedly defending the French posts on the Atlantic coast, and on the River St. John,—anon exerting all his art of diplomacy among the stern-faced Puritans of Massachusetts,—anon arraying his retainers and battling for his rights, like some bold chief of the feudal times. In the old countries of Europe, such qualities as he possessed must have gained him fame and wealth; but his patient endeavor in the Acadian wilderness was ill-requited. In those days there was little reputation of an enduring character, and but little wealth to be won by the pioneer who ventured into those countries, which are now the home of a wealthy and enterprising people. The fisherman on the banks, or the *coureur des bois*, ranging through the forest, might, in the course of years of toil, acquire a modest competency; but for the "gentleman adventurer," who would win an empire for France, there was too often nothing but hardship and neglect. The King and ministers only saw in Acadia a befogged, sterile country, which had neither gold nor silver mines, and would never repay them for the expense of colonization. In the course of time, they opened their eyes to the importance of the magnificent country watered by the St. Lawrence and the great lakes; but, with an unpardonable want of foresight, they never saw till it was too late that the possession of Acadia, with its noble Atlantic frontage, was indispensable to a power which would grasp a continent, and perpetuate the language and institutions of France in the western world. Had the French Government energetically seconded the efforts of those enterprising, courageous men who devoted their lives to the work of reclaiming Acadia for France and civilization, England could never have made so easy a conquest of the northern part of the continent. Three or four insignificant forts, for a long time, gave the only evidence of the French occupation of Acadia; and it was not till far into the eighteenth century that French statesmen saw the mistake they had made in not having taken a stronger position on the Atlantic coast of New France; and, at last, built up the formidable fortress of Louisbourg, at the entrance of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. But *then* it was too late to retrieve the mistakes that had been made in the previous century. England had, long before, seen the importance of Nova Scotia; whilst the British colonies, which were rapidly growing in wealth and population, could never agree to allow the French to take a firm foothold in a country occupying so important a position in reference to the rest of the continent.

Of the boyhood of Charles de la Tour, we know little or nothing. His father belonged to a noble family of the Province of Champagne, so famous for its vine-clad hills; but to so low an ebb had his fortunes fallen by the commencement of the seventeenth cen-

tury, that he left France with his only son, Charles, then fourteen years of age, and settled at Port Royal. In the various vicissitudes of the little colony, the father and son participated; and, after it had been destroyed by Argall, they remained with Biencourt, among the friendly Indians, in sight of the ruins of the fort. It was not long before they regained their courage and commenced to rebuild on the site of the former settlement. With the assistance of some others who came out from France, they erected not only a number of buildings at Port Royal, but another fort, which they called St. Louis, in the vicinity of Cape Sable. Biencourt appears to have had much confidence in the younger La Tour, for, when he was on his death-bed, he made over to him all the rights which the Poutrincourts possessed in Acadia. In order, however, that he should be able to enjoy this legacy, it was necessary that he should receive assistance from France; and, accordingly, in the summer of 1627, his father went across the Atlantic with a letter to Louis XIII., in which the king was asked to appoint the son his lieutenant over his possessions in Acadia. No doubt La Tour was greatly influenced in taking this step by the rumor which had come to his ears that the people of New England were becoming already jealous and fearful of the presence of the French, and were concerting measures to drive off neighbors who were likely to prove so troublesome to the British colonies.

And here we must pause for a moment, to survey the state of the several colonies that were scattered over the continent, at the time of which we are writing. The colony of Virginia,—the old Dominion,—was making steady progress, and growing in public estimation among the English. Every year witnessed a considerable influx of new settlers. All classes of the population were happy and prosperous. Jamestown, the oldest settlement in America, was rapidly increasing in size: the plantations of tobacco that surrounded it indicated the chief source of the wealth of the inhabitants. In the present State of New York, the Dutch had made a few settlements, exhibiting the thrift and industry of old Holland. The colony of Plymouth had taken deep root, and was sending out its branches in all directions. Boston was already becoming the chief town of New England: it "was thought, by general consent, to be the fittest place for public meetings of any place in the bay." The dwellings of the citizens were, however, yet of the rudest description: the first meeting house had only mud walls and a thatched roof. The spirit of commercial enterprise was exhibited in the establishment of trading-houses on the Penobscot and Kennebec to the north-east, and on the Connecticut to the south-west. On all sides, even in these days, all classes of the people showed that indomitable spirit of independence, and that ardent desire for self-government, which led to such important results in another century.

Throughout the wide extent of territory now known as British America, the French had only a few insignificant posts. Quebec had been founded, during the first decade of the century, by the adventurous, sagacious Champlain; but it was still a place of exceedingly limited dimensions. Twenty years had passed since its foundation, and yet its total population did not exceed 105 persons,—men, women, and children,—nearly all of whom were dependent on supplies brought out from France. The chief trading-places, besides Quebec, were Trois Rivières, the Rapids of St. Louis, and, above all, Tadousac, where the ships from France generally came to an anchorage, and met the batteaux and small craft used for the purpose of transporting the cargoes to Quebec.* Of the state of things in Acadia, we have already written,—the fort at Cape Sable, and a few Frenchmen at Port Royal, or on the sea coast, were the only evidences of French colonization in that country.

Such, briefly, was the condition of the settlements in America at the commence-

* Parkman's Pioneers of France in the New World.

ment of the period during which occurred the events we are about to relate. Behind these adventurous settlers was the illimitable forest, with its hordes of wild Indians; before them was a wide waste of waters, only whitened at distant intervals of time by the sails of some fisherman, trader, or bold adventurer. As we glance back to those times, we see that the elements of very many years of strife on this continent were being formed in the foundation of colonies composed of two antagonistic races. But we can also see in the little settlements scattered over this continent, the germs of future empires:—

> "The rudiments of empire here
> Are plastic, still, and warm;
> The chaos of a mighty world
> Is rounding into form."

Whilst the elder La Tour was absent in France pleading his son's cause, the attention of the English was being directed to the fact that the French were attempting to establish themselves in the New World. Sir William Alexander, afterwards the Earl of Stirling, had received from James I. a grant of Acadia, which he proposed to colonize, and named Nova Scotia. When Charles I. ascended the throne he renewed the grant, and also created an order of 150 men who were to be called Baronets of Nova Scotia, provided they contributed to the aid of the settlement of the country. Sir William Alexander, however, does not appear to have succeeded in making any settlement in Nova Scotia, or to have taken any decided steps to drive out the French from the country, until about the time Claude de la Tour was engaged in obtaining assistance for his son.

Claude de la Tour arrived at an opportune time in France, and met with an amount of success that he could hardly have anticipated when he left the shores of Acadia. Cardinal Richelieu had commenced to take considerable interest in the colonization of America, and a company had been formed, with the title of the "Company of New France." The eminent statesman was himself the head of the company, which comprised a hundred associates, among whom were many men of rank and great wealth. When we read their patent, we cannot but wonder at the audacity with which the European Princes of those days could divide a whole continent among their subjects; but they were to find that "*l'homme propose et Dieu dispose.*" New France was declared to extend from Florida to the Arctic Circle, and from Newfoundland to the headwaters of the St. Lawrence and its tributaries. The company received a perpetual monopoly of the fur-trade, and certain other commercial privileges which were to last for fifteen years. The trade of the colony was declared free, for the same period, from all duties. The company bought a number of ships, and the king himself, to give additional proof of his interest in the enterprise, presented them with two men-of-war, fully equipped. In return for the concessions they received, they were bound to send out a specified number of artisans and other emigrants in the course of several years. The very terms of the agreement showed the bigotry of the age, for the colonists had to be all of the Roman Catholic religion. In the month of April, 1628, four armed vessels and a number of transports, containing emigrants and supplies for the relief of Quebec and Port Royal, sailed from the port of Dieppe, and among the passengers was Claude de la Tour, no doubt elated at the success that had so far attended his mission.

But an adverse fate seemed to dog the footsteps of the men who were laboring to establish a French colony in Acadia. About the same time that the French fleet left Dieppe, the English were preparing for an attack on the settlements of France in the New World. The citizens of Rochelle had defied the king, the Huguenots were everywhere in arms, and Richelieu was resolved on crushing them. When Charles of England declared himself on the side of the French Protestants, many of the Calvanists took arms in his service, and among the number was David Kirk or Kertk, a native of Dieppe, who had been expelled from

France with his two brothers. With the assistance of Sir W. Alexander and others in England, he fitted out an armament with the object of driving out the French from Acadia, and other parts of the New World, where they were attempting to make a footing. He succeeded in capturing Port Royal, only defended by a handful of Frenchmen; and, it is said, he left several Scotch families at that place, as a nucleus of the colony which Sir W. Alexander proposed to establish. Kirk then sailed for Quebec, where Champlain was anxiously expecting assistance from France; and, on the way, met with the French fleet, under the command of Roguemont. A few weeks after the capture of the fleet, Kirk took the capital of Canada.

Claude de la Tour was sent to England along with the other prisoners, and as he was a Protestant he was well received. It was not long before he married one of the Queen's maids of honor, and pledged himself to the service of the king. Both he and his son were named Baronets of Nova Scotia, and the elder La Tour agreed to return to Acadia for the purpose of persuading his son to accept the honors which the King of England was desirous of conferring upon him.

In the meantime, Charles de la Tour was doing his best to strengthen himself in his little fort, and anxiously looking for assistance from across the ocean. When the news reached him of the capture of the transports which were intended to relieve him, he might well have despaired of his ability to hold the country; but he was not the man to be daunted by any difficulties however great. Suddenly, two English ships appeared off the fort, and his father presented himself as an envoy from England. Every argument that the elder La Tour could invent (the king appears to have given him *carte blanche*), was used to wile the son from his fealty to France; but no fact shows more clearly the nobility of the younger man's character than the firm resistance he made to the persuasions of one to whom he was bound by the ties of filial affection.

When Claude de la Tour returned from his fruitless mission, the British ships attempted to take the fort by force of arms; but they met with so much resistance that they abandoned the siege. Unwilling to return to England under these circumstances, the elder La Tour was forced to throw himself on his son's clemency, and was eventually allowed to live in the vicinity of the fort, where he and his wife were provided with a comfortable residence. Soon after the occurrence of these events, a vessel belonging to the new Company arrived with supplies, and a letter from a prominent associate holding out much encouragement for the future. At this time there were several Scots and other British subjects at Port Royal, who had formed the resolution of surprising and attacking Port Louis; but the design appears to have been frustrated through the elder La Tour, who was now quite desirous of keeping the English out of the country. When reinforcements had arrived from France, it was decided to build a new fort on the river St. John, which would answer the double purpose of strengthening the French in Acadia, and driving the British out of Port Royal. Whilst this work was in course of construction, another vessel arrived from France with the welcome news that the loyalty of Charles de la Tour was appreciated by the King, who had appointed him as Lieutenant-General over Acadia, Fort Louis, Port la Tour, and dependencies.

Whilst Charles de la Tour was becoming more confident that he would be able to establish himself in Acadia, matters were taking a turn somewhat adverse to the interests of the bold adventurer. By the Treaty of St. Germain-en-Laye, signed in the month of March, 1632, the French regained their possessions in America, and were able to pay more attention to the work of colonization. Richelieu sent out an expedition to take formal possession of New France, and gave its command to Isaac de Bazili, a Knight of Malta, and a relative of his own, who had distin-

guished himself at Rochelle. It was but due to Charles de St. Etienne that he should have been appointed to the chief command in Acadia; but, unfortunately for him, he had little influence at the Court. De Razili was appointed Governor-in-Chief of the French colonies, and under him were placed Charles de la Tour and Charles de Menou, otherwise the Chevalier d'Aulnay Charnisay.* All Acadia was divided between these three gentlemen. Besides a considerable grant of land in the peninsula of Nova Scotia, La Tour succeeded in obtaining letters-patent from the French King, recognizing the validity of the concessions on the St. John, which had been originally given to his father by Charles I. of England.

The younger La Tour's fortunes were apparently flourishing, and might have continued to prosper, had not the death of De Razili been followed by dissensions in the colony. By the decease of the chief, all his property fell to his brother, Claude de Razili, who subsequently made it over to M. d' Aulnay, who was one of the Lieutenant-Govenors of the colony. Then occurred disputes with La Tour, who looked upon D'Aulnay as his rival. Of the exact causes of the dispute, in the first instance, we have only very confused accounts; but it is easy to see that difficulties were likely to arise in a country where there was no central authority to decide between disputants, and where the rights of the respective seigneurs were very imperfectly defined. D'Aulnay, however, had a great advantage over his opponent, for he had powerful influence at the French Court, whereas La Tour was comparatively unknown, and regarded with some suspicion on account of his Hugnenot education.

The French Government attempted, at first, to decide between the claimants, and to settle the dispute; but it was not long before D'Aulnay made his influence predominant, and obtained an order to seize the person of his rival. La Tour refused to obey the warrant for his arrest, on the ground that it had been obtained by false representations, and retired to his fort, where with his retainers, largely made up of Indians, he set D'Aulnay at defiance. The latter did not fail to make these facts known at Court, and the result was that orders came out authorizing him to seize the forts and property held by La Tour. In this emergency La Tour resolved to obtain assistance from Boston, with which place he had considerable dealings since his residence in Acadia.

La Tour appears to have fully appreciated the commercial enterprise of his neighbors, and to have concluded that the best way to obtain their sympathy and aid was by appealing to their pockets; for he first approached them with a proposition for free trade between the New England and Acadian ports. The New Englanders gladly accepted the commercial arrangements; but when La Tour asked for assistance against his rival, they hesitated, and finally refused. Matters soon began to look very gloomy for the adventurer, for he was blockaded by D'Aulnay at St. John for some weeks, and there was every probability of his being forced to surrender to his rival; but fortune favored him, and enabled him to escape at night, and find his way to Boston. Considerable sympathy was felt for La Tour, especially as he was believed to be still a Huguenot; but nevertheless the New Englanders hesitated to meddle in the quarrel with D'Aulnay. The desire to encourage one who promised to become a good customer of their own, however, finally prevailed over their scruples, and the 'cute Puritans decided that though the colony could not directly contribute assistance, yet it was lawful for the private citizens to charter their vessels, and offer their services as volunteers in aid of La Tour. No doubt the colonists were very desirous of punishing D'Aulnay for the injury he had done

* Both Garneau and Haliburton fall into the error of mentioning M. Denys, instead of d'Aulnay, as one of the Lieutenants under M. de Razili. M. Denys held no such position until after the death of the Governor, when he was given large rights in the eastern part of the province, and in Cape Breton.

them a few years previously. When De Razili was still alive, D'Aulnay was in charge of the division west of the St. Croix, and during the month of August, 1632, he came by sea to the Plymouth House on the Penobscot (Pentagoit), helped himself to the goods there deposited, with a promise of future payment at his own valuation, warned off the Plymouth traders as trespassers, and occupied their house for his own residence. The intelligence of this proceeding, says a New England historian,* naturally occasioned great exasperation at Plymouth. The Magistrates in vain solicited the Government of Massachusetts for aid to recapture the fort; the Bay Exchequer was too empty. The most they could obtain was permission to engage at their own cost one Girling, master of a ship then lying at Boston, to undertake the conquest. The enterprise miscarried through his lack of competency, which he refused to have supplied by the superior courage and energy of Standish, who had been sent along with him. It had cost too much to be renewed, and the Penobscot remained for some time in unfriendly hands.

The Massachusetts merchants, under these circumstances, provided La Tour with four staunch vessels and 70 men; and a few weeks after they sailed from Boston, —in the middle of August, 1642,—they came to an engagement with D'Aulnay, who was worsted, and forced to retire. Whilst La Tour was strengthening himself once more in Acadia, D'Aulnay went to France, where he made strong representations respecting the conduct of his rival. During his absence, his fort on the Penobscot was destroyed by La Tour, and his property carried off.

From his wife, then in London, La Tour received the unwelcome news that his opponent was on his return to Acadia with an overwhelming force; and, therefore, he presented himself again in Boston with an appeal for further assistance. On this occasion he brought forward evidence in support of his claim, which had considerable weight with the Puritans. He adduced proof, says Winthrop, that the place where the fort was built had been purchased by his father from Sir William Alexander, and that he had a free grant of that part of New Scotland under the great seal of Scotland. When this fact became known to them, the Boston Magistrates seriously reflected whether it was not their duty to grant him still further aid, "both in point of charity as a distressed neighbor, and also in point of prudence, as thereby to root out or at least weaken an enemy, or a dangerous neighbor." Several meetings were held before any decision was arrived at. Their records afford a very curious insight into the character of the Puritan rulers. At one of the meetings the Governor put the case this way :—

"1. Whether it was lawful for true Christians to aid an Anti-Christian? (for La Tour had professed himself a Catholic some time previously.)

"2. Whether it was safe for us in point of prudence?"

It was finally resolved that the Council should do nothing more for the present than remonstrate with D'Aulnay, and demand satisfaction from him for his hostile behaviour and language, and the malpractices of his officers towards Massachusetts and her confederate States; but at the same time they announced their intention of continuing their commercial arrangements with La Tour. The latter was treated with the most punctilious courtesy when he left the town. He was escorted to the wharf by the Deputy-Governor and the train bands, and as he sailed out of the port the Boston ships saluted him with three pieces. No doubt he would have cheerfully dispensed with these honors in exchange for two or three vessels.

Now La Tour's wife appears for the first time on the scene. This lady proved herself throughout a fit helpmate for her husband, since she exhibited an amount of courage and determination not often found in her sex. She had gone to England some

* John Gorham Palfrey.

time in the year 1641, to seek some assistance for La Tour, and when she had fulfilled her mission,—she met with little encouragement, it seems,—she took passage on a vessel belonging to Boston; but the master, instead of taking her to St. John within a specified time, spent nearly six months in trading on the St. Lawrence, and then carried her to Massachusetts. On her arrival at Boston, she brought an action against the master and consignee of the vessel, and after a full hearing of the cause, the Court gave her a verdict of £2,000. After considerable difficulty, she succeeded in obtaining a large portion of this sum, with which she hired three vessels, and then sailed to rejoin her husband on the St. John. But before she had left the colony she had learned that her husband could not rely any further on the friendship of the people of Massachussetts. A few days after Madame La Tour arrived in Boston, an envoy from D'Aulnay presented himself to the Massachussetts Council. He remonstrated against the course pursued in reference to La Tour, and proffered terms of peace and amity. The Council, after some consideration, agreed to a treaty of peace with Charnisay's agent, but it was not ratified by his principal until some time afterwards.

La Tour's prospects now appeared exceedingly gloomy, and his rival's star was clearly in the ascendant. Encouraged by the success of his envoy, D'Aulnay prepared to attack La Tour in the spring of 1645. On the way he met with a New England vessel carrying supplies to his enemy, and after he had seized her, he turned all the crew upon a desolate island, where they had great difficulty in preserving their lives, for the season was very inclement, and they had only a portion of their clothes allowed them by their captors. D'Aulnay soon found himself off the fort, which he expected would soon fall into his hands, as La Tour himself was absent at the time; but he calculated wrongly. Madame la Tour rallied the defenders, and conducted the defence so energetically that D'Aulnay lost a large number of his men, and was obliged to retire with his ship exceedingly damaged. On his return home he took off the New Englanders from the island where they had been exposed, and subsequently sent them to Boston, where their story created a deep feeling of indignation against the treacherous and cruel Frenchman. D'Aulnay was evidently determined at this time to carry matters with a high hand, for he refused to ratify the agreement made by his messenger Marie: but, a few months later, he reconsidered the matter, and came to terms with the British colonies. These terms were afterwards ratified by the Commissioners of the Confederate colonies of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Haven, and Plymouth.

Having succeeded in ensuring the neutrality of the New Englanders, D'Aulnay once more turned his attention towards the fort still occupied by La Tour. The latter, in the spring of 1647, again left his fort in charge of his wife, whilst he went away on a trading voyage or for supplies. D'Aulnay, always watching for his opportunity, immediately laid siege to the fort, and was again met with the most determined resistance of the garrison, nerved and stimulated by the voice and example of the heroic lady, who was present at every vulnerable point. The besiegers were on the point of giving up the contest, when a traitor within the walls —one of those mercenary Swiss who have been ever ready to sell themselves to the highest bidder,—gave them information which determined them to renew the assault. D'Aulnay and his men again attempted to scale the walls, but were forced to retire with a considerable loss. Unable to accomplish his object by force of arms, D'Aulnay had recourse to an infamous stratagem: he offered fair terms if the garrison would capitulate. Madame La Tour, anxious to spare the lives of her brave garrison, which was rapidly thinning, agreed to the proposal, and surrendered the fort; but the sequel proved the falsehood and treachery of D'Aulnay, and gives us additional reason to sympathize with La Tour

in this contest for the mastery of Acadia. Instead of fulfilling his pledge like an honorable man, he hanged all the defenders with the exception of one person, whose life was spared on his consenting to act as executioner. Even at that moment his hard, false heart could not feel pity for the unfortunate lady, who had been so credulous as to believe in his plighted word, for he forced her to stand by, with a rope round her neck, and witness the murder,—for it was nothing else under the circumstances,—of the brave men who had so nobly assisted her in defending her husband's rights. This terrible tragedy so preyed on the poor lady's mind,—already wrecked by the excitement and trials she had undergone for many months,—that she became almost insane, and died a few weeks after the occurrence of these events we have narrated. Madame La Tour appears to have been naturally of a loving, gentle disposition; beneath her quiet exterior was the spirit of that Spanish maid whose name must ever live in the annals of her country.*

Bereft of wife and estate, La Tour gave up the unequal contest for the present. He went to Boston, and subsequently to Newfoundland, where Sir David Kirk was the governor at that time; but in neither place could he obtain the assistance he needed. He then resolved on a trading voyage, and after some delay obtained a vessel and freight through the means of Major Gibbons, a Boston merchant, with whom he had had considerable dealings since his residence in Acadia. One account of this voyage represents him as having acted dishonorably towards his creditors; but the writer appears to have been misled by the reports of prejudiced witnesses, and we are unwilling to believe, that a man who had previously given evidence of the possession of so many manly qualities would have descended to the level of a mere trickster.

La Tour, in the year 1648, presented himself at Quebec, where he was received with the most gratifying demonstrations of respect by his countrymen, who admired the heroic fortitude he had displayed in the Acadian struggle. Of his history for some years we are comparatively in the dark. It is stated that he visited the regions of Hudson's Bay, as a fur trader, and met with considerable success. In the meantime, however, his rival, D'Aulnay,* died, leaving a widow and several children; and as soon as La Tour ascertained this fact, he went to France, where he met with a most satisfactory reception. The French Government acknowledged the injustice with which it had treated him in the past, and appointed him Governor and Lieutenant-General of Acadia, with enlarged privileges and powers. The next step he took was also calculated to strengthen his position, and that was his marriage with D'Aulnay's widow, Jeanne de Motin, some time in the latter part of February, 1653. This was clearly a *mariage de convenance* on both sides, but it was the best means that could be devised to save Acadia from becoming once more the scene of discord and strife; for the widow of the deceased D'Aulnay had many powerful friends in France, who were quite ready to assist her in sustaining all her rights in the new world. Peace then reigned for some months in Acadia,—many new settlers came into the country, the forts were strengthened, and the people were hoping for an era of tranquility and prosperity. But there was to be no peace or rest for the French in Acadia.

As the number of the French increased, the jealousy of the British colonies in New England was excited, until at last they ordered that any one who carried provisions to the Acadian settlements, should forfeit both vessel and cargo. La Tour, ever

* The wives of the French commanders, in America, seem to have been very often women of more than ordinary strength of character. When Louisburg was attacked by the British for the second time, in the year 1758, Madame de Drucour, lady of the governor, fired a cannon with her own hands, and did all she could to animate the soldiery.

* Both Garneau and Ferland agree in representing D'Aulnay as a rapacious, grasping tyrant, who did everything he could to prevent any extensive settlement in the province.

anxious to propitiate his neighbors, knowing how necessary it was to retain their friendship, approached them with amicable overtures, and finally succeeded in obtaining a partial revocation of the obnoxious order. But other dangers and difficulties soon presented themselves.

It would appear, as far as we can judge from the authorities at hand, that La Tour had still many enemies in France, who were industriously engaged in working his ruin. Among the number must be placed one La Borgne, a creditor of D'Aulnay, who had been deeply incensed at the marriage of the widow with La Tour. He determined on making an effort, not only to obtain possession of Charnisay's property, but to usurp the position he had held in Acadia. A man of large wealth, he had no difficulty in engaging the services of a large force, with which he sailed to America some time during the year 1654, and immediately commenced operations against M. Denys, who had been in the country ever since he accompanied De Razili to Acadia in 1632. He had been industriously engaged in trade, at different places on the eastern coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton (Isle Royale). At the time of La Borgne's expedition he was on a visit to his post at St. Anne's (Port Dauphin) on the island, but before he could make any preparations for his defence he was surprised, and sent a prisoner to Port Royal, where his enemy already held possession. M. Denys appears to have been treated with great harshness by his captor; but after some months' imprisonment he was allowed his liberty, and enabled to go to France, where he laid his case before the King, and succeeded in obtaining a recognition of his rights in Acadia.*

Whilst La Borgne was preparing to attack La Tour, another party appeared on the scene of action. By this time the civil war had been fought in England, the king beheaded, and Cromwell become Lord-Protector of the commonwealth. In the course of 1653 very strong representations had been made to the Protector by the New England colonies, respecting the movements of the French in America, and the necessity of immediate steps being taken to reduce the country to the dominion of Great Britain. Peace then nominally prevailed between the two countries, but we have seen in the case of Argall that such a fact made little difference in America—that there matters were carried with a high hand, and without reference to international obligations. A fleet, which had been sent out by Cromwell, to operate against the Dutch colony of Manhattan, arrived at Boston in June, 1654, but the news came a few days afterwards, that peace had been proclaimed between England and Holland. Thereupon the fleet was secretly directed against the French in Acadia; and as La Tour was not in a position to make any resistance, he soon capitulated. A few weeks later all Acadia was in the hands of the English.

We have now very little to add to this historical sketch. Both La Borgne and Denys were almost ruined by the events that followed the fall of Acadia, and obliged to retire for a time from the country; but La Tour appears to have been more fortunate than the rest of his countrymen. He was now far advanced in years, and unable to resist the evil destiny that seemed to follow all the efforts of France to establish herself in Nova Scotia. He saw the folly of resisting the English, and bowed to the inevitable logic of events. No doubt the injuries he had received from his own countrymen, together with the apathy which the French Government displayed in the affairs of Acadia, induced him to place himself under the protection of the English. The representations he made to the Protector met with a favorable response, and obtained for him letters patent, dated Aug. 9, 1656, granting to him, Sir Charles La Tour, in conjunction with Sir Thomas Temple, and William Crowne, the whole territory of Acadia—the mines and mine-

* It was from Nicolas Denys, Sieur de Fronsac, that the Strait of Canso received its former name of Fronsac. He was of a very enterprising character.

[...]s being alone reserved for the use of the Government. Sir Thomas Temple subsequently bought up La Tour's share, and carried on the fisheries, the fur trade, and other undertakings, with considerable success. Acadia remained in the hands of England until the treaty of Breda, which was concluded in the July of 1667, between Charles II, of England, and Louis XIV, of France.

We have no details of the life of Charles de la Tour after Sir Thomas Temple entered into the possession of Acadia. He does not appear to have taken any active part in public affairs, or in commercial enterprises; but to have passed the remainder of his life quietly in the country in which he had suffered so many misfortunes, and led so eventful a career. He is believed to have died sometime in the year 1666, at the ripe age of 74. He left several descendants, but none of them played an important part in the future of Acadia, although their names are frequently mentioned in the history of the times in which they lived.*

La Tour's name still clings to a little harbour, in the vicinity of Cape Sable, and it is even yet possible to trace the position of the fort in which he resisted the English so successfully in 1630, when they came, under the directions of his father, to seduce him from his allegiance to France. The story of his memorable career, however, is little known, except to a few students of the historic past of Acadia. His life, we have seen, presents a strange contrast of light and shadow. Time and again he has apparently overcome his difficulties, when suddenly misfortune overtakes him, and he, once more, is a wanderer and an exile. No obstacles, however, appear to have over daunted him—on the contrary, they only stimulated him to renewed exertions. In the peaceful close of his career he was more fortunate than the lion-hearted Poutrincourt, for he at least had the consolation of dying where he could see the foam-flecked waters that bathed the shores of Acadia, and could breathe the aromatic fragrance of the fir forests that then stretched far and wide. Poutrincourt had not even the poor reward of having his name perpetuated on some headland or bay of the country, where he laboured so earnestly to found a state in the closest connection with France.

* During the year 1636—when a census was taken by M. de Meulles—there was living at Port Royal, Marie de St. Etienne, wife of le Sieur Alexandre le Borgne, the eldest of the five children of La Tour, by Madame D'Aulnay. At Cape Sable, Jacques La Tour, Sieur de Etienne, born in 1661; and Charles La Tour, born in 1665. At St. John, Jeanne La Tour, the wife of a gentleman, named Martin d'Aprendistigue, and supposed to be the daughter of La Tour by his first wife.—*Murdoch, Vol. I, pp. 169, 170, 361 et seq.*

Original.

LAHAVE.

BY W. ARTHUR CALNEK, ANNAPOLIS, N.S.

In the forest, on the mountains,
Welling up in joyous fountains,
From the water-crypts below,
Where a Naiad nymph enforces
Fresh supplies to fill the sources,
Whence thy silver waters flow;
Lo! from thence unto the valley,—
Where a thousand streamlets rally
To increase thy laughing wave,—
Comest thou the vale adorning,
Charm of ev'ning, grace of morning,
Gentle river, O LaHave.

Onward, onward, and forever,
Halting, hesitating never,
In thy progress to the sea;
And the festoons, and the arches,
Formed by elm-trees and by larches,
Sylvan passage give to thee.
And the wild flowers, as in duty,
Clothe thy pathway with their beauty,—
All the beauty thou could'st crave,—
And with odorous balm, the essence
Of their charming efflorescense,
Bathe thy bosom, O LaHave.

Over rocks, upon whose shoulders
Stand majestic whinstone boulders,
Rolls thy current evermore;
And the clay-slates and micaceous,
To its ceaseless lavings gracious,
Bare their quartz-veins on thy shore;