

thought only of hunting for mines, and would not give up the idea that there could be a single district in America where there were none. As long as the provisions brought from France lasted, and they had powder and lead, they lived well. Fishing was also, for a time, a great resource. But all this failed them almost simultaneously, as the fish frequent the rivers only at certain seasons.

1562.

They then had recourse to the natives, who did their best, as they were well treated ; but this source was soon exhausted. An Indian's surplus is a small affair, especially for people strangers to the sobriety of the tribes, and still less to the power of going, as they do, for some days without food. To crown their misfortunes, a fire broke out in the fort, and in a few hours consumed it, with all the stores, just after they had laid up a large quantity of Indian corn, for which they had been obliged to go a great distance.¹ This loss was, nevertheless, repaired quite promptly ; but a most tragic accident plunged the colony in disorder, and soon caused its entire ruin.

The commander of Charles Fort was an enterprising man, and not absolutely devoid of ability ; but he was brutal to ferocity, and did not even observe the restraints of civilized intercourse. While a subaltern, this defect had not been apparent : authority put it in full light, or removed the check which restrained him. He punished the slightest fault, and excessively. He hung with his own hands a soldier who had not deserved death ; he deprived another of his arms as unjustly, then exiled him, and it was believed that he intended he should die of hunger and hardship. He was constantly menacing the punishment of death, and no one could displease him and be sure of his life. His very language, it was said, would make a man's hair stand on end.

He at last exhausted the patience of the most moderate ;

¹ *Histoire Notable*, pp. 46-50 ; *Lescarbot* (1612), p. 57.