

the English Government must endeavour to attract them. Those refugees would do well to demand—1st. The free exercise of their religion, and by no means to allow their priests to be compelled, as it were, to ask a blessing from the Governor. They should take care that the Bishop shall have power to visit them at least every five years.

“ 2. That they shall neither take up arms against the French or their allies, nor even act as pilots.

“ 3. That they shall have the right to leave the country whenever they think proper to do so. Exhort them strongly not to return to the English without these conditions; make it appear that without a precise explanation, religion would gradually disappear from among them.”

Things had arrived at such a state in 1753, that the British authorities not only offered no opposition to the withdrawal of the Acadians, but entered seriously into the consideration of the propriety of removing them; and Governor Hopson took great pains to ascertain the total number of Indians and Acadians, and reported on the 23rd July, to the Lords of Trade, that there were 973 families of Acadians and about 300 families of Indians. It would, however, appear that in September following, the Acadians having sent in to Governor Hopson a memorial couched in the terms recommended by the Bishop, he gave them permission to return and resume their lands, to have the free exercise of their religion, “in the same manner as the other French inhabitants, and shall enjoy all the privileges granted them by the treaty of Utrecht,” on their taking the following oath:

“ Je promet et jure sincèrement, que je serai fidèle, et que je porterai une loyauté parfaite vers Sa Majesté Le Roi George Second. Ainsi, que Dieu me soit en aide.”

Very little good resulted from these negociations; and in 1754, the Acadians, who, at the suggestion of La Loutre, had