

naturally have doubted the sincerity of the offer to take it; yet, if there had been any disposition subsequently evinced on the part of the Neutrals to take the oath, they would have been released; as the Governor writes on the 18th day of the same month to the English Government, that he had refused, but intimates that he was waiting, before giving a different answer, "until we see how the rest of the inhabitants are disposed."

The inhabitants of the different Acadian townships were ordered to send deputies to Halifax, and on the 25th those from Annapolis river were examined by the Council.

"The said deputies were then ordered to be called in; and being asked what they had to say, they declared that they appeared in behalf of themselves and all the other inhabitants of the Annapolis River; that they could not take any other oath than what they had formerly taken—which was with a reserve that they should not be obliged to take up arms; and that if it was the King's intention to force them to quit their lands, they hoped that they should be allowed a convenient time for their departure.

"The Council then asked them several questions concerning the allegiance they so much boasted of in their memorial, and the intelligence which they say they have given the government, of which they were desirous to mention a single instance whereby any advantage had accrued to the government; but this they were unable to do. On the contrary, it was made very evident to them that they have always omitted to give timely intelligence when they had it in their power, and might have saved the lives of many of His Majesty's subjects; but that they had always secretly aided the Indians, and many of them had even appeared openly in arms against His Majesty. They were then told that they must now resolve either to take the oath without any reserve, or else to quit their lands,—for that affairs were now at such a crisis in America, that no delay could be admitted; that the French had obliged us to take up arms against their encroachments, and it was unknown what steps they might take further; for which reason, if they (the inhabitants) would not become subjects to all intents and purposes, they could not be suffered to remain in the country. Upon which they said they were determined, one and all, rather to quit their lands, than to take any other oath than what they had done before."

The Council then told them that they ought very seriously to consider the consequences of their refusal. That, if they once refused the oath, they would never after be permitted to take it, but would infallibly lose their possessions; that the Council were unwilling to hurry them into a determination upon an affair of so much consequence to them, and therefore they should be allowed till next Monday, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, to reconsider the matter and form their resolution, when their final answer would be expected. And the Council then adjourned to that time."

In the mean time the deputies from Piziquid, Menis, and River aux Canards arrived.

On the Monday following (an eventful day in the history of this province) the Council met and "the said deputies were then called in, and peremptorily refused to take the oath of allegiance to His Majesty.

"The deputies of Annapolis also appeared and refused the oath. Whereupon they were all ordered into confinement.

"As it had been before determined to send all the French inhabitants out of the province if they refused to take the oaths, nothing now remained to be considered but what measures should be taken to send them away, and where they should be sent to.

After mature consideration, it was unanimously agreed, that to prevent as much as possible their attempting to return and molest the settlers that may be set down on their lands, it would be most proper to send them to be distributed amongst the several colonies on the continent, and that a sufficient number of vessels should be hired with all possible expedition for that purpose."

NOTE C.

That great suffering was caused by the settlement of Halifax and of the province, by settlers being kept idle in Halifax, is evident from the petition of Robert Grant and Richard Bulkely to form a settlement at Lawrencetown for