

permitted to enter the ports of Acadia and this was opposed. They next constructed small vessels for which they endeavored to procure equipment at Louisburg and Boston, but in this they were prohibited. Being prevented from withdrawing by water there remained now but one other way by which they could depart—by land. They, accordingly, set to work to open up a road but had to desist from the work by order of Governor Philips.

Even Parkman, whose chapter dealing with the expulsion of the Acadians in “A Half Century of Conflict,” reads like a brief in defence of the policy of England in the New World, admits that Governor Nicholson and his successors did everything in their power to prevent the Acadians from departing. Here is what he says :

“Governor Nicholson, like his predecessor, was resolved to keep the Acadians in the Province if he could. This personage, able, energetic, headstrong, perverse, unscrupulous, conducted himself, even towards the English officers and soldiers, in a manner that seems unaccountable and that kindled their utmost indignation. Towards the Acadians his behavior was still worse. . . The Acadians built small vessels and the French authorities at Louisburg sent them the necessary rigging. Nicholson ordered it back, forbade the sale of their lands and houses, and would not even let them sell their personal effects ; coolly setting at naught both the treaty of Utrecht and the letter of the Queen. Cauldfield and Doucette, his deputies, both, in one degree or another, followed his example in preventing so far as they could the emigration of the Acadians.”

The Acadians being thus foiled by the English in their every attempts to leave the country, asked that as subjects of Great Britain they be exempted from bearing arms against the French, or Indians, their allies. There was surely nothing