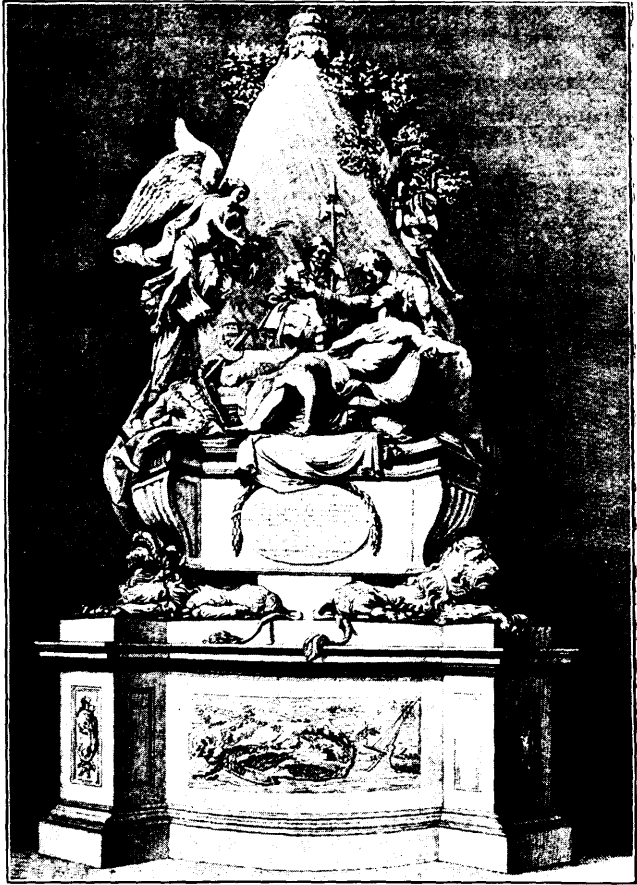


might, in case of continued French successes in America, become open and dangerous foes. But while there are writers who defend this sad incident of American history on the ground of stern national necessity at a critical period in the affairs of this continent, all humanity that listens to the dictates of the heart and tender feeling will always deplore the exile of those hapless people. One would fain believe that other measures, less cruel in their consequences, could have been devised and successfully consummated to bring the contumacious Acadians to their senses and make them eventually loyal British subjects. But while we pity these exiles and condemn the sternness of the resolve that drove them from the lands which they had tilled with so much industry, it is well to remember that in the conflicts of old

times between the French and English Colonies humane counsels too rarely dominated, and the annals of *la petite guerre*, which constantly devastated parts of New England, are full of the stories of murdered men, women and children. Even Frontenac, brave soldier and statesman, was ready to carry out a bold plan by which all the British and Dutch people in what is now New York State would be forcibly driven from their homes and their places taken by the French. It was left for Englishmen in a later century to carry out a cruel scheme first suggested by the ablest Governor of the French regime. I do not, however, mention this historical fact as any extenuating circumstance for the expulsion of the



WOLFE'S MONUMENT IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

unhappy farmers of Acadia, but simply to show how in times of war men of the highest character are deaf to all dictates of humanity.

Previous to the expulsion of the Acadians from their happy homes on the meadows of Grand Pré and Minas, England had sustained a severe defeat in the valley of the Ohio, which created much alarm throughout the English colonies, and probably had some influence on the fortunes of this unhappy people. France had formally taken possession of the Ohio country, and established forts in 1753 on French Creek, at its junction with the Alleghany and at the forks of the Ohio. Both De La Galissonnière and Duquesne, when governors, immediately recog-