

## INTRODUCTION.

AFTER the taking of Canada<sup>1</sup>, the government of Nova-Scotia wanted the trade of the Bay of Chaleurs to be turned into their channel, while the government of Quebec strove to keep it in their hands. There was a number of Acadians settled in the bay, who had taken a great many of our vessels with their privateers, but had now made their submission to the English.<sup>2</sup>

I GOT a licence from General Murray, governor of Quebec, to go trade with them, and to make an establishment if I thought proper. I found the place and people convenient for a cod fishery, and had employed them sometime in that branch. They had loaded a vessel for me, of about an hundred and twenty tons, with dry fish, oil, &c. which was ready to sail, when government thought proper suddenly to remove the inhabitants.<sup>3</sup> This manoeuvre was a very great loss to me—they had engaged to deliver me the year after, five thousand quintals of fish, and four thousand weight of beaver, &c. I was obliged to leave the supplies of salt, &c. which I must have advanced to them [VI]<sup>4</sup> against the spring fishery, upon the beach, (as my vessel was full)—this was destroyed in the winter. I am afraid this step originated from selfish motives, not the consideration of the public good; for I read a letter from Captain M'Kenzie, commanding officer of Fort Cumberland, to Jean Baptist,<sup>5</sup> a principal person there, offering supplies of all kinds, such as powder, shot,

1. In the previous year, 1760. The competition for the trade of Bay Chaleur, here mentioned, is not referred to in any of our historical works, so far as I can find.

2. The Acadians, it will be remembered, had been practically outlawed in Nova Scotia (then including New Brunswick), ever since the Expulsion in 1755. The English repeatedly tried to drive them from the Province, while they, on their part, attacked English vessels with their privateers, and, in conjunction with the Indians, made forays against the English settlements. In 1760 the Acadians from the Miramichi southward had made their submission to the English at Fort Cumberland, while those from Restigouche (including no doubt those of Nepisiguit), were expected soon to do likewise (Murdoch, Nova Scotia, II, 396) and actually did so, as Smethurst's statement shows.

3. As described in the opening paragraph of the Narrative following. The question now arises,—why were they

removed after making their submission? The answer is given in a letter from Jonathan Belcher, President of the Council of Nova Scotia, to the Secretary of State (abstract in Report on Canadian Archives, 1894, 229; also in Murdoch, Nova Scotia, II, 408), in which he states that "a considerable body of Acad'ians had withdrawn from allegiance and retired North to the Gulph of St. Lawrence. These people had taken up arms and by means of small vessels are infesting the navigation of the river and committing depredations on His Majesty's subjects."

It is quite possible that the inhabitants of Nepisiguit and vicinity were not the guilty ones, but had to suffer for them, as so often is the case in operations of war.

4. The numbers in brackets scattered through the following pages are those expressing the pagination in the original text. The first numbered page begins here.

5. The same person, no doubt, mentioned in the Narrative under Nov. 5.