

THE HOME OF EVANGELINE.

BY ARTHUR C. KEMPTON.

"Then he beheld, in a dream, once more the home of his childhood,
Green Acadian meadows, with sylvan rivers
among them;
Village and mountain and woodlands; and
walking under their shadow,
As in the days of her youth, Evangeline rose
in his vision."

Longfellow, in Evangeline.

IN my dreams, both by day and by night, the "green Acadian meadows," with "village and mountain woodlands" frequently arise, for the home of my

England. Then came the French, discovering the finny treasures on the banks of Newfoundland, and calling the whole eastern coasts of America "New France." It was not until the year 1604 that an actual settlement was made in what we now call Nova Scotia. Then it was that the truly romantic history of Acadia began. Settlers came from France, and all expected to grow rich by trading in furs. Canada was the Klondike of the seventeenth century. Up the beautiful Annapolis basin sailed the French ships, headed for a city called Port Royal, the ruined forts of which may be seen to-day.

the Treaty of Utrecht, according to which these lands were ceded to Great Britain.

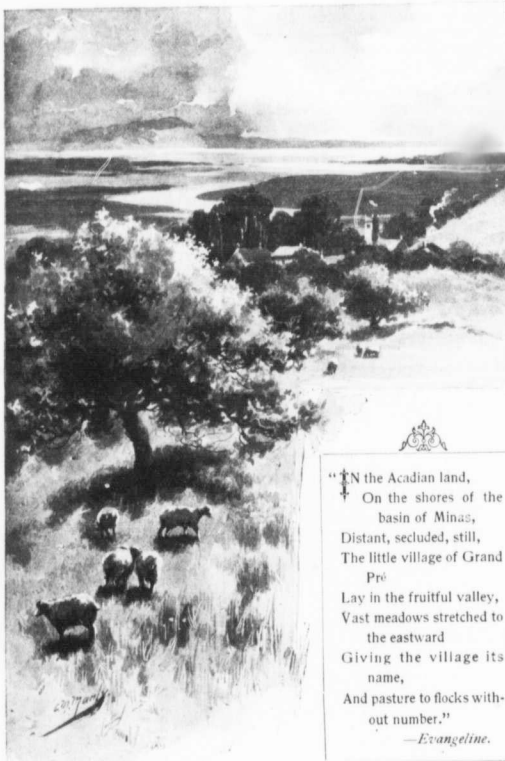
This dawn of peace, however, was soon darkened by clouds of war. Queen Anne died in 1714, and in the following year a sloop of war visited the settlements to proclaim King George, and administered the oath of allegiance. The French repeatedly refused to take the oath, and after each refusal became more bold in their defiance of British power. They held themselves in readiness to take up arms against the English the moment war was declared between the two Crowns, and to restore Acadia to France. Incited by them, the Indians grasped their tomahawks and scalping knives and wrought havoc among the English settlers. The British were too weak to enforce their claims, and for many years their authority was defied with impunity.

But with the founding of Halifax in 1749 the "weak knees" of the British lion were strengthened. Governor Cornwallis again commanded the French subjects to take the oath of allegiance. In reply he received a declaration with a thousand signatures, stating that they were determined not to take the oath. Jesuit missionaries incited the French and Indians to open hostilities. French forts began to be erected. Hopes began to be openly expressed for a speedy change in government. In this crisis the authorities in Nova Scotia and Massachusetts decided upon backing their demand with their arms. Patience had ceased to be a virtue. The desperate situation demanded desperate measures. It was determined to scatter the troublesome French among the British colonies so that they could no longer unite in offensive measures; and the hope was expressed that gradually they would become British in their sympathies.

The execution of this sentence was committed to Colonel Winslow, a man in whose nature was both the milk of human kindness and the bone of human firmness. He shrank from the task to which his loyalty as a soldier urged him. With ships of war he appeared suddenly before the French settlements of Acadia. Then it was that the people of Grand Pré saw

" . . . The English ships at their anchors
Ride in the Gasperes's mouth, with their
cannon pointed against us,
What their design may be is unknown."

This hidden design was soon revealed. The Acadians were taken prisoners and placed on board the ships. Every effort was made to keep families and villages together upon the same ship. The first embarkation took place on October 8th, 1755. Many remained behind, lurking in the woods or returning to their old haunts, whence they waged a guerrilla warfare against the English. But their power was broken, and they were no longer a danger to the province. Of the exiles, one party overpowered the crew of the vessel that carried them, ran her ashore at the mouth of the St. John River, and escaped. The rest were distributed among the colonies from Massachusetts to Georgia. Their welcome was naturally not the most cordial, and though they were not ill-treated, their lot was a hard one. Many of them reached Louisiana, where their descendants are to-day. Some, after in-



"ON the Acadian land,
On the shores of the
basin of Minas,
Distant, secluded, still,
The little village of Grand
Pré
Lay in the fruitful valley,
Vast meadows stretched to
the eastward
Giving the village its
name,
And pasture to flocks with-
out number."

—Evangeline.

GRAND PRÉ, NOVA SCOTIA.

childhood is in their midst. Charles Dudley Warner declared Nova Scotia to be "the most poetic place on earth." Rock-ribbed and sprayed with ocean foam, broken with rugged mountains and peaceful valleys and flowing streams, Nova Scotia is like modern Scotland or ancient Greece.

Five years after Columbus discovered America, Cabot planted the British flag upon these sounding shores, and claimed them in the name of King Henry VII of

But the English still claimed the country. They founded colonies in Virginia and New England. War broke out between the mother countries, and spread across the Atlantic to the colonies. Indian arrows flew with leaden bullets, and war-paint marched side by side with colored uniforms. Premiums were set upon the scalps of white men, as bounties are now given for the skins of wolves and bears. The horrors of those times are indescribable. But peace dawned with