

XV.

The British Governors of Acadie
 Made haste to carry out the stern decree
 Which drove the exiles from their happy homes ;
 The deed was done without authority,
 Because they knew that word would never come
 From mother England far across the sea,
 To ruthlessly destroy a hundred homes.

XVI.

They planned to push the matter and succeed,
 Then front the world as Clive and Hastings did :
 As Jamieson and Rhodes had hoped to do,—
 As thousands do in business every day :
 That man is still a hero who succeeds !
 And he who fails ! " There s no such word as fail ! " ³⁶
 They hastened, that the work might all be done,
 And quickly done, as Judas work should be, ³⁷
 Before a counter-order came from home
 To stay that mighty arm, and ragged lash,
 That Nemesis ³⁸ was poisoning to lay on.

XVII.

The brothers of those bold *coureurs-des-bois*
 Who heard their loose-mouthed boast in Basil's forge, ³⁹
 And envied them the licence of the woods,
 The hairy trophies, and the general loot,—
 The fathers, too, who year by year maintained
 One settled purpose, that could strangely blend

³⁵ On the 10th of August 1749, Lord Cornwallis issued an order declaring that the British Government would not interfere with the exercise of the Roman Catholic religion in any way; but required the priests as well as the people to take the oath of allegiance to Great Britain.

³⁶ See Shakespeare's " Macbeth.

³⁷ " what thou doest do quickly " Words of Christ to Judas.

³⁸ Nemesis, the stern avenging goddess of the Greeks.

³⁹ If there was a Basil with a forge, there were also loafers, for " since the birth of time," etc.