

long been known in England, and it had frequently been the resort of fishing vessels. No one, however, lived there, save possibly a few French families and Indians.

The command of the expedition was given to the Hon. Edward Cornwallis, son of the third Baron of that name, who was to assume the governorship of Nova Scotia at a salary of a thousand pounds a year. As subsequent events proved, no better choice of a leader could have been made.

Without waiting for the departure of the transports, Cornwallis and his suite set sail from England in the middle of May, 1749, and, after a boisterous voyage of one month, sighted the Nova Scotian coast. Having called at the little French settlement of Malagash, now Lunenburg, he coasted along to Chebucto Harbor, where he cast anchor on the 21st of June (old style).¹ Nothing met his eye but the magnificent harbor and ranges of low hills clothed with an unbroken forest that grew to the shore. Three years before, the remnant of d'Anville's immense fleet had ridden at anchor in the same waters, and had encamped its dying multitudes upon the beach. No clearings, however, had then been made, and the country which Cornwallis gazed upon seemed untouched by the hand of man.

During the last days of June and early in July the transports arrived with the settlers. Some of the ships, after discharging their passengers on George's island, were despatched to Louisbourg to carry hither Colonel Hopson and two regiments, which, in accordance with the treaty, were preparing to evacuate that town. These troops reached Chebucto late in July, bringing with them immense quantities of stores.

Immediately after his arrival, Cornwallis sent a despatch to Colonel Mascarene, lieutenant-governor at Annapolis Royal, instructing him to come to Chebucto with a quorum of his council in order that the former might take over the government. Mascarene having arrived, Cornwallis presented his commission, was sworn in, and a new council appointed. This council met for the first time on board one of the transports.² The fact was proclaimed by a general salute from the ships, and in honor of the event the day was given up to amusements. One of the first questions discussed by this body was the much-vexed one regarding the status of the French Acadians. As a

¹Equivalent to July 2nd, new style.

²The table around which this board sat is still to be seen in the Province Building, Halifax.