

forward, and gave their aid in carrying it into effect. Never were a people more enthusiastic, or entertained stronger hopes of success, than the people of Massachusetts at that time. Letters were immediately sent to Pennsylvania and other colonies, requesting their assistance.

Governor Shirley soon made proclamation for raising the necessary forces; and measures were taken for equipping the small fleet then owned by the province, for the purpose of conveying the troops. The Governor also sent to the Commander of the British fleet at the West Indies, requesting aid.

The island of Cape Breton, on which Louisburg is situated, constitutes at present a part of the Province of Nova Scotia. It is of triangular form, and eighty leagues in circumference. Its western and northern shores are steep, rocky, and inaccessible; while its south-eastern is indented with beautiful bays and harbors, safe for ships of the largest size. Its soil is barren, and a large portion of the year the island is either enveloped in fog, or locked up with snow and ice. Its entire population, at the present time, does not exceed 30,000, most of whom are engaged in the fisheries, and in the coal and lumber trades.

Louisburg has frequently been called the "Dunkirk of America." For a description of it, I use the words of Dr. Belknap. "It was two miles and a half in circumference, fortified in every accessible point, with a rampart of stone, from thirty to thirty-six feet high, and a ditch eighty feet wide. A space of two hundred yards was left without a rampart, on the side next the sea, and enclosed by a simple dike and pickets. The . . . was so narrow at this place, that it made only a narrow channel, inaccessible, from its numerous reefs, to any shipping whatever. On an island, at the entrance of the harbor which was only four hundred yards wide, was a battery of thirty cannon; and at the bottom of the harbor, directly opposite to the entrance, was the ground, or royal battery, of twenty-eight, forty-two, and eighteen pound cannon. On a high cliff, opposite the island battery, stood the light-house; and at the northeast part of the harbor was a magazine for naval stores.

"The town was regularly laid out in squares. The streets were broad, and the houses mostly built of wood and stone. The entrance to the town was at the west gate, over a draw-bridge, which was protected by a circular battery of cannon.

"These works had been twenty five years in building, and, though