

and to be subjects to the Kingdom of Great Britain are to enjoy the free exercise of their religion according to the usage of the Church of Rome, as far as the laws of Great Britain do allow the same."

A letter dated June 23rd, 1713, from the Queen of England to Governor Nicholson, extended further the terms of the treaty granting to the Acadians, who wished to remain as subjects of Great Britain, the privilege of retaining and enjoying their lands and tenements without any molestation, or to sell the same if they should rather choose to remove elsewhere. The treaty gave them a year to remove from the country, but the letter did not specify any time for their departure. We shall now see how far the English authorities in Nova Scotia complied with this particular article of the treaty.

In August, 1713, the Acadians sent delegates to Louisbourg to come to an understanding with the English governor on the conditions to be held out to them if they were transported over to the French territory. From this date up to 1730, the policy and purpose of each successive English governor was to prevent the Acadians from leaving the country. First, Governor Vetch, then Nicholson, then Cauldfield, then Doucette, then Phillips, and Armstrong, and later still Cornwallis, used not only their prerogative but every artifice and cunning to defeat the settled purpose of the Acadians to leave the country. This fact cannot be denied for it is borne out by the official documents of time.

Let us, at this stage of our investigation, then, remember that the Acadians made several attempts to leave the country between 1713 and 1730, but were thwarted in their designs by the actions of the English governors. At first the Acadians thought they could leave in English vessels; these were refused. Then they asked that French ships might be