

walls crumbled rapidly under the heavy fire of the besiegers. The resistance was brave but ineffectual. With all but two of their vessels burned, captured or sunk, and when town and fortress were well-nigh demolished by shot and shell, Louisbourg capitulated. Its inhabitants were conveyed to France, and the garrison and sailors, over five thousand in number, were sent prisoners to England.

As Halifax was a good naval station and well fortified, "it was deemed inexpedient to maintain a costly garrison at Louisbourg; so sappers and minners were sent there in the summer of 1760, and in the short space of six months all the fortifications and public buildings, which had cost France twenty-five years of labour and a vast amount of money, were utterly demolished,—the walls and glacis levelled into the ditch,—leaving, in fact, nothing to mark their former situation but heaps of stones and rubbish. All the artillery, ammunition, stores, implements,—everything of the slightest value, even the hewn stones which had decorated the public buildings, were transported to Halifax.

The fortress, constructed at such cost and assailed and defended with such valour, thus fell into utter ruin. Where giant navies rode and earth-shaking war achieved such vast exploits, to-day the peaceful waters of the placid bay kiss the deserted strand, and a small fishing hamlet and a few mouldering ruin-mounds mark the grave of so much military pomp, and power, and glory.

The project of making Louisbourg the terminus of the Canadian trans-continental railway system promises to restore much of its former importance to this historic spot. It will shorten the ocean travel to Europe by about a thousand miles, a consideration of much importance in these days of rapid transit.

The extension of the Intercolonial Railway from Port Mulgrave, on the Strait of Canseau to the two Sydneys, enables one to reach the most attractive parts of the island with the greatest ease. An elegant parlour car is ferried across the strait, and amid these recently primeval wilds one may travel in the greatest luxury, even to the tourist buffet which prepares comfortable meals.

At Baddeck I visited the quaint old gaol—a low, log building, more like a country school-house than anything else but for the iron gratings on each window. The cells were not cells, but good-sized rooms, with a fireplace and wide bed in each. A prisoner was looking cheerfully out of the front window, taking advantage of the unwonted stir in the little town—for it was court day. To the court, therefore, I went, and found that I formed one-ninth of its constitution—the others being the judge, clerk, tipstaff, defendant, lawyer and three spectators.