

torture, physical and mental, more than it excuses the savage for burning his victim at the stake. The course pursued had not even the manly quality of open dealing, but consisted in a series of schemes, each of which was a trap so that turn which way they might, the intended victims must at last suffer the sentence of spoliation and expatriation. The purpose was perfectly hidden until the fatal line was passed.

Having been forgiven for joining hands with the enemy in the recent contest at the fort of Beausejours, their hearts were sufficiently softened by the unexpected clemency, to respond promptly through their representatives that they were willing to take the oath of allegiance to the British crown, a summons having been issued to them to determine the matter. These representatives were, however, astounded when informed that the old time treaty proviso, granting them immunity from bearing arms and also allowing especial religious privileges, could no longer be tolerated and would not be permitted. The oath must now be taken, without proviso or reservation, as an evidence of complete abandonment of any former allegiance. This measure was wholly unexpected and to them shocking to the last degree. The representatives could not at once answer for their constituency, in fact could do no less than to return to them for instruction in a matter so vital to their interests. When they returned for final consultation, the trap was sprung; it was pronounced too late. Pronouncing the delay an evidence of unwillingness and insincerity, the oath could not now be taken at all or in any form, and the suppliants were their government's outcasts. Thus, step by step the cords were being drawn