

follow from despair or what an additional number of useful subjects may be given by their flight to the French King. . .” “In regard to the three years transmigration proposed for Acadians of the Peninsula, it would be depriving Great Britain of a very considerable number of useful subjects if such transmigration should extend to those who were inhabitants there at the time of the treaty and to their descendants.”

But no ; Lawrence is determined to carry out his plan of deportation. Do the Acadians not “*possess the best and largest tracts of land in the Province,*” and consequently is it not better “*that they were away.*” Besides are there not 118,300 cattle, sheep, pigs and horses, the property of the Acadians, which will fall into his hands—therefore, is he bent on the deportation. Lawrence has his eye on the cattle throughout the whole painful drama.

Writing to Colonel Monkton, who was the commandant at Beau-Séjour, this New World despot gives the following instructions as to the seizure and deportation of the Acadians : “As there may be a deal of difficulty in securing them you will, to prevent this as much as possible, destroy all the villages on the north and northwest side of the Isthmus that lay any distance from Fort Beau-Séjour, and use every other method to distress as much as can be those who may attempt to conceal themselves in the woods. But I would have all care taken *to save the cattle* and prevent as much as possible the Acadians *from carrying off or destroying the cattle.*” That is the idea : distress as much as possible the inhabitants but save the cattle !

From a memorial sent in 1758 to England by a number of Nova Scotians praying that the Home government would institute an inquiry into the abuses committed by Governor Lawrence, we find the following pertinent paragraph of complaint :

“That the cattle of the Acadians were converted to private use, of which we know 3,600 hogs and near 1,000 head of cattle was killed and packed at Pigiguit alone ; sent by water to other places. And what at other forts is yet a secret all unaccounted for to the amount of a very large sum ; and he and his commissary are now under great perplexity to cover this iniquitous fraud, &c.”

Meantime the drama of the deportation hurries along—more speedily does event follow event with Lawrence as protagonist than the swift fatalism which brings Macbeth face to face with Macduff in the woods of Dunsinane. The Acadians have been deprived of their boats and guns ; their archives carried off ; their priests imprisoned. Their delegates