

descendants of the New England immigrants¹ and United Empire Loyalists, and no living trace of the former dwellers is found. Grand Pre is as thoroughly English as though it had never been the centre of French prosperity. Tradition alone remains to tell the tale of the past. The name itself is very generally anglicized, the French pronunciation being retained chiefly by those who cling to the belief that the retention of the old names gives more historic interest to the country. Even Annapolis, the old town at the head of the beautiful basin which attracted the French voyagers nearly three hundred years ago; is wholly English. The placid river no longer knows the paddle of the Frenchman's skiff; no more are seen the dark-eyed Normans going about their daily tasks and singing songs of contentment.

The Cobequid of by-gone days is the bustling Truro of the present, and the Beaubassin of the past has but few French now. The heart of the old Piziquid has gone up in flames. In October, 1897, the historic town of Windsor was swept away by fire, and the old part left as desolate as it was after the French had fled one hundred and fifty years before, when the English officers burned the houses and barns of the once prosperous Acadian peasants. The fertile fields and dykes of the Canard no longer give forth of their abundance to the descendants of the first white settlers. Beaubassin, Cobequid, Piziquid, Grand l're, Canard and Annapolis are dead to the French now, though for so long the scenes of flourishing Acadian settlements. The French villages of the present have been built within the last century and a half. Between 1768 and 1772 the exiles began to return to the peninsula, and those who had fled to the woods to venture out again. The Acadians live on the lands that cling to the open sea. Their chief settlements are in Digby, Yarmouth, Antigonish and Cape Breton.

In cold, unfriendly places these people dwell; but they always seem happy and contented and undisturbed by the progress of their neighbors. The French form a considerable proportion of the population of Nova Scotia. Out of a total of 450,396 there are 29,838 French, or about six per cent of the whole, according to the Dominion census of 1891. It is interesting to note the number of French in the counties which were theirs before the expulsion. Annapolis and Kings have but ten each; Hants has eight, while Cumberland and

¹ See Professor Ganong's "The New England Movement to Nova Scotia." Number VIII, pp. 216-219 of this Series.