

never been in Nova Scotia," he wrote. "As far as I can remember, the authorities I mostly relied upon . . . were the Abbé Raynal and Mr. Haliburton: the first for the pastoral, simple life of the Acadians; the second for the history of their banishment." The Abbé Raynal was a French priest (1713-1796), and the work referred to, "A Philosophical History of the Settlements and Trades of the Europeans in the East and West Indies." Haliburton, of course, was the well-known author of "Sam Slick." His History of Nova Scotia appeared in 1829.

For the second part of the poem Longellow consulted Watson's "Annals of Philadelphia," the "Historical Collections of Pennsylvania," and Darby's "Geographical Description of Louisiana." "Evangeline" was finished on February 27th, 1847, the poet's fortieth birthday, and published on October 30th of the same year.

2. The metre of the poem is what is called English dactylic hexameter. It was first used, probably, by the poet Spenser and his friends in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. But the attempts then made were not successful, chiefly because they followed the Greek and Latin modes of writing hexameter poetry, which are radically different from the English. During the century just past, however, several poets have employed the metre with excellent results.

The hexameter line is divided into six parts, or *feet*, called *dactyls* and *trochees*. The dactyl is composed of three syllables, one accented followed by two unaccented, as: *mérrily, neighbòuring*. The trochee is made up of two syllables, one accented and one unaccented, as: *héavèn, océan*. Of the six feet, the first four may be