

sented themselves to Lawrence, he, instead of receiving them and promising them the quiet possession of their lands, haughtily repulsed them, saying it was too late, and that hereafter they should be treated like the miscreant papists they were, and had them flung into prison.

Ah! had their been in Halifax a true representative of the cabinet of London, the Acadians would never have been banished, and this stain would never have been inflicted on civilization.

When, after the famous assembly of the 5th of September, the Acadians saw Winslow go to the presbytery, a few of the older ones followed, begging permission of him to see their families that they might tell them what had happened to relieve their anxiety. After consulting with his officers he consented to release twenty each day on condition that the remaining ones would be responsible for their return, each family being enjoined to bring food for their members who were prisoners.

Their families knew nothing of what had transpired until the expected did not return, when inquiry caught the rumor, and, like the hot and suffocating simoon, the revolting fact spread abroad. There arose shrieks of lamentation and agony in every home. In frenzy women and children rushed along the streets, wringing their hands in despair. It was the wailing of hopeless women for absent loved ones, and for crushed hopes in every form—everything near and dear seemed to have been gathered by the hand of death, and amid desolation, lay confined before them.

Some historians have tried to deny that covetousness of the Anglo-American colonies has been one of the causes of the expulsion of the Acadians.