

Majesty of Great Britain." This distance, "within cannon shot of Port Royal," was interpreted to mean within three English miles; and it was ascertained that the number of persons residing in this area was 481. By the Treaty of Utrecht, which was made in 1713, France ceded all Acadia to Great Britain, and by the fourteenth article of that treaty it was agreed that "the subjects of the King of France may have liberty to remove themselves within a year to any other place, with all their moveable effects. But those who are willing to remain and to be subject to the King of Great Britain, are to enjoy the free exercise of their religion, according to the usages of the Church of Rome, so far as the laws of Great Britain do allow the same." On the 23rd June, 1713, nearly three months after the Treaty of Utrecht was signed, Queen Anne wrote to Nicholson, the Governor of Nova Scotia, as follows :

"Whereas, our good brother, the most Christian king, hath, at our desire, released from imprisonment on board his galleys such of his subjects as were detained there on account of their professing the Protestant religion : We, being willing to show some mark of favor towards his subjects, and how kind we take his complaisance therein, have thought fit hereby to signify our will and pleasure to you, that you permit such of them as have any lands or tenements in the places under your government in Acadia and Newfoundland, that have been or are to be yielded to us by virtue of the late Treaty of Peace, and are willing to continue our subjects, to retain and enjoy their said lands and tenements without any molestation, as fully and freely as other of our subjects do or may possess their lands or estates, or to sell the same if they shall rather choose to remove elsewhere."

These documents show the terms upon which the Acadians were to be permitted to remain in the country, one of the conditions being that they should become British subjects. This they could only do by taking an unconditional oath of allegiance to the crown and becoming, like other subjects, liable to military service for the defence of their country against all its enemies, whether of their own race or strangers. The Acadians refused to take the oath of allegiance ; and while they preferred their willingness to do no injury to British interests, claimed to be neutral, and as such exempt from all those services to which other subjects were liable. It would be tedious even to enumerate the many attempts that were made by the Governors and administrators of Nova Scotia to induce the Acadians to take the oath of allegiance. All were unsuccessful until the return of