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FIRST SIEGE AND CAPTURE OF LOUISBURG.

WHEN the siege of Louisburg is spoken of, it is commonly accepted as referring to the siege of 1758, in which, General Wolfe played so important a part, and which was the precursor of subsequent events which transferred the rule in North America from France to England, but the capture of this stronghold of the French King, in 1745, displayed bravery and determination scarcely surpassed by that of the final struggle thirteen years later.

In 1715, Louis XIV., in order to detach Queen Anne of England from her alliance with the united powers of Europe, with whom he was contending, offered her Newfoundland, Hudson Bay, and Nova Scotia, preserving to France, Canada, Prince Edward's Island, and Cape Breton. The attention of the French Government was now actively bestowed on the latter, as a means of extending the cod-fishery, and still maintaining the command of the navigation of the Gulf of St. Lawrence ; hence the colonization of Cape Breton, and