

of Duncan long ere, the latter was resting as a guest beneath the battlements of his castle, so this murderous despot, sprung, through artifice and low cunning, into colonial power and sovereignty from the office of a house painter, has been nursing in his heart for years this cruel plot, which, when carried into execution, would strain forever the virgin page of New World history and plain a crime upon our Canadian shores for which every true lover of our land, its justice and its honor, must forever blush.

The seed of this crime had found ready soil in the cruel, selfish and ambitious heart of Lawrence, and it needed no witches on the heath to nurture and ripen it into fruition.

Lawrence's great purpose at this juncture is to obtain the consent of the Home government to the deportation which he has been planning. How well this may be gleaned from the following letter, dated August 1st, 1754, to the Lords of Trade: "They (the Acadians) have not for a long time brought any thing to our markets, but on the other hand have carried everything to the French and Indians, whom they have always assisted with provisions, quarters and intelligence, and indeed while they remain without taking the oath to His Majesty—which they never will do till they are forced—and have incendiary French priests among them there are no hopes of their amendment.

*"As they possess the best and largest tracts of land in this Province it can not be settled with any effect while they remain in this situation, and though I would be very far from attempting such a step without your Lordship's approbation, yet I cannot help being of opinion that it would be much better if they refuse the oath that they wear away."*

If Lawrence could only provoke the Acadians to some act that would justify an increase of rigor, but no, these peaceful people obey every order, no matter how harsh.

To the honor of the English government, whose sense of justice is much higher and more acute than that of a Hastings in India, a Lawrence in Nova Scotia, or a Rhodes in South Africa, the Lords of Trade refused to countenance the expulsion of the Acadians. On the 15th of August the Secretary of State wrote Governor Lawrence in respect to the latter's purpose to expel the deserted Acadians—though this purpose was couched in such ambiguity that it might mean all the Acadians north of the Peninsula. "Let your intention have been what it will, it is not doubted but that you have considered the pernicious consequences that may arise from an alarm which may have been given to the whole body of French Neutrals, and how suddenly an insurrection may