

Multitudes left the country, and settled in England and America. Those who remained were subjected for years to every species of persecution for their religion. The Montbiliards had their full share in those troubles, and the remembrance of them is still handed down by tradition among their descendants in this country. The following was related to us by an old man still living.—Among other acts of persecution the Protestants of his ancestral village were to be deprived of their chapel. Fifty young men, among whom was the father of our informant, assembled at it armed only with stones prepared to resist. A detachment of troops with a priest at their head was sent against them. He warned the party gathered of the folly of resistance. They however refused to yield, when a section of the troops was ordered to fire, which they did wounding some of the party. The Protestants replied with a volley of stones, which struck some of the soldiers and it was said killed one.—They were summoned the second time to surrender and at first refused, but on the priest giving orders to the whole detachment to fire, they submitted, and saw the house their fathers had worshipped in given to their enemies. In consequence of such treatment there still remains to this day in the hearts of these people in this Province a deep rooted antipathy to the Romanists.

Worn out by persecution, when the proclamations were issued under the authority of George II., and circulated over the Continent, inviting foreign Protestants to come to Nova Scotia, and offering liberal terms of settlement here, a number readily embraced them, and in the year 1752 left their native country.* They came down the Rhine, which there divides their native Province from Switzerland, and took shipping at Rotterdam for England. They landed at Portsmouth, whence they sailed in four

vessels, two for South Carolina, and the other two for Halifax. Those who came in the latter reached their destination in the following spring, and were landed at George's Island, to the number of 224. From Halifax they proceeded to Lunenburg, where they endured the hardships and dangers of the first settlement there.

Some time after, Col. Des Barres, a countryman of theirs, and a son of one of their old Protestant ministers, who had entered the British military service, and was afterward Governor successively of Cape Breton and P. E. Island, having obtained the grant of a large tract of land at Tatamagouche, persuaded a number of them to settle upon his land there. Accordingly twelve or thirteen removed with their families in the year 1771 or 2. Of these nine remained, viz., George Gratto, George Tattic, Matthew Langill, David Langill, John James Langill, James Bigney, George Mattitall, Peter Millard and John Millard. These were the first settlers of Tatamagouche. They at first endured great hardships. A vessel was to have come round with supplies and implements, but from some cause never arrived. They had to carry wheat and potatoes on their backs from Truro; but they had the benefit of clearings made by the Acadian French, those on the intervals being particularly rich, from which they soon derived a comfortable sustenance. The first Scottish settler was Mr. Wellwood Waugh, a native of Dumfriesshire, who removed thither from Pictou. Since that time there has been such a large influx of Scottish immigrants that they now largely predominate over the others.

As Des Barres would not sell his land, but wished them to lease it, a number of the young men moved to River John, where they could obtain crown land, and became the first settlers there. Others of their countrymen also came from Lunenburg, and their descendants now form a large proportion of the inhabitants of that settlement.

We have not much information regarding those of this class who settled in Lunenburg, but we have been informed that they are still distinguishable from their German neighbours, and that they are behind them

* Another account is that they had left their native country some time previous, and settled on the Eastern side of the Rhine. The old men with whom I have conversed, however, all describe them as leaving their native country in 1752 to avail themselves of "King George's" proclamation, and this is corroborated by facts mentioned to me. Perhaps however some had left previously.