

While "the great awakening," during a visit of Rev. George Whitefield to New England, was in progress, word was received in Massachusetts of outrages committed by Indians, and it was stated that the French were the instigators. Whether the information was exaggerated or not, the people of Massachusetts believed that the French were the real authors. Governor Shirley declared that there would be no peace for the British residents in Nova Scotia while the strong fortifications of Louisbourg were manned by the French. He had, he said, written to the military authorities of England on the subject, and that they had pronounced the place impregnable. Governor Shirley proposed that Massachusetts undertake the dislodgement of the French from the great stronghold. Let us humble France, he said, overthrow idle worship, protect the English settlers in Nova Scotia, and plant the British flag on the proud walls of Louisbourg. The great preacher Whitefield caught up the proposition, and pleaded for recruits while addressing large audiences. Volunteers were forthcoming. The expedition was led by Sir William Pepperell, a friend of Governor Shirley. Whitefield gave the recruits a banner, with the motto, "Fear nothing, while Christ is leader." Rev. Samuel Moody, a Congregational minister, one of the chaplains, was a man of great enthusiasm. He proclaimed to the men his conviction that the great stronghold would be taken, and that they would have the pleasure of demolishing the objects of Romish worship. Some of his friends advised Mr. Moody not to go on so dangerous an expedition; but he replied that there never was a bullet made that would be permitted to hurt him. As he went on board of the vessel at Boston, he seized an axe, exclaiming, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." After the capture of Louisbourg he shouldered the same axe, and cut down the images with his own hands. When he had demolished everything he considered idolatrous, he preached the first Protestant sermon ever given on the island, from Psalm c. 4, 5. At the dinner following the capture he was requested to ask a blessing. Private intimation having been given to him that he must be brief, he lifted up both hands, and said, "O Lord, we have so much to bless Thee for, we must refer it to eternity, for life is too short; so bless our food and fellow-men, for Christ's sake."

Sometime about the year 1753 a congregation was gathered in Halifax, and in 1759-60 and '61 a considerable number of emigrants left New England and settled at Annapolis, Chester, Chebogue, Liverpool, Shelburne, Cornwallis, Falmouth, Horton, Cumberland, and Mangerville. As soon as they settled they established their own peculiar institutions, town meetings, schools, and churches. These churches may not have been entitled or styled Congregational; they were however Congregational in intention and reality. But the people did not take care to have