

nexed to Massachusetts, and formed an extensive tract of not less than 800 miles in length. Sir William Phipps was appointed Governor under the new charter. Still Nova Scotia was, as usual, left in actual possession of the French, and Villabon, according to a promise which he had made to the Indians, returned to his fort on the St. John, which served as a rallying point to the French and savages. Being thus aided by the Indians, who were commanded by the celebrated Baron Castine, and reinforced by two ships from Quebec, Villabon captured a strong fortress named Pemaquid, in New England. To avenge this act, and make reprisals on the French, the Bostonians sent Col. Church, with about 500 men, who ravaged *Beau Basin* (Cumberland) and speedily retook other parts of the country. Up the Bay of Fundy the conquerors burned churches and other buildings, slaughtered cattle, destroyed expensive dykes, thereby letting in the water upon valuable marshes, and committed many other equally damaging acts of spoliation.

Massachusetts, finding the defence of Nova Scotia more troublesome and expensive than profitable, wished to be set free from its charge. As it yielded only furs and fish, it was but little valued by the British government, and consequently in the year 1696, was restored to France by the treaty of Ryswick. By this treaty the French and English attempted to establish a boundary line between New England and Acadia. The eastern limits of the British dominions were fixed at the river St. Croix, but still it remained a question which of two rivers this was, as both bore the same name. This boundary afterwards continued to be a subject of dispute and negotiation between the two powers, so long as France retained her American possessions. Encroachment and conquest seemed to be the ultimate aim of her policy.

The French possessed two great rivers, the Mississippi and the St. Lawrence, the sources of which were at no very great distance from each other, and formed a line almost parallel to the sea coast, which was both claimed and inhabited by the English. This territory, therefore, was more than sufficiently ample for all the purposes of colonization, but both parties carried with them to America their hereditary animosities, and frequently committed acts of violence, even while their respective states in Europe were at peace.

Thus the seeds of a prolonged and bloody contest were sown with the early settlers of both nations. The immensity of territory for which they were contending, prevented any boundaries from being amicably settled between them at first; and as national honour and personal interests were both involved in the contest, it was ever afterward impracticable. The extravagant and ridiculous grants of land, made by the sovereigns of both