

Col. Boulton is a man of such high integrity and honour that no one for a moment questions his sincerity. He boldly proclaimed himself a convert to free trade principles, and said that in the early stages of his conversion he had written a letter to Sir John A. Macdonald setting forth his views. In making the change he did he could not be accused of taking advantage of the weakness of the Government. It had become a matter of principle with him, and so strongly did he feel on the question that he was quite willing when the constituency of Marquette was awarded another member to resign his seat in the Senate, and enter a contest for the Commons. He also attacked Mr. Abbott for retaining weak and incompetent men in the Cabinet, and expressed disapproval of the reconstruction. He had not concluded his speech when the Senate rose. This incident is naturally causing a good deal of talk and may have more effect than the Government anticipate. When all is said—the present Cabinet is not a strong one. The only man of first-rate ability outside of the Premier and Honourable Frank Smith who are Senators is Sir John Thompson. Perhaps we might add Mr. Foster, and, except for his youth, Mr. C. H. Tupper. The Ontario representation is lamentably weak and nothing better can be said for the Quebec members. Supported by a large majority, the policy which they inherit from abler predecessors, approved by the country at large, active attention to details of business, and mastery of departmental work is all that is required of most of the Ministers to-day. But, should a crisis arise such as Sir John Macdonald was continually meeting, lack of ability would sorely tell against the Government, and, once in opposition, they would have to look to other hands and other heads to return them to the treasury benches. It may fairly be said that the entire Parliament of Canada is not overburdened with men of brains and talent at the present time. Grave constitutional questions are always arising, and the question of the dismissal of Mr. Mercier is almost overshadowed by a more recent complication. Mr. Smith has been duly gazetted Sergeant-at-Arms. The position of assistant has yet to be filled, and the vital question now is, in whose hands the appointment rests. The Sergeant-at-Arms claims that the nomination of his coadjutor is his by constitutional right, but the Speaker steps in and says it is for him to bestow the honour upon whom he seeth fit.

T. C. L. K.

## OTHER SONNETS TO THE LARK.

JUST after reading the articles of your contributor, "Sarepta," entitled "Sonnet to the Lark," the writer discovered a very beautiful specimen of that exquisite but much-abused form in the collection of Eric Mackay's poems, entitled "The Love Letters of a Violinist." It is the first sonnet in the book, and is entitled "Ecstasy"; and I think the lark is so largely the theme of the verse as to fairly entitle it to a place among the selections quoted by "Sarepta." It appears strange to me that your contributor did not mention this sonnet, for it has a place not only in Eric Mackay's volume, but also in "Sonnet of this Century," edited by William Sharp. In the latter volume it will be found in the appendix. If your space permits, I beg liberty to quote it; for although structurally it is not pure Petrarchan, still, the spirit of sonnet music dwells within it, and cannot but awaken an answering thrill in the hearts of those who read it:—

## ECSTASY.

I cannot sing to thee as I would sing  
If I were quickened like the holy lark  
With fire from heaven and sunlight on his wing,  
Who wakes the world with witcheries of the dark  
Renewed in rapture in the reddening air.  
A thing of splendour I do deem him then:  
A feather'd frenzy with an angel's throat,  
A something sweet that somewhere seems to float  
'Twixt earth and sky, to be a sign to men.  
He fills me with such wonder and despair!  
I long to kiss thy locks, so golden bright,  
As he doth kiss the tresses of the sun.  
Oh! bid me sing to thee, my chosen one,  
And do thou teach me, Love, to sing aright!

The same poet also wrote "The Waking of the Lark," a lyric which was said to have "sent a thrill through the heart of America" when it was published in the *New York Independent*. It ought surely to rank next to Shelley's celebrated tribute, and it will in time, no doubt. Mark the spontaneity of these verses, which seem fairly to sing themselves:—

This is the advent of the lark—the priest in gray apparel—  
Who doth prepare to trill in air his sinless Summer carol;  
This is the prelude to the lay  
The birds did sing in Caesar's day,  
And will again, for aye and aye, in praise of God's creation.

O dainty thing, on wonder's wing, by life and love elated,  
Oh! sing aloud from cloud to cloud, till day be consecrated:  
Till from the gateways of the morn  
The sun, with all his light unshorn,  
His robes of darkness round him torn, doth scale the lofty heavens!

As I have not experienced the pleasure of hearing the lark "chaunt her morning music," perhaps it would be better for me to defer a sonnet-essay until I do; but the very fact of my not having heard it, together with an interest in the subject, has resulted in the following impromptu, with which I will close:—

## THE LARK.

Singer at Heaven's gate, whose praises ring  
Along the verse of many a "bard sublime";  
Sweet lark who, e'er the sun begins to climb,  
Pour'st forth a tune melodious as the spring  
Is when the birds are mating, and they bring

Love-lays to charm each other all the time;  
My thoughts of thee are only drawn from rhyme,  
For I am one who never heard thee sing!

But though this land is not thy home, sweet bird,  
And thy song never roused my ecstasy,  
Yet has my soul the fine infection caught  
Which Shelley's soul awakened when he heard  
Thy mounting pean; and infinitely  
The inspiration seems with magic fraught.

Halifax, N.S.

C. F.

## OLD NEW-WORLD TALES.

THE EXPULSION OF THE ACADIANS—I.

UPON the 13th of October, 1710, New Style, the town and fort of Port Royal (now Annapolis Royal), Acadie, or Nova Scotia, then under the command of the French Governor, Subercase, surrendered, after a brief siege, to a force consisting mainly of New England Provincial troops, under the command of Major-General Francis Nicholson. The members of the surrendered garrison, with some merchants of the town, and about fifteen families of French colonists, their women and children, were, as prisoners, conveyed forthwith to Nantes in France. By the fifth article of this capitulation of Port Royal, it was declared that:—

"The inhabitants within a cannon shot [three English miles] of Port Royal should remain upon their estates, with their corn, cattle and furniture, during two years, in case they should not be desirous to go before—they taking the oaths of allegiance and fidelity to Her sacred Majesty of Great Britain."

By the 14th Article of the Treaty of Utrecht, signed on the 11th of April, 1713, it is expressly provided, among other things, that all the subjects of the King of France, then in Acadie, "may have liberty to remove themselves, within a year, to any other place, as they shall think fit, together with all their movable effects. But those who are willing to remain there, and to be subject to the Kingdom of Great Britain, are to enjoy the free exercise of their religion according to the usage of the Church of Rome as far as the laws of Great Britain do allow the same."

On the 23rd of June, 1713, as a further guaranty, Queen Anne, by her own letter to Governor and General Nicholson, instructs him that those Acadians who "are willing to continue *her* subjects" are "to retain and enjoy their said lands and tenements without any molestation, as fully and freely as other of our subjects do, or may possess their lands or estates, or sell the same, if they shall rather choose to remove elsewhere."

The concession of such lenient terms as these, by a victorious to a conquered people, was almost unheard of down to that period in the world's history. The French inhabitants of Acadie were allowed the ample space of two years to remove from out the country which was no longer theirs, and to take with them all their movable effects and the proceeds of the sales of their lands. Did they prefer to remain where they were and become British subjects, they could do so and enjoy all the rights, privileges and protection enjoyed by other British subjects. In some respects indeed—especially with regard to the exercise of their religion—they were conceded, formally and practically, privileges which were not allowed to the British Sovereign's own native-born Roman Catholic subjects; and such, too, as the King of France would not, on his part, tolerate for a moment, in the case of his Protestant subjects.

Had the French *habitans* of Acadie carried out in good faith these agreements stipulated in their behalf by their Governor, Subercase, at the surrender of Port Royal, and by the Ministers of France who negotiated the Peace of Utrecht—had they honestly taken their departure from Nova Scotia as loyal Frenchmen, or remained there quietly and dutifully as British subjects—the literary world would unconsciously have incurred a heavy loss. We should never have been able to enjoy one of the finest sentimental passages of the polished Abbé Raynal's charming "History of the Settlement of the Two Indies," and wherein he has tasked his rhetoric to the utmost to outline and colour the sweetly idyllic picture of the innocent and most interesting *habitans*; nor should our feelings have been harrowed by his touching recital of their fate. We should have missed, too, what is perhaps the sweetest gem of poetry ever produced by the genius of Longfellow, in which he converts our rude Acadie into a genuine *Arcadia*, wherein the people are all poets and saints, clad in rustic habiliments; and we should never have enjoyed the luxury of tears over the woes of an imaginary heavenly "Evangeline." We should have missed a number of lesser and less-famed effusions, poetical and sentimental, founded upon a delusive history of these same *habitans*.

It happened, however, that these French Acadians would neither go, nor stay, according to stipulation made on their behalf, and in consonance with the inevitable demands of the law of nations. So, according to the true but troubled "story" of the French Acadians, deliberately enacted by themselves and their whilome fellow-countrymen of Old France, it became absolutely essential for them to be dealt with according to hard facts, and to their merits, with the least possible regard to poetical, or sentimental, considerations. Nothing could be more simple than the alternative kindly placed before them by the British. Nothing could have been more definite or more easily understood. They could leave the country and, doing so, take all their property with them—a most generous permission; or they could remain in the country and become

British subjects. If accepting the latter course, they would unquestionably be subject to all the obligations, whilst enjoying all the privileges of native born Britons. That Great Britain should be expected to retain and protect, in one of her colonies, two races of people, each owing her a distinct species of allegiance, was a manifest absurdity. No one could, and, at this early date, no one did, entertain any such proposition for a moment. It was not until many years subsequently, and after much Jesuitical canvassing of the situation, that ever any such preposterous idea was gravely propounded.

In 1713, the French inhabitants of Nova Scotia were estimated at two thousand five hundred souls. The total British population consisted of the garrison of Port Royal, which comprised from four hundred to five hundred men. It never seems to have exceeded the larger of these numbers; and this continued to be about the whole British population of the Province, down to the founding of Halifax in 1749. The French, on the other hand, belonging to one of the most prolific races upon earth, rapidly increased; so that, in 1755, notwithstanding considerable emigrations to Canada and Isle Royale (Cape Breton), they numbered about seven thousand souls. As we have seen, the French, from the very outset, far outnumbered the English. Closely allied with the French, by intermarriage, by at least avowed community of religion and constant friendly discourse, were the Micmac Indians. They were and had been for over a century previously—from the time of Chief Mamberton and Sieur de Poutrincourt—the most devoted and pliant tools of the French. So much the worse was the outlook for the English. It is difficult to ascertain what were the number of the Micmacs at this period. At the time of the founding of Halifax, they could not have amounted to more than three hundred families, or two hundred fighting men. They had been much more numerous than that. Among other causes of their decadence may be named the pestilence which they caught from the remains of D'Auville's desolated fleet, at Chebucto, in 1746. From this cause alone, their loss has been estimated at from two-thirds to three-fourths of the whole tribe.

It stood the English in hand, then, owing to the comparative paucity of their numbers, to maintain a keen vigilance over the French. That disproportion of relative numbers would also tend to show how much dependence could be placed upon the latter in view of their superior strength. That matter was soon decided. When General Nicholson returned to Boston, on the 28th of October, 1713, he left Colonel Sir Charles Hobby in command of Port Royal. Immediately all the French male inhabitants, within three English miles of the fort, came in and, before Sir Charles, took the oath of allegiance unhesitatingly and unconditionally. Colonel Vetch succeeded Colonel Hobby as Lieut.-Governor of Port Royal—now called Annapolis Royal—and before him the other French inhabitants, beyond the three mile limit, came in—at least the larger proportion of them—and made their formal submission, during the winter of 1710-11. It seems that he did not demand any oath of allegiance from them; but events soon occurred showing that even those who took oaths paid little regard to them. In 1711, these Frenchmen, whilst under the obligation of their oath, joined with a body of Micmacs in making an attack upon the fort at Port Royal. Again, in that same year—1711—Captain Pigeon, of the garrison, an officer of the regulars, was sent up the river (now Annapolis), with a strong detachment, to reduce to subjection some whom, it seems, had still failed to comply with the terms of the capitulation of Subercase, and also to procure timber for the repairs of the fort. It was probably whilst in the performance of the latter duty that they were surprised by a great body of Indians and French, who killed the Fort Major, the Engineer, and all the boats' crews, and took between thirty and forty prisoners. This tragic and treacherous affair took place about twelve miles up-stream from Annapolis Royal, at a place still called "Bloody Creek."

By these high-handed acts of treason the French were justly considered as having forfeited both their lives and property. But, by the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht, quoted above, it seems to have been considered that the French took a fresh start in accordance with those terms. Upon the accession of George I., the requisite officials were, according to British usage, sent out to proclaim the new sovereign, and also to administer the oath of allegiance to all of his Nova Scotian subjects, French as well as English. The former peremptorily refused to take any such oath. In a few places to the eastward they had "already declared for the French king." The others not only refused the Oath of Allegiance, but positively "refused to quit the colony entirely and to settle under the French Government." This was during the administration of Lieut.-Governor Thomas Caulfield. This, too, was the commencement of some forty years of a struggle for bare existence on the part of the English-speaking residents of Nova Scotia—a struggle in which they were subject to constant preying anxiety, and were exposed to frequent deadly perils, in which it was almost impossible for them to acquire the material benefits of civilization for themselves, or develop the industrial resources of the country which they sought to make their home.

It has pleased certain poets, romance writers and some who have even called themselves historians, to represent these French Acadians as a most innocent and interesting people, in whom there was no guile; whose lives were a continued peaceful sweetness, and whose history, until the