

crowded with passengers and filled with the merry laughter of the young folks.

Nova Scotia was originally covered with evergreens, pine, hemlock, juniper, cedar and spruce trees. On the cultivated portions these evergreens have been cleared off except an occasional tree or shrub, but there are thousands of acres on which the original forests are still standing as green as on the day Champlain first visited the country. The picture that Longfellow draws of Evangeline's home is perfect, except that the pine trees and other timber seem to be of a dwarf variety and not the stately pines of Michigan.

It is but a short distance from Grand Pre to Annapolis and the country is of that same beautiful green that one sees everywhere in Nova Scotia.

#### Historic Old Port Royal.

Annapolis was my destination and a longer stop than usual was made at this point, for it was full of interest to me of a period that antedates Evangeline by half a century. It was called Port Royal by the French and was the most important of their early settlements in America, for it was occupied by them as early as 1605. The possession of the place passed from France to England and was again returned to France several times before its final cession to England in 1718.

A fort was erected in 1605, which was probably enlarged and improved as time passed on. This fort is still in existence, or rather the earthworks and some of the stone buildings still remain, though it is no longer used for military purposes. The fort grounds cover some 30 acres of land and the earthworks cover a goodly portion of that ground. The embankments are still nearly intact, and show that an immense amount of work was done to carry the dirt that forms these great earthworks, for the French had no horses or cattle with which to do this work, and the earth was carried from a distance on the backs of Indian women. The great piles of earth show that this was the work of years. The sand in one place, at a corner of the fort, threatened to slide in and thus destroy the corner, and a stone wall was erected to hold it in place. The

wall remains as it was built, without mortar; inside this wall and close against it are two huge willows, brought from France, of a specie not found in America. These willows are now at least four feet in diameter, showing that they must have been set out here 250 years ago. At the northwest corner of the fort, and on the interior, is what is locally termed the "Black Hole." It is supposed that it was intended as a prison for refractory soldiers or Indians. It is not large enough to hold more than a dozen or 20 people at once, and it is more likely that it was intended as a small powder magazine, or else to hold the arms of the soldiers. On the western side and about midway down the curtain is the sally port. This looks toward Annapolis basin. The masonry is as old as the earthworks, and seems likely to be able to withstand the ravages of time for many centuries.

#### Queer Powder Magazine.

The most interesting object in the fort is the powder magazine in the southwest corner. This magazine is 15 by 20 feet on the interior and 30 by 36 feet on the exterior—showing that the walls are 6 to 7½ feet in thickness.

The building is constructed of a specie of limestone brought from Normandy and is unlike any stone found in this part of the country. The masonry is exceedingly substantial and the mortar in which the stone was laid 250 years ago shows no sign of breaking in the interior. The arched roof is made without the aid of a keystone, and the cement is so strong that the necessity of one was not felt. With a fort as substantial as this was and an adequate supply of men and munitions of war the French could have withstood an army of Englishmen.

Behind the fort, and to the south of it, were clustered the dwellings of the people of Port Royal, a small village, for although there were some 500 or 600 people in the settlement around the fort, they were scattered over the surrounding farming lands for many miles. The country had been so long occupied by them that they had no fear of the Indians, and they thought they were prepared for incursions from the English.