

THE EXPULSION OF THE ACADIANS.

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Longfellow's poem of "Evangeline" has rendered the expulsion of the Acadians more familiar to the world than any other fact in the history of the country. The story told in this poem, although a fiction, is such as might have happened as a result of the Acadian deportation, and represents perhaps accurately enough the hardships and bereavements suffered by the unfortunate people who were thus driven from their homes.

The subject cannot be otherwise than a painful one to people endowed with the proper feelings of humanity; and it must ever be a source of regret to the people of another race who now inhabit this land, that it was thought necessary to carry out so severe a measure as the expulsion of the Acadians one hundred and fifty-four years ago. At the same time, it ought to be remembered that the expulsion of the Acadians, whether justifiable or otherwise, was a war measure, and that it should be judged by the standards of morality which prevail when rival nations are engaged in war and their subjects are striving to slay each other. Not many months ago, we had a very pointed illustration of the code of morality which regulates the operations of war, when the entire population of Santiago, a city of 30,000 inhabitants, were forced to leave it at a few hours' notice, to enable the Americans to bombard it. Three times as many people suffered from this act of war as from the expulsion of the Acadians; yet it was regarded by those who sanctioned it and by the world, quite as a matter of course; and no doubt many who have wept over the fate of the Acadians looked upon the bombardment of Santiago as a very proper act. The lesson of all this is, that as long as wars prevail on earth acts of cruelty and injustice will be committed, and that all good men and women should lend their influence to bring wars to an end.

The immediate cause of the expulsion of the Acadians was their refusal to take the oath of allegiance to the British crown. When Port Royal was captured by the English in 1710, by the terms of the capitulation it was agreed that "the inhabitants within cannon shot of Port Royal shall remain upon their estates, with their corn, cattle, and furniture, during two years, in case they are not desirous to go before, they taking the oaths of allegiance and fidelity to Her Sacred