

Surrender of the Fort.

CHAPTER III.

The tempest was slowly but surely gathering. But through all the perplexing situations the Acadian people kept as much aloof from participation as possible. Their purpose and intent was to remain true to their obligations as neutrals, but being flesh and blood and the continued prey of those who by secret persuasion, and every possible device, sought to lead them to some measure that would result to the advantage of the French provinces, and through this means to the government of France what could be expected as the result? With all this they greatly preferred to till the soil, tend their herds, and live in peace, that with far fewer exceptions than could be expected, they persisted in the pursuit of their pastoral career. At last the tempest had gathered its forces; a cloud of ill-omen overcast the sky. The drama of turmoil, of battle, of unrest and unchanging rulers was about to terminate in tragedy. The innocents were again to suffer: the only ones that could be by any means accounted guiltless, were to be made the victims of an act that thrills every sensibility of the human heart.

The American colonies were in fact a part of England and represented her interests in precisely the same sense that the Canadian colonies represented their home government.

Through the instrumentality of the former an expedition was fitted out in 1755 to reduce the fort at Beausejours, the ultimate object being to destroy French influence in Nova Scotia, thus making