

ment was reached on the following day when the articles were signed, and on the 28th June the town and fortress of Louisburg were surrendered. The loss of the English during the siege was said to be 101 killed and 30 who died of disease. The French were said to have lost upwards of 300 men. The garrison, numbering 1,900 men, with the crew of the Vigilant, with many of the inhabitants, in all upwards of four thousand persons were sent back to France. The news of the glorious victory which the men of New England had won was carried to Boston by a swift sailing vessel and filled the people there with a delerium of joy. In London the Tower and Park guns were fired and there was a general illumination in honor of the victory. On the continent of Europe the news created a profound impression, for it was thought almost incredible that the veterans of France should be driven out of a fortress they had been fortifying for twenty-five years, by an army of farmers and fishermen, commanded by a merchant. Indeed even at the present day the story of the achievement seems almost like a romance. It ought to have been a lesson to the statesmen of the mother country as to the capabilities of the people of the colonies for warlike enterprises, yet the lesson was neglected or forgotten, and there are books, called histories of England, which made no mention of the taking of Louisburg in 1745.

Soon after the fall of Louisburg Governor Shirley arrived and he persuaded the New England troops to continue there as a garrison beyond the term for which they had enlisted. The succeeding winter proved very fatal

to them. In January 1746 Pepperell writes that out of the number of 2,740 alive at the time of Mr. Shirley's departure, we have buried near 500 men and have near 1,100 sick. In May he writes that 1,200 of the troops had died of fever. This fearful mortality seems to have been due to neglect of sanitary precautions and to the too free use of spirits of which there was an enormous quantity in the fortress when it was taken.

After the brave and successful efforts that had been made by the people of New England to capture Louisburg, and the menace that place had been to British power in America it is almost incredible that it should have been restored to France three years later by the treaty of Aix la Chapelle. Yet this was what was done and the disgust occasioned by this act did much to alienate the affections of the people of the American colonies from the mother country. There is no doubt that the responsibility for this foolish surrender must rest in a large measure on Admiral Knowles, who succeeded Warren in command at Louisburg, in the summer of 1746. Knowles from the first was dissatisfied with the place and his letters to the British ministers are filled with complaints and misrepresentations in regard to it. Some of his statements are so absurdly false that it is surprising the home authorities should have been deceived by them. According to him the soil of Cape Breton was barren and the climate horrible. That island, which bids fair to become the greatest seat of industry in Canada, he represented as unfit for human habitation. He wrote to the Duke of Newcastle that "many of the troops had been frozen to death, and