

descendants form an important portion of the population of New Brunswick, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward's Island. M. Rameau, a French writer, who is now visiting the Lower Provinces, and who had procured from the Archives of the Government in France statistical information of great value to the original settlers, considers that the natural increase of the Acadians is even greater than that of the Canadians. He says that the actual Acadian population of the Lower Provinces is 95,000 souls, a figure which some will, perhaps, think somewhat exaggerated, but which must be nearly correct, since Mr. R.'s information was chiefly obtained from the missionaries of the several Acadian parishes. As a general rule, education has made little progress among the Acadians yet; but at Arichat and other places where some of them have been educated, they have attained to no inconsiderable wealth and influence.

"It is to be hoped that means will be taken to induce them to take advantage of the liberal provisions made for education in that Province."

In another place, M. Chauveau says:—"The handful of people that escaped the banishment of their nation have wonderfully multiplied; and it is likely that the great American poet, Longfellow, had no idea of this increase when he wrote his charming poem of Evangeline."

The Acadians of the present day shew the same attachment to the soil first settled by their forefathers as those of old; and M. Taché, in his book, contrasts it eloquently with the disposition lately evinced by some of his own countrymen: "The descendants of these brave Acadians who had returned to their native land, after eluding a persecution by which they had been driven away, do not abandon their homes to seek in a foreign land a subsistence or a refuge. Though left in obscurity, and with but a small share in the direction of the affairs of their beloved country, they do not emigrate to the United States. Less favoured than we are in many respects,