

and their Oath of Allegiance ; yet the *French* Governor in *Canada* preserved the chief Influence and Command over them, and cultivated in them their former hereditary Attachment to the *French* King ; so that they continued a distinct Body of *French* Roman Catholics, exempted by the *English* Government from bearing Arms in Defence of it ; and kept by their Priests so unmixed with and separate from the *English*, that but two *English* Families could settle among them, tho' several had attempted it ; the Consequence of all which was, that the Increase of these *Acadians*, instead of strengthening the King's Government, as they naturally ought to have done, became dangerous to it ; and by remaining in the Province were of much greater Service to *France*, than if they had removed into the *French* Government immediately after the Treaty of *Utrecht*, as they were a growing Stock in *Nova Scotia* for settling it with *French* Inhabitants, even whilst it was in the Hands of the *English* ; and at the same time contributed to the Growth of *Cape Breton* by supplying it with Provisions ; whereas by removing into *Canada*, they would have been rather burdensome to it by occasioning (for some Years at least) a Scarcity of Provisions among the Inhabitants there.

In the mean time the Island of *Cape Breton*, which it appears from the Negotiations of the Treaty of *Utrecht*, *France* had it much at Heart to obtain the exclusive Possession of, was immediately begun to be fortified and settled with

*French*