

“ First. The provisions or any other commodities that the Acadians shall bring to the Fort to sell are not to be taken from them at any fixed price, but to be paid for according to a free agreement made between them and the purchasers.

“ Second. No officer, non commissioned officer or soldier, shall presume to insult or otherwise abuse any of the Acadians, who are upon all occasions to be treated as His Majesty's subjects and to whom the laws of the country are open to protect as well as to punish.

“ At the season of laying in fuel for the Fort you are to signify to the Acadians by their deputies that it is His Majesty's pleasure they lay in the quantity of wood that you require; and when they have complied, you are to give them certificates, specifying what quantity they furnished, which will entitle them to payment at Halifax.”

These orders do infinite credit to Governor Hopson in his high character for justice, and in their every line may be read the treatment which was accorded the Acadians during the rule of previous governors. They are not alone an eloquent eulogy of Hopson's character, but inferentially a key to the condition of the Acadians during the preceding years.

No sooner, however, had Lawrence become governor than he revoked these just and humane orders of Hopson. Here is the order which Lawrence sent to all the Forts :

“ *You are not to bargain with the Acadians for their payment; but as they bring in what is wanted you will furnish them with certificates which will entitle them to such payment at Halifax as shall be thought reasonable. If they should immediately fail to comply you will assure them that the next courier will bring an order for military execution upon the delinquents.* A few weeks later Governor Lawrence, writing to Captain Murray, commandant of Fort Edward, whom the historian, Philip H. Smith, designates “an up start despot,” adds to the former order the following :

“ *No excuse will be taken for not fetching in firewood, and if they do not do it in proper time the soldier shall absolutely take their houses for fuel.*” Of course none of these orders, or letters, are to be found in the Nova Scotia archives. Their presence would embarrass and defeat the purpose of the compiler, Thomas B. Akins, who held a brief for Lawrence and his associates.

It would be tedious to follow all the machinations and plans resorted to by Lawrence, in order to give a semblance of justice to the cruel and heartless project he had resolved upon carrying out. Like Macbeth, who has fixed upon the death