

mackerel, and as I am informed, there is 70 fathoms of water in many parts, and is so large as to contain the whole British navy. Major Preble marched into Halifax with his party at 3.30 p.m., where they had sufficient barrack prepared for them."

Thus we see by the quaint diary of Surgeon Thomas that Winslow's New Englanders after they had completed their sad work, in expelling the Acadians, marched into Halifax by the Bedford Basin road.

BIRCH COVE.

On a copy of an old plan of lands on the western side of Bedford Basin, *Birch Cove* is mentioned as having been granted to Captain Otis Little. Captain Little was an officer of one of the Independent companies, and came out with the first settlers in the frigate *Canning*. He had served in Nova Scotia, previous to the settlement, and was well acquainted with the country and its resources. He published, in 1746, in London, a pamphlet dealing with the fisheries, resources and climate of the country. Pointing out the most suitable plans for defence, he mentioned an island in the Basin of Minas, where a fort could be made. He knew the Grand Pre settlement, and spoke of the Stone house built by the English there.

On arriving at the new settlement Little was appointed by Colonel Cornwallis Commissary of Stores, which position he held until 1751, when he was dismissed for remissness in his duties. It does not appear that while he held the grant at Birch Cove he made any effort to improve the land. Some years afterwards his grants, both in the new town and on the Basin, at Birch Cove, were escheated. These grants, after being escheated, were re-granted to Benjamin Green—the first Treasurer of the province. Green advertised for sale among other property on November 14, 1769, a lot of land on the west side of Bedford Basin, near the Block House, consisting of 300 acres, and a lot on the same side of 100 acres, and three hundred acres on the east side of Bedford Basin. A notice of escheat said that Otis Little left certain parcels of land "direlect and unimproved." After his dismissal by Cornwallis, Little disappeared from Nova Scotia.

Birch Cove in old days was named Block House Cove—from a block house

in the vicinity for the protection of the settlers. It was near by this spot where the Acadians or neutrals, as they were called, had settled when they made their way back after their expatriation. After the close of the French war many of the exiled Acadians returned to Nova Scotia and settled at St. Mary's Bay and elsewhere. Rev. Mr. Bailly came in 1768 at the request of the governor, urged thereto by the Indians and Acadians, to continue the work of Abbe Maillard. He was young and vigorous and full of zeal, qualities that were essential to the missionary who had so vast a field to cultivate.

Governor Franklin received him well, as did also his successor, Governor Campbell. Writing from Halifax 23rd May, 1769, to the Bishop of Quebec, Bailly pointed out the difficulties of the mission owing to the people being scattered in all directions. On 22nd of July of the same year he said that he had experienced many favors from Governor Campbell, and his council; that they had obtained for him an allowance of one hundred pounds from the King. The zealous Father again writing from Halifax, 24th April, 1771, said: "The government appears opposed to the increase of missionaries, and all this opposition came from the Presbyterians and the people of New England. Last winter I said mass for three months in this town, when suddenly I had to seek a secluded spot six miles from town in order to celebrate on Sundays. I need not have done this had I consented to shut the door of the barn wherein I had been saying mass, against all except the Acadians and Indians. The Governor continues to honor me with his protection, as do also the principal persons.

Two Presbyterian ministers have preached publicly against me; I have been named in the papers. They say if the King is permitted to place a priest in Nova Scotia, it will be tolerated should he put one in Boston. The establishment of a priest in Nova Scotia is, they say, the disgrace of the present reign. The secluded spot, or literally, as Father Bailly has it, "a hole in the country," was Birch Cove.

In 1769, Father Bailly baptised a child there; that same year he advised some Acadian families, who lived near Halifax, to go to Minudie and take up land. This they did, as a daughter of one of them informed P. Gaudet. Archbishop O'Brien, in his life of