

that your majesty would please to grant us such relief, as in your justice and clemency you shall think our case requires, and we shall hold ourselves bound to pray," &c.

This simple, truthful, and touching appeal, with others of the like character, availed them nothing with the heartless and obstinate sovereign to whom it was addressed. Great numbers perished in the southern colonies, and such as were finally suffered to return, found their ancient homes in the possession of the invaders.

Such was the tragical fate of a community, the most remarkable for its quiet prosperity, for its innocent enjoyment, and for its patriarchal simplicity of manners, perhaps ever known in history, and almost realizing the fabled happiness of the ancient Arcadia itself. If, as an historical event, its importance be comparatively small, the interest which invests all unmerited human misfortunes will yet keep the mournful facts in remembrance, and the fate of Acadia, familiarized and eternized by the genius of "Evangeline," will ever remain one of the most touching and memorable episodes in American annals.