

hand, and without meanness on the other. It was, in short, a society of brethren, every individual of which was equally ready to give and to receive what he thought the common right of mankind.

This perfect harmony naturally prevented all those connections of gallantry which are so often fatal to the peace of families. There never was an instance in this society of an unlawful commerce between the two sexes. This evil was prevented by early marriages; for no one passed his youth in a state of celibacy. As soon as a young man became marriageable, the community built him a house, broke up the lands about it, sowed them, and supplied him with all the necessaries of life for a twelve-month. Here he received the partner whom he had chosen, and who brought him her portion in flocks. This new family grew and prospered in the same manner as the others. In 1749 all together made a population of eighteen thousand souls.

At this period the English perceived of what consequence the possession of Acadia might be to their commerce. The peace, which necessarily left a great number of men without employment, furnished an opportunity, by the disbanding of the troops, for peopling and cultivating a vast and fertile territory. The British ministry offered particular advantages to all who would go over and settle in Acadia. Every soldier, sailor, and workman, was to have 50 acres of land for himself, and 10 for every person he carried over in his family. All non-commissioned officers were allowed 80 for themselves, and 15 for their wives and children; ensigns 200; lieutenants 300; captains 400; and all officers of a higher rank 600; together with 30 for each of their dependents. The cleared land was to be tax-free for the first ten years, and never to pay above 1 livre 10 sols, 6 deniers (about 1s and 4d) for 50 acres. Besides this, the government engaged to advance or reimburse the expenses of passage, to build houses, to furnish all the necessary implements for fishery or agriculture, and to defray the expenses of subsistence for the first year. These encouragements determined three thousand seven hundred and fifty persons, in the month of May 1749, to go to America, rather than run the risk of starving in Europe.

The new colony was intended to form an establishment to the south-east of the peninsula of Acadia, in a place which the savages had formerly called Chebucto, and the English Halifax. This situation was preferred to several others where the soil was better, for the sake of establishing in

its neighbourhood an excellent cod fishery, and fortifying one of the finest harbours in America. But as it was the spot most favourable for the chase, they were obliged to dispute it with the Micmac Indians, who mostly frequented it. These savages defended with obstinacy a territory they held from nature; and it was not till after very great losses that the English drove them out from their lawful possessions.

This war was not entirely finished, when some agitation appeared among the neutral-French. These people, whose manners were so simple, and who enjoyed such liberty, could not but perceive that it was impossible there should be any serious thoughts in settling in countries so near to them without their independence being affected by it. To this apprehension was added that of seeing their religion in danger. Their priests, either heated by their own enthusiasm, or secretly instigated by the governors of Canada, persuaded them to credit every thing they chose to suggest against the English, whom they styled heretics. This word, which has so powerful an influence on deluded minds, determined this happy colony to quit their habitations and to remove to New France where they were offered lands. Many of them executed this resolution immediately without considering the consequences of it, and the rest were preparing to follow as soon as they had provided for their safety. The English government, either from policy or caprice, determined to prevent them by an act of treachery, always base and cruel in those to whom power affords milder methods. Under a pretence of exacting a renewal of the oath they had taken at the time of their becoming English subjects, they assembled those together who were not yet gone, and, when they had collected them, immediately embarked them on board of ships which transported them to the other English colonies, where the greater part of them died of grief and vexation, rather than of want.

Such are the fruits of national jealousies, of that rapaciousness inherent in all governments, which incessantly preys both upon mankind and upon countries. What a rival loses, is reckoned a gain; what he gains, is looked upon as a loss. When a town cannot be taken, it is starved; when it cannot be maintained, it is burnt to ashes, or its foundations raised. Rather than surrender, a ship or a fortification is blown up by powder and by mines. A despotic government separates its enemies from its slaves by immense deserts, to prevent the irruptions of the one, and the emigrations of the other.

Thus Spain chose rather to make a wilderness