

most of their cattle, and the priest residing among them has behaved, also, as an honest man, though none of them dare come to us at present. They helped in the repairing of our works *to the very day preceding the attack*".

In another letter, dated December, 1744, Governor Mascarene says: "To the timely succor received from the Governor of Massachusetts *and our French inhabitants refusing to take up arms against us we owe our preservation*. If the Acadians had taken up arms they might have brought three or four thousand men against us".

Now what must we infer from these letters of Governor Mascarene? What but that the Acadians who were faithful to their oath of allegiance in such a trying and perplexing situation were surely not disloyal when neither occasion nor inducements offered itself. It is worthy of noting, here, that not one of Governor Mascarene's letters testifying to the loyalty of the Acadians during this war can be found in the Nova Scotia archives. The compiler's purpose, evidently, was to omit everything that would give proof of the faithfulness of the Acadians to their oath of allegiance.

A word here as to character and conduct of Abbé Le Loutre, the French missionary, who played a part in the events of this epoch. There can be no doubt that this over zealous and hotheaded priest did everything in his power to stir up the Indians against the English, and on this score his conduct is entirely reprehensible. But the reader should remember that Le Loutre was never a missionary to the Acadians *on English territory*. This should be borne in mind by those who charge, without any foundation, Le Loutre with instilling disloyalty into the hearts and minds of the Acadians. No doubt he did everything possible to induce his countrymen living on English territory to withdraw from the country, but there is no evidence whatever that he