knowledge of the real facts of this seemingly inhuman, unjustifiable act on the part of the English rulers towards the defenceless Acadians, the mournful story of Evangeline, her love, the peaceful happiness and comfort of the simple Grand Pre peasants, their subsequent privations and wanderings among strangers, have created an impression almost world-wide, which has enveloped that unfortunate people with a sanctified halo of martyrdom, and heaped a corresponding amount of disapprobation and obloquy upon the English. But poetry is not history, and harsh as the fate of the Acadians undoubtedly was, it must not be supposed that there were no causes—whether justifiable or not we shall presently see—which led to it.

At this time Acadia was in the hands of the British, and a deadly struggle for supremacy in America, was going on between England and France, with the chances greatly in favor of the continental power. French priests and emissaries were doing and had been doing all that lay in their power, to cause dissatisfaction among the Acadians toward the British Government, which, it appears from indisputable evidence, was trying to conciliate and induce them to remain on their lands instead of listening to the misrepresentations of the French agents, and requiring from them only the oath of allegiance. Witness a previous communication sent to the French Commander by the Deputy of Minas:—" We live under a mild and tranquil (speaking of the British) Government, and have all good reason to be faithful to it." What a great pity it is that they had not maintained that faithfulness! And again, Lord Cornwallis' reply to the Acadians, when they announced to him their intention of leaving the Province:— " My friends, the moment that you declared your desire to leave and submit yourselves to another Government, our determination was to hinder nobody from following what he imagined to be his own interest. We know that a forced submission is worth nothing, and that a subject, compelled to be so against his will, is not very far removed

from being an enemy. We frankly confess, however, that your determination to leave us gives us pain. . . . . . This Province is your country, you and your fathers have cultivated it; naturally you yourselves ought to enjoy the fruits of your labor. Such was the desire of the King, our master. You know that we have followed his orders. You know that we have done everything to secure to you, not only the occupation of your lands, but the ownership of them forever. We have given you also every possible assurance of the enjoyment of your religion and the free and public exercise of the Roman Catholic faith. . . . ." And again :—" Governor Hobson, with a view to remove all causes of complaint, issued stringent orders to the commanders of the forts at Minas and Piziquid to make no requisitions on the inhabitants, and if they refused supplies not to redress themselves by military force, but to lay the case before the Governor and await his orders. The provisions and fuel furnished by the inhabitants were to be paid for according to a free agreement between buyer and seller, and not at a fixed price." Thus far the British authorities do not seem to have been possessed of an overwhelming desire to have the Acadians removed from the country either by force or by their own free will. On the contrary they seem always to have acknowledged the rights of the Acadians to the soil, to have granted them further privileges and immunities than were vouchsafed to the British settlers. The only conditions imposed on them were that they should sign the oath of allegiance and not give the Government trouble. They were not compelled to serve in the army, and were allowed a fair price for whatsoever they sold to the military authorities. The whole course of the Government seems to have been to confirm them in the rights and privileges enjoyed by them under the French administration; to warn them, and expostulate with them on the suicidal folly of allowing themselves to be misled and ruined by the interested machinations of La Loutre and his