

As stated in a former article, the correspondence between Governor Haldimand and the authorities of Nova Scotia shows that important dispatches were carried over the most difficult and perilous part of the route between Halifax and Quebec by trustworthy Acadian couriers, among whom were the two brothers, Louis and Michel Mercure. The governors at Halifax and Quebec were quite anxious to establish a permanent route of communication by way of the St. John and St. Lawrence, and, in order to further their project, discussed the formation of an Acadian Settlement in the Madawaska region. Governor Haldimand, in his letter to Governor Parr, dated at Quebec, November 27, 1783, observes that he has been informed by Louis Mercure that a number of the Acadians wish to come to the Province of Quebec for the sake of their religion. He suggests that it would be a good plan to establish them at Grand Falls whence the settlement would probably extend to the St. Lawrence. This, he adds, would facilitate communication between the two provinces.

After the division of the old province of Nova Scotia, in 1784, this idea was carried into effect by the government of New Brunswick.

It is related of poor old Jean Baptiste Cyr, who had already experienced many vicissitudes, that when he learned that he must once more abandon his place of sojourn and leave behind him the fruits of years of toil, he gazed sadly upon the fields his hands had cleared and tilled and exclaimed, "Est-ce que le bon Dieu ne fait plus de terre pour les *Cayens*?" ("Can it be that the good God has no place in the world for the Acadians?")

Mournful traditions of the past still live in the Acadian ballads :

Un Acadien errant
Bannit de son foyer ;
Parcourait en pleurant
Les pays étrangers,

Ainsi triste et pensif ;
Assis au bord des flots,
Au courant fugitif
Il adressa ces mots :

Si tu vois mon pays,
Mon pays malheureux
Va dire à mes amis
Que je me souviens d'eux.