

leaged to the French to come and fetch them in their own. Governor Philips wrote home for fresh instructions how to act in this emergency, applying for more forces to prevent the French inhabitants from going away in a tumultuous and disorderly manner, or for bringing them into a due subjection; for which he desired, if I remember right, two regiments, besides the four companies of his own, then at Annapolis Royal, with proportionable shipping to transport these troops as occasion should require, and this in a time of profound peace, and when these inhabitants were not above a third of the number they are now increased to. In answer, he was directed not to use any violent measures, but to endeavour to keep the people easy till, at a proper time, it might be resolved how to proceed in this case.

The Governor went home in 1722, and things remained in this situation, under the administration of Mr. Doucett, Lieut. Governor of Annapolis Royal, and President for the time being, over the Province, till Mr. Armstrong, having been made Lieutenant-Governor over the whole Province, returned in 1725, and found means to bring the inhabitants to take the oath to the government; but on Governor Philips returning some years after, these inhabitants complaining that this oath had been extorted by undue means, his Excellency brought them at last to take it willingly, and the same was tendered, and taken, in general, by all the men of competent age, in all the settlements of this Province: the tenor of this oath is inserted in the papers inclosed. The word *trus* being interpreted *fidèle*, has made it to be called the oath of fidelity.

The French inhabitants intended to have a clause, not to be obliged to take up arms against the French, which, though not inserted, they have always stood was promised to them, and I have heard it owned by those who were at Minas when the oath was administered at that place, that such a promise was given to them in writing. This oath was reckoned to be little binding with people who had missionaries among them, supposed always-forward to dispense the keeping it, and ready to absolve them on the breach of it. But hitherto the contrary has been evident; some of these priests having publicly declared that they would refuse the absolution, even at the point of death, to any that should join in arms with the French, and this at the time that Duvivier was at Minas and some of his officers, at the sermon where these words were