

troyed or taken into captivity. Three hundred persons were massacred at their homes. The next year the government at Boston determined on reprisals. The venerable Capt. Church, whom the recital of the ravages of the French had filled with indignation, came on horseback sixty miles to Boston to offer his services. A punitive expedition to Chignecto was organized, and a little later a fleet of whale-boats suddenly appeared in Beaubassin and ravaged the settlement again.

Governor Shirley of Boston writes to the Duke of Bedford in 1749. :—

"The French are determined to obstruct British settlement in Nova Scotia as much as possible, especially in Minas and Chignecto, which are districts absolutely necessary to be secured, and that the making of English settlements there will be no slight work, nor be held when effected, without a regular fort strongly garrisoned between Bay Verte and Beaubassin, and that I cannot but look upon the point now in dispute—the boundary line—as *what must finally determine the mastery of the continent between the French and English.*"

At Chignecto, Father La Loutre, a veritable pro-consul of France, reigned almost for a generation over the French settlements of Acadia and his Micmac and Milecite allies. That place served as a base of operations for the continual raids of that Prince of Courrier du Bois—Bois Hebert, who as lieutenant had charge of the frontiers. It was a highway between Quebec and Port Royal and a half way house between Louisburg and Quebec. The French had made a military road from bay to bay, and, at the mouth of the Gaspereaux (Port Elgin) river, they constructed an outpost. The two posts were also connected by water for canoes and batteaux, except a short portage of some 400 yards. At that point warehouses had been erected, where military stores and merchandise were stored in transit. It was from Beausejour that Coulon de Villiers led a detachment of French and Indians in the depth of winter (1747) to attack Col. Noble's force