

Their families knew nothing of what had transpired, until the expected did not return, when inquiry caught the rumor, and, like the hot and suffocating simoon, the revolting fact spread abroad. Then arose shrieks of agony and lamentation in every home. In frenzy women and children rushed along the streets, wringing their hands in despair. It was the wailing of helpless women for absent loved ones and for crushed hopes in every form—everything near and dear seemed to have been gathered by the hand of death, and amid desolation, lay coffined before them.

The picture with all its ghastly seeming was all too real, for means of escape there were none. Lamentations were powerless for relief, shrieks of agony could be answered only by kindred shrieks, while mothers pressed to their breasts babes that like themselves were pinioned to the wheel.

The early imprisonment may be regarded in the light of a precaution to prevent disorder, which, through some mischance might have resulted from delay and arousing of suspicion. At least it was otherwise premature, as there were not at command a sufficient number of vessels to transport the members of the colony which necessitated painful delay. Near the shore at Grand Pre lay five vessels on which it was decided to place the prisoners as a means of security. The 10th of September was fixed upon as the day on which the male captives would be placed on board to be there guarded while awaiting sufficient transportation.

Five long weary days passed by, doubt and hope alternating in the breasts of the imprisoned, and their families still in their homes. Would the captors carry away fathers, husbands, sons and brothers? Limited numbers, under careful guard, had each day been allowed to visit their families; would this blessed favor be taken away, were ques-