

We have now reached the time of the great turning in the history of the Acadian people, the boundary between their earlier years of trial and misfortune, and their subsequent era of peace and prosperity. By the Treaty of Paris of 1763, all Canada passed from France to England, and the Acadian and Canadian French became British subjects, the more willingly because they were all justly and liberally treated by the British Government. The next year (1764) formal permission was given the Acadians by Royal proclamation to return and take up vacant lands in Acadia, and soon after, no doubt, began the permanent settlement of Caraquet. Unfortunately its actual foundation is involved in much obscurity, the more especially as the church records for the early years are missing, and the only statement we possess upon the subject, that by Cooney in his well-known *History of Northern New Brunswick and Gaspé* (page 174) is known to be somewhat in error. Cooney tells us: "The oldest settlement. is Caraquette, where, it appears, two brothers of the name of La Roc, from Lunaire, and two others called La Burton and St. John, natives of Bretagne, located themselves about 1768." One La Roque was an early settler, as we shall see; La Burton is no doubt the Le Breton who was a founder of Tracadie in 1784, and who may have been earlier a temporary resident of Caraquet, while St. John is no doubt an echo of Saint Jean, who was here, however, much earlier than Cooney says. More accurate knowledge is given us by a paper now in possession of the Landrys, and published a few years ago by M. Gaudet, dated March, 1769,—a permission from George Walker, magistrate at Nepisiguit, to Alexis Landry, to settle at Caraquet, "in the same place which he had formerly occupied;" and other documents show that from September, 1768, until October, 1769, he was living at Caraquet and trading with Ross and Walker merchants of Nepisiguit. As is well-known,