

field, the British situation was anything but safe or reassuring. The French population outnumbered the English more than two to one. The great French fortress of Louisburg was a city of ten thousand inhabitants. Twenty years of labor and millions of *livres* had been spent on its fortifications, which even in their ruins looked formidable. It was the best defended city in America, except Quebec; and it was within easy striking distance of Halifax, the newly-founded seat of British power. 'The Dunkirk of America,' it was stronger than ever, and was receiving supplies constantly from the Acadians."

The work of French emissaries among the unfortunate Acadians is outlined, and the fact recalled that they had more than once joined invading French forces. In view of the war that was inevitable, it would have appeared the height of strategic folly to have permitted the presence of such a population, ten thousand French, at the gates of Halifax, aided by the murderous and crafty Indian. To disregard such a danger was to court defeat. Nothing remained, our informant concludes, but to remove the Acadians out of the province. Their deportation was a military necessity, cruel as all war is cruel, and doubtless many innocent in consequence thereof suffered with the guilty. Thanks to Evangeline, the expulsion can never be generally understood. The poem is responsible for the theory that the measure was the brutal, wanton, motiveless, irrational act of a tyrannical power upon an innocent people, that power being Great Britain, upon the home government of which the enormous expense ultimately fell. The cold search-light of history cannot displace the warm glow of fiction in the minds of a people who like to be deceived, and so the story of the Expulsion of the Acadians, as set forth by Longfellow in *Evangeline*, will probably remain the accepted version, upon this continent at least, down to a period which it is at present impossible even to approximate, if indeed the correct version will ever be given its proper relative position in English literature.

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Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 30, Part I, A-M. Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico, edited by Frederick Webb Hodge. Government Printing Office, Washington, 1907; 972 pps.; cloth, boards; large 8vo., illustrated.

The need of a comprehensive work upon the American Indians, the literature of which is practically co-extensive with the literature of the first three centuries of the New World, has been much felt ever since scientific interest in the Indians