THE NEUTRAL FRENCH.

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out vessels, and other expensive arrangements attending this unholy expedition, for which a very limited compensation had been granted; and they very wisely concluded now, it was time for them to make a stand.* Anticipating then the immediate arrival of the vessels, they assembled in General Court to consult what was to be done; and the first thing was to send word for the transports to anchor under the guns of Castle William while their consultations were going on.

The Bostonians even then appear to have had some idea of doing business on their own hook; for, after short consultation, they very positively forbade the exiles to be landed, and directed the Governor "on no account to permit such another burden to fall on the people."

A report of these proceedings were despatched without delay by Governor Barnard "to General Amherst, commander of his Majesty's forces in Nova Scotia." But the Bostonians took especial care to show the transports out of the harbor, and have them reach Halifax again before another order could reach them.

No doubt there would have been trouble about this between their high mightinesses of the two provinces, had it not so chanced that by the time the poor Acadians reached Nova Scotia again, the French forces had quit the country, after doing all the mischief they could at the time, namely: they captured two English settlements at Newfoundland, which they razed to the ground; they captured the town of St. Johns, carrying off a company of soldiers prisoners of war, "with the officers and crew of his Majesty's ship Gramont."

On the tenth of the February following, 1762, another peace was patched up between the French

* Subsequently, this debt was paid.

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