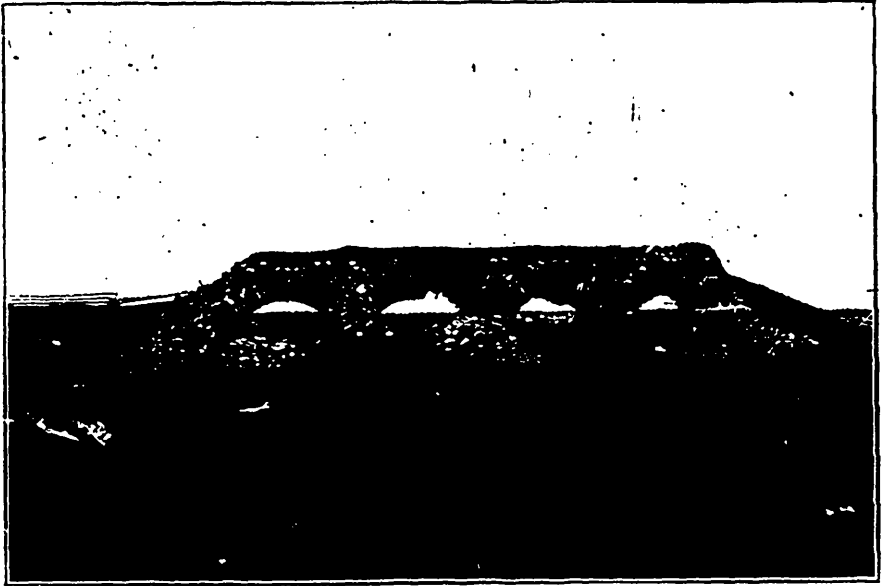




CASEMATES, LOUISBOURG, 1902.

fortifications they exclaimed, "God alone hath delivered this stronghold into our hands." *

By the 3rd of July Boston was wild with joy. On the 20th tidings reached France and caused the deepest dejection at Versailles. Soon after the siege seven hundred of the New Englanders left for home. The rest remained over winter. And a sorry winter it was.

* The New Englanders regarded this, as the Old Englanders regarded the destruction of the Spanish Armada, as the special intervention of Providence. In Boston town the pastor of Old South Church prayed for the deliverance of his country and the confounding of its enemies. Longfellow thus describes the sequel :

For this was the prayer I made,
For my soul was all on flame,
And even as I prayed
The answering tempest came ;
It came with a mighty power,
Shaking the windows and walls,
And tolling the bell in the tower,
As it tolls at funerals.

The lighting suddenly
Unsheathed its flaming sword,
And I cried : "Stand still, and see
The salvation of the Lord !"

Of the 2,740 men there in September, only about a thousand were fit for duty in January. So foul was the town after the siege that "men died like rotten sheep."

In the following spring the coming of the British regulars relieved the Colonials. But with their coming came also rumours of revenge by France. She was to retake Louisbourg, of course, and she was

The heavens were black with cloud,
The sea was white with hail,
And ever more fierce and loud
Blew the October gale.

The fleet it overtook,
And the broad sails in the van
Like the tent of Cushan shook,
Or the curtains of Midian.
Down on the reeling decks
Crashed the o'erwhelming seas ;
Ah, never were there wrecks
So pitiful as these !

Like a potter's vessel broke
The great ships of the line ;
They were carried away as a smoke,
Or sank like lead in the brine.
O Lord ! before Thy path
They vanished and ceased to be,
When Thou didst walk in wrath
With Thine horses through the sea !