

By November 9th 1,510 persons had been sent away, in nine vessels. The expulsion was not completed until late in December. The whole number deported was about 6,000. They were distributed among the English colonies of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

Many of the exiles reached Louisiana, where their descendants still remain. Some wandered back to Acadie. Their posterity now inhabit certain parts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton. By the census of 1891 the number of French in the peninsula was 19,290.

The Acadians are described as a simple people, fishing a little and hunting a little, but chiefly engaged in cultivating the huge marshes of their land. They grew flax and wool, and made their own clothing. No just opinion of the Acadians can be formed, however, without consulting contemporary documents. Many of these are preserved in the N. S. Archives, and in the collections of the N. S. Historical Society.

Their relations to their English fellow-subjects, and the question as to the justice or otherwise of their expulsion, have been widely discussed, but can scarcely be touched on here. One thing may be pointed out, however, — in 1755 British rule in North America was endangered by the power of France. The French still held the great fortresses of Quebec and Louisburg, and had but recently inflicted a disastrous defeat upon a strong English force in the Ohio Valley.

The entire subject is treated in Francis Parkman's "A Half-Century of Conflict," and "Montcalm and Wolfe." These constitute the standard authority.