

the train, and the old powder magazine still resists storm and time. It ceased to be a military post in 1833; but it is only within thirty years that the ancient casemates have fallen in and the old barracks dropped into ruins from age. On the third ridge four miles further west is the town of Sackville, the ancient Tantramar of the French. On the west side of Sackville ridge is the town of Dorchester. The fourth ridge is westerly two miles between the Memramcook and Petitcodiac rivers. On it were located the Memramcook and other French villages. This, as well as other parts of the Isthmus, has been the scene of continuous conflicts in other days—when France and England were at war, and generally when they were not at war.

The struggle between England and France, and afterwards between England and the revolted colonies for the possession of the Isthmus of Chignecto, arose from a conception of its value and importance as a strategical position. In times of peace, its trade was valuable; in times of war, it became virtually the key of Acadia. With it in possession of the French, no English settlement in Acadia was safe. In possession of the English, the French settlements on the St. John River and along the St. Lawrence to the walls of Quebec could be menaced. Therefore the government of Mass. Bay always gave marked attention to all movements in this locality.

In 1696, Capt. Church from Boston appeared off Beaubassin, in whale-boats, with a force from Massachusetts Bay to raid the settlement and to assert British authority.

In 1703, Vaudreuil, Governor of Quebec, sent Beaubassin, son of La Valliere, the Seigneur of Chignecto, to ravage the country from Casco to Wells. Beaubassin was a noted Indian fighter, as ruthless as he was daring. He divided his French and Indian force into bands and assailed fortified places and houses at the same time, sparing neither the white hairs of old age, nor the infant at the breast of its mother. It seemed as if at the door of each dwelling a hidden savage found its prey. All were des-

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