

to the savage his sport and his support, are like himself wanderers on the soil; but the time has arrived in the order of Providence when the land is no longer to lie waste. It has hitherto been but a place of transit, it is now to be a possession. The laws of nature, which have hitherto done all, are now to do only part. The earth is to yield its increase still, but of what nature that increase shall be, is to be settled by the mind of man. Forests are to give place to fields, huts to houses. The horse and the ox are to supplant the bear and the loup-cervier. The stationary is to take the place of the nomadic. Hitherto the products of nature are those which she has yielded of her own accord, as the accidents of wind or water, of growth or decay, of clime or season, may have determined. Now her energies are to be guided and directed. She is henceforth to produce what man exacts from her. Year by year he casts seed into her bosom, and calls with confidence for a return of the same, with ample increase.

This eventful day in the history of Truro dates back near a century and a quarter. It is something over 121 years since the first British settlers penetrated to this place with the intention of making it their home. We do not take into account the evanescent visit of the French Acadians. Their occupation, such as it was, hardly extended to uplands or to forests. The entire extent of the cleared land in all Truro did not exceed 100 acres.*

Small patches of clearing, there must have been, for houses and gardens, but beyond these, no encroachment appears to have been made on the forest. What was done in the way of agricultural occupation, had reference to the marshes. A few embankments, some of them not a mile from the spot we stand on, remain to this day to bear witness that some effort had been made to shut out the tides from the higher mud flats.

*See report of Surveyor General Morris to Lieutenant Governor Belcher, inclosed by the former to the Lords of Plantations in a despatch dated 11th Jan'y., 1762.

The Acadian French had gradually extended their settlements eastwardly from their head quarters, at Port Royal. They had spread along the little streams which fall into the Bay of Fundy. They had made settlements at Minas and Pisiquid and had gradually penetrated to Cobequid to a place a few miles below what is now Truro. There they had erected a house of worship, from which the adjoining water was called *Cove d'Eglise*. This name by a liberal protestant translation, has adhered to the place. The settlement is called Mass Town to this day. Some Acadians, continuing the progressive settlement eastwardly, had, about this time, moved further up the Bay to this part of what was then known as Cobequid. Then came the cruel edict of the 5th Sept. 1755, which banished the whole Acadian race from home and country and scattered them as wanderers in the old British colonies, among a people who, to them, were heretics in creed, and aliens in race.

How many of these people had settled in Truro proper, we have no means now of knowing. It would appear by an enumeration of the French inhabitants quoted by Surveyor General Morris in a report of his made just previously to the expulsion of the race, that between Isgonishe (or as it was then called Chaganois) and the head of Cobequid Basin, which he states as a distance of two leagues, there were 20 families. Of this section, what is now Truro was the most remote part, but assuming the twenty families to be equally dispersed over Lower and Upper Onslow, Bible Hill, the Upper and Lower Village of Truro, and Old Barns, it would give to each of these places an average of less than four families. A country with inhabitants so scattered, and they just entering upon the lands, can scarcely be said to have been settled at all. They must have had some houses, such as they were, but these were probably destroyed when the people were driven away.

At all events, six years afterwards, when the British settlers came, there were no vestiges of houses to be found