

cepted, would soon then have gone over to their Interest) would over-run the *British* Colonies, already surrounded with a Line of *French* Forts carried on upon the Back of them for that Purpose.

If ever *Great Britain* should receive such a Blow in her *American* Dominions, it would be in vain to hope to retrieve it by her superior Naval Force; on the other hand, if it is considered, how much the Strength of the *French Marine* would be thereby increased, and that of the *British* diminished, little doubt can be made, that the present Superiority of the Naval Force of *Great Britain* to that of *France* would survive the Loss of her Colonies but a few Years,

Upon the Cession of *Nova Scotia* to *Great Britain* at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, it was garrisoned with nine Companies of the late Lieutenant General *Phillips's* Regiment of 31 privates each, five of which were posted at *Annapolis Royal* and four at *Canso*.

As to the *French* Inhabitants (whom for Distinction-sake I shall call *Acadians*) which were found in the Province at the Reduction of it, they were by the Treaty allowed their Option either to retire with their moveable Effects to any other Place within a Year, or to remain there and be subject to the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, and to have the free Exercise of the Catholic Religion, as far as the Laws of *Great Britain* would allow.

Much the greatest Part made their Election to remain in *Nova Scotia*, but could not be induced