

Methodist Magazine and Review.

JULY, 1904.

CAPE BRETON—LOUISBOURG.

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GR^{EAT} as is the commercial interest which has lately called all Canada's attention to Cape Breton, its antiquarian interest is greater still. Probably sighted by the Cabots in 1496, its name is our earliest European importation; and recalls the brave Basque fishermen who, four hundred years ago, found their way thus far from home, and gave to the welcome land first seen a well-known name, Cap Breton.

But the fact that the fortunes of the North American continent were fought out here, and that here was settled whether French or English speech and spirit should shape the New World's future, is what, above all else, will ever stir men's minds and draw the feet of pilgrims to these shores.

Leaving the Sydney and Louisbourg train at the eastern end of the line, it is hard to realize that, less than a hundred and fifty years ago, a man-eating Indian's wigwam may have stood where the station stands; and, near that odd-looking spider-leglike pier at which, in the distance, Black Diamond boats are coaling, was the gun-bristling Grand Battery of one of the strongest fortresses in the world—France's pride and hope of empire this side the long-leagued sea.

To the right as one leaves the depot, by the flagstaff, two recently

dredged up cannon are mounted, rust-eaten and harmless, yet reminding one still of the stirring times when they spat fire as living things, and were hot with cannonading in fierce attack or brave defence.*

How well these two peoples, the English and the French, came to close in deadly combat here, is a longer story than this magazine allows us to tell. Yet some of the chief actors in the drama may be noted, and, here and there, we may see where the tide of interest sets strongest toward that time when our fathers unfurled the Cross of St. George where the lillied flag of France had flown.

When Spain tapped the mines of Mexico and stirred the jealousy of Europe by their incredible wealth, France sent forth first one and then another explorer to find out what, beside fish, might, north of Spain's possessions, be turned into her treasury. In 1603 two men, Champlain and Pontgravee, prompted chiefly by the vast possibilities of the fur trade, sailed from Honfleur, found fur in abundance, and, what was of infinitely more importance, founded a New France. With Quebec and the interior Champlain's name will ever be associated, but the beginnings of Acadia, and the building there of the first French fort, Port Royal (Annapolis), was

*Two similar cannon are mounted in Queen's Park, Toronto, which had lain fathoms deep for well-nigh a century and a half.