

Governor Cornwallis, in his letter, dated September 11th, 1749, to the Duke of Bedford, writes :

“ I cannot help saying that General Phillips deserved the highest punishment for what he did here, *his allowing a reserve to the oath of allegiance* ”.

The same governor, addressing the Acadian deputies, said :

“ *You have always refused to take the oath without an expressed reservation* ”.

The oath which the Acadians took and which was entitled “ *Oath of Fealty* ” (“ Serment de Fidélité ”) was as follows :

“ Je promets et Jure Sincèrement en Foi de Chrétien que je serai entièrement Fidèle, et obéirai Vraiment Sa Majesté le Roy George Second, que je reconnois pour Le Souverain Seigneur de l'Acadie ou Nouvelle Ecosse. Ainsi Dieu me Soit en Aide ”.

Turn we next to the conduct of the Acadians, as subjects of Great Britain, during the forty-three years they occupied the country following the treaty of Utrecht. This is a phase of the question which demands the fullest and closest scrutiny and investigation, as upon the loyalty of the Acadians to Great Britain must largely turn the justification or condemnation of their expulsion and deportation. It will be best to let the testimony of the English settle this point. The mere statement of an historian, based upon no evidence but heresy, will not be accepted—the proof of the loyalty or disloyalty of the Acadians must be deduced from official documents and the opinions of those who have no historical case in court.

On March 15th, 1744, war was declared between England and France, and the French prepared for an invasion of