

Reverend John Williams and more than one hundred other prisoners were taken, and carried to Canada, — a calamity which might have been averted had the garrison heeded the warnings from Boston and Connecticut. Next in order was the similar though less important massacre and burning, on the thirteenth of May, of the village of Pascomuc, or Easthampton, by a party of French and Indians, led by the Sieur de Montigny; and finally, the attack and repulse at Lancaster, on the thirty-first of July.

This last is the theme of the following verses, in which, although it is not pretended that license has not been taken with regard to motives and coloring, and to actions even, the leading incidents are believed to be strictly historical.