

I have already said, without giving proofs, that no marriages were contracted between the Acadians and English after 1686. Complete and authentic documents still exist, being the census of 1693-'98-1701-3-7, and, for Beaubassin, 1714. My reason for not producing these is that they are in the archives of the Colonial Office, Paris, and consequently, I was unable to consult them. But M. Rameau, who used them in the publication of his book, who examined them minutely to establish the descent of the Acadians, so that more than three-fifths, perhaps, four-fifths of the present population spring from "the forty-seven * families of 1671," and the latter from the half-breeds of Latour and his companions in disorder, does not mention any intermarriages at these dates. This is equivalent to saying that none took place. With the proofs in my possession, without the census taken at the above dates, I might almost affirm the same thing. On what probability does Rameau rely in order to multiply these unions from 1606 to 1671? The small number of European women in the greater number of Indians and the five mixed marriages found in the census of 1671 and that of 1686. Subsequent to 1686, these three bases of suppositions failed him. Women became as numerous as men in Acadie; and an author, one of those on whom M. Sulte relies in order to prove the tradition, goes so far as to say that, after the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), the inhabitants of Port Royal furnished women to the founders of Louisbourg.† In 1686, there were in Acadie three hundred boys and two hundred and twenty-five girls, exclusive of the married women. And if my memory is correct, there was amongst those female figures one maid, Marie Scalé, of the respectable age of sixty-six.

On the other hand, the Abenakis, who were incessantly battling with the English, whom we behold continually fighting, attacking when they were not attacked, saw their ranks each year reduced, St. Castin's, in 1710, was able to muster only forty of them to invest Port Royal, which was then occupied by the English.

However, a few years repose gave them renewed strength. When the Anglo-Americans, in 1720, resolved upon taking possession of their territory, they found them so determined and so redoubtable that they did not carry out their resolution. Losing all hope of intimidating them and not desiring to provoke a new war they had recourse to other means. The Church in the settle-

* Rameau, pp. 153-4.

† Lafargue, p. 96.