

a priest, who was acting as the agent of the French government at Quebec. Thus were more than 1000 persons driven from their homes and compelled to seek shelter under the walls of Beauséjour, which then and later became the rallying point of all the French inhabitants who had fled from that portion of Acadia which the French admitted to belong to England.

As the removal of the French inhabitants of Beaubassin had rendered the building of a block house there unnecessary, Lawrence returned with his force to Minas, after exchanging communications with La Corne, the commander at Beauséjour, who claimed all north of the Misseguash as French territory. But in the beginning of September of the same year, Lawrence returned to Chignecto with a larger force, consisting of the 48th Regiment and 300 men of the 45th Regiment. The Indians and some of the French inhabitants were rash enough to oppose the landing of this strong body of troops, but were driven off after a sharp skirmish in which the English lost about 20 killed and wounded. On an elevation a short distance south of the Misseguash River, Lawrence commenced the erection of a picketed fort, with block houses, which was named after himself. Here a garrison of 600 men was maintained until after the fall of Beauséjour. England and France were nominally at peace when Fort Lawrence was built, but there was seldom peace in Acadia as long as the French had a foothold there.

The English colony in Nova Scotia was very weak, most of the inhabitants of that province being French. The French held Louisbourg and the whole island of Cape Breton; they likewise possessed Quebec and all Canada, so that the capture of Beauséjour soon became a necessity unless British power in Acadia was wholly to disappear. Accordingly, in the autumn of 1754, steps were taken to recruit a sufficient force in New England to ensure the desired result. Lawrence was then Governor of Nova Scotia, and he sent Lieut.-Colonel Monckton to Boston to confer with Governor Shirley of Massachusetts as to the arrangements necessary to be made. Two battalions of New England troops, numbering about 2000 men, were enlisted for the proposed expedition and placed under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Winslow and Lieut.-Colonel Scott. A sufficient number of vessels was obtained at Boston to convey this force to Nova Scotia, and on the 23rd May, 1755, it set sail for its destination. At Annapolis 300 veterans of the 45th Regiment were taken on board, and a small train of artillery,