

grand thing for France, while others deeply regret it.

Abbe Reynal bitterly lamented the loss of Newfoundland and Acadie, as did also Garneau, while Charlevoix thought France was amply compensated for the loss of Newfoundland by the acquisition of Cape Breton.

By an unwise arrangement, after the Treaty of Utrecht, Placentia was placed under the Government of Nova Scotia, while the rest of the island was ruled by an Admiral or Commodore. When Queen Anne ascended the throne she permitted the French protestants to remain in Placentia, and they were given equal liberty with her own subjects. Many legal questions arose out of this one-sided piece of business. Many of the natives of France who availed of this privilege were successful in creating much disturbance through secretly inviting French Basques and Biscayans to fish there. Whereat the English declared that the latter had no fishing rights in Newfoundland, and the Spanish would not be tolerated at all. The English Governor of Placentia ordered off some Biscayan vessels which arrived to fish in 1715. Notwithstanding this strict order of the English Governor many of these ships continued to fish out of Placentia. Their owners merely nominally transferred the vessels to English owners and sailed them under the British flag.

All the best places on the extensive beach were owned by the Governor and officers. In fact a regular part of the business of the soldiers who comprised the garrison was to catch fish for the above gentlemen.

It was a long time before Placentia fell into the ways and customs of the English, and merited to be designated a thorough English set-

tlement. All disputes which arose were settled by the French rules. The English officers being poorly, if at all paid, resorted to many of the customs of their French predecessors to gain a living.

In 1787 H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence, visited Placentia, ordered the erection of an English church, and presented it with a beautiful Communion service, which is still in the possession of the Bradshaw family there. This church still stands; though being entirely wooden, it has long since assumed shaky and dangerous proportions. If it had received necessary repairs all along it would be good for another hundred years. Yet new seats were placed in it only a short while since, and service is still held there occasionally. Some decayed tombstones which marked the resting places of the French dead, were removed into this church for preservation some years ago and are still there.

A great event occurred at Placentia on the 20th July, 1786, when the Duke of Clarence presided as Surrogate in the Court House.

The railway to Placentia was built in 1885. It branches off from Whitbourne, and the run therefrom to Placentia is 27 miles. A fine substantial government wharf was built a few years ago, and now, the track being laid right out the gut to the wharf, the train connects with the Bay steamer *Argyle*.

The s.s. *Argyle* is beautifully fitted up and has splendid accommodation. The distance to Placentia from St. John's by rail is only 84 miles, and but for the many intermediate stations our trains could run it in less than half the scheduled time. No tourist who comes to Newfoundland should leave the island without seeing Placentia.

*Caleb Wolfe.*

NOTE.—(1) Mr. Bailey, operator in the Anglo-American office at Placentia, holds the key of the old English Church, and I am sure will only be too glad to oblige any visitors wishing to inspect the place, or see the curious old tombstones.

(2) Since 1713, Placentia has practically experienced peace under the benign rule of Britain.