It is possible that no exception might have been taken to the published accounts of this really deplorable event, had not the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, on the 30th April, 1857, on the motion of the Honble. Joseph Howe, adopted a resolution requesting the Lt.-Governor "to cause the ancient records and documents illustrative of the early history and progress of society in this Province, to be examined, preserved and arranged, either for reference or publication, as the Legislature may hereafter determine."

In 1864, two hundred volumes of manuscripts had been selected, arranged, catalogued, and bound, by the intelligent "Commissioner of Records," T. B. Akins, Esq., who, in 1869, published by authority a volume entitled "Archives of Nova Scotia;" from the preface to which, the following extract is taken :—

"The expulsion of the French Acadians from Nova Scotia is an important event in the history of British North America, and has lately derived peculiar interest from the frequent reference made to it by modern writers. Although much has been written on the subject, yet until lately it has undergone but little investigation, and in consequence, the necessity for their removal has not been clearly perceived; and the motives which led to its enforcement have been often misunderstood. I have, therefore, carefully selected all documents in possession of the government of this Province, that could in any way throw light on the history and conduct of the French inhabitants of Nova Scotia, from their first coming under British rule until their final removal from this country."

With this introduction, I shall now invite attention to the poem of "Evangeline," and to the "Archives" which bear on the same events, not asking assent to any deductions of my own till we have concluded our review.

The poem of "Evangeline" opens with some lines descriptive of a portion of "Acadia" at the time of its