

calamity, the Acadians had to bow to the atrocious law of a triumphant foe ; and on the 10th of September, the mournful expatriation took place.

That date had been fixed upon as the day of departure ; and a man of war was in waiting for them. At day break, the drums were resounding in the villages, and at eight o'clock the ringing of the church bells told the sad and desolate Frenchmen that the time had come for them to leave for ever their native land. Soldiers entered houses, and turned away men, women and children into the market place. Till then each family had remained together, and a silent sadness prevailed ; but when the drums beat to embark ; when the time had come to leave their native home for ever, to part with mother, relations, friends, without hope of seeing them again, to follow strangers that enmity, language, habits and especially religion had made antipathic, crushed beneath the weight of their misery, the exiles melted into tears and rushed into each others arms in a long and last embrace. The drums were resounding incessantly and the crowd was pushed on towards the ships anchored in the river. Two hundred and sixty young men were ordered to embark on board the first vessel : This they refused to do, declaring they would not leave their parents but were willing to embark with their families. Their request was immediately rejected, but they were forced into