MIRA.

Mira, referred to several times in the memoir, is a picturesque district near Louisburg, full of historic associations of the old masters of Cape Breton.

The French Governors built villas on the banks of its beautiful river, and the substantial farms tilled there by the French peasants partially supplied the necessities of the capital.

During the first and second sieges Mira was in the fighting zone, as the rendezvous of the French for attacks on the British rear, and the besiegers constantly guarded the roads extending from the city in that direction.

On May 26th, 1745, 153 New Englanders marched to Mira and destroyed a very handsome manor, in which 140 French and Indians had rendezvoused for an attack upon the New England forces in the Lighthouse Battery. They also reconnoitred a manor consisting of an imposing stone house with fine approaches, granaries, and rich fields of wheat.

During the second siege Mira was again a " thorn in the flesh " of the British, who were obliged to build a blockhouse on the Mira Road to intercept any succour despatched to the leaguered city, and to secure the grand army's communications with the north-east harbour (the site of New Louisburg).

On the night of the 26th of June the French sortied from Louisburg to destroy this blockhouse, and almost succeeded in setting it on fire. They were, however, driven back into the city by a determined charge by light infantry. The signal fires of the Franco-Indian militia, hastening overland to the succour of Louisburg, were seen to the northward of the blockhouse in July; and a sharp engagement between these intrepid troops and the British occurred on the road.

The site of this important blockhouse can be identified, and the Committee of the " Louisburg Memorial " should permanently mark it.

Mira is also interesting as the site of " Signal Hill," an elevated point upon which the French lit signal fires to communicate with the surrounding country; and other