

force captured Louisbourg. By the terms of the capitulation, the inhabitants were allowed to remain in their houses until they could be transported to France, and in all, 600 soldiers, 1,300 militia, 560 sailors and 2,000 inhabitants were transported to France. The captors kept the French flag flying for a time to decoy French vessels in, and £600,000 worth of prizes were taken at the mouth of the harbour.

Meantime Mascarene, at Annapolis, continued to be annoyed by the treasonable carrying of information as to his strength and movements to the French authorities of Quebec by the inhabitants around him, and the active aid given by them to Marin, a French officer, who, with 300 men, came down from Quebec to Mines; thence sailed to Louisbourg, where he arrived too late to prevent the capitulation.

The French official report of 1745 to the Count de Maurepas states:—

‘As regards the disposition of the inhabitants towards us; all, with the exception of a very small portion, are desirous of returning under the French dominion. Sieur Marin, and the officers of his detachment, as well as the missionaries, have assured us of this; they will not hesitate to take up arms as soon as they see themselves at liberty to do so. . . . The reduction of Louisbourg has meanwhile disconcerted them. M. Marin has reported to us that the day he left Port Royal all the inhabitants were overpowered with grief. This arose only from their apprehension of remaining at the disposition of the enemy—of losing their property and of being deprived of their missionaries. . . . The Acadians have not extended their plantations since they have come under English dominion, their houses are wretched wooden boxes, without conveniences and without ornaments, and scarcely containing the most necessary furniture.’

Enormous preparations were now made by the French Government. In 1746 the Duc D’Anville sailed from

La Rochelle with 11 ships of the line, 20 frigates and 34 transports, &c., with instructions to recapture and dismantle Louisbourg, take Annapolis and leave a garrison in it; thence he was to go to Boston and burn it, afterwards to harry the coast, and finally to visit the English sugar islands in the West Indies. An exact history of the movements of this armada would be very interesting; suffice it to say here that through storms and other disasters no part of its designs was achieved, and scarcely a ship returned to Europe.

We now come to an incident of warfare on the Grand Pré, at Mines. A Colonel Noble was stationed there to overawe the French settlers and prevent their sending aid to the French troops at the head of the Bay of Fundy. He had about 470 men with him. They intended to fortify themselves in the spring, and anticipated no attack during the winter. M. De Ramsay however, in command at Beausejour (Cumberland), at once sent out Coulon de Villiers with 240 Canadians and 60 Indians. They prepared wicker work sleighs and snow shoes for the whole. Twenty-five Acadians joined them and of their own accord took up arms. After sleeping at Windsor one night and at the Gaspereau part of the next, and obtaining guides to point out the houses occupied by the English, the attack began at 2 a.m. in a furious snow storm. The English were surprised in their beds; Col. Noble was killed, fighting in his shirt, and with him fell many others. The English, who were in the houses not attacked, collected together, some 350, and made a sortie, but without snow shoes, with snow about four feet deep, and with only a few rounds of ammunition left, could do little; they therefore capitulated, agreeing not to carry arms in that vicinity for six months.

Nevertheless De Ramsay was ordered to withdraw from Cumberland, another great French fleet having been totally destroyed, which was commanded by La Jonquière and was met by