

of England, and William guaranteed to Louis all the Hudson's Bay territory, the valley of the Mississippi, Canada, the greater part of Newfoundland, and even Acadia, that had been conquered by and was in possession of Massachusetts.

In the beginning of the 18th century, the two rival monarchs, William and Louis, were almost dropping into the grave, having spent a lifetime in fighting against each other; and the near approach to the unseen world had not abated their ambition. William was suffering from a mortal disease, his feet swollen, his voice almost gone, and Schlosser says that even then, when he had shut himself up from visitors, he rallied new alliances, governed the policy of Europe, and was shaping the destiny of America. Louis, the champion of "divine right," was heir to the Spanish throne, and consequently claimed not only that but whatever Spain claimed, viz., Milan, the two Sicilies, a great portion of the Indies, and the Low Countries; and the Spanish people desired Louis for their sovereign. Louis being determined to take possession, William, notwithstanding his notice of impending death, determined to hinder him in a course which threatened evil to Europe. James the Second, still at the court of France, sickened and died, and Louis acknowledged his son, Prince Charles Stuart, as the legitimate king of Great Britain. When war broke out, William, who was a remarkable diplomatist, had arrayed against France and Spain the armies of England, Holland, Portugal, Denmark, Savoy, Lorraine, and Prussia, and soon after passed to another world. After his death the war went forward, in which France held its ground till the decisive battle of Blenheim. During the war Massachusetts suffered terribly, and was overrun by the French and Indians, who poured in upon them from Canada and Acadia. Sad are the accounts narrated, and the historian says "neither the milk-white brows of the ancient, nor the mournful cries of tender infants," were regarded by the invaders. "The prowling Indian seemed near every farm-house, and death hung on every frontier." Dark yet glorious was the condition of New England: "She had laid," says one of her eloquent sons, "deep and strong the foundations of society, religious principles were firm, and her moral habits exemplary." But as yet the aggregate of the whole population of New England was not more than 160,000. And there had originated in New England a system that in education has gained for her the admiration of the world. FREE SCHOOLS originated with Congregationalism, and even at that day, when "Indians were in the woods and Frenchmen on the frontier," provision was made for the education of EVERY child. It is the glory of Congregationalism that nowhere, not even in favored Scotland, are there so few persons that cannot read and write. The truth is Calvinism everywhere requires the school beside the church, and nowhere has this prevailed in every country to a greater extent than in those places where Calvinism assumed the Congregational form. "Thank God," said a governor of Virginia, "that we have no schools nor printing presses;" but that was in a province from which Puritanism was carefully excluded.

There was sadness in many a New England home—there were vacant seats by the fireside. A child perhaps would be playing its little plays by the door, and the busy mother would hear a shriek, and all was over. "Children as they gambled on the beach," says Bancroft, "reapers as they gathered the harvest, mothers as they busied themselves about the house, were victims to an enemy that disappeared as soon as the blow was struck." The red man sometimes grew weary of the murderous work, but the French urged it