

1745, comprehended the enlistment of 20,000 provincials, who should be offered, as an inducement, "the plunder of the country; as well as the lands of the Canadians." In official quarters--and none the less among the populace--it was judged that the acquisition of Canada would secure the fish and fur trade, deprive the French of provisions and lumber for their sugar islands, greatly diminish the trade of France, secure the English possessions in America--hitherto greatly incommoded, and put a halt to the building of French war vessels, then carried on in Canada.¹ Governor William Shirley, in his speech to the Council and House of Representatives of Massachusetts-Bay, 28th June, 1746, told them it was but folly to consider Nova Scotia in security so long as the French continued to be masters of Canada.² He but spoke the truth from a bitter experience.

Soon after the conquest of Louisburg, Shirley was called there to quell the discontent which had arisen among the provincials. His mission accomplished, he returned to Boston early in December. But while at Louisburg he had concerted measures with Pepperrell and Warren, for an expedition against Canada the following year. The project was communicated to the Duke of Bedford, then at the head of the admiralty, and was well received.

The fighting strength of all Canada, according to the best available information, was judged not to exceed 12,000 men, inclusive of the regulars; and the Indian allies were computed to be about 900.³ The winter of 1745-1746 intervened. On 14th March, 1746, the Duke of Newcastle,⁴ then at the helm of the government, wrote to the various American governors, that "should it be judged advisable to undertake any attempt upon the French settlements in the New World, they should take the proper measures for raising a body of

¹ *Chalmers' Papers relating to Canada, 1692-1792*, in New York Public Library.

² *Journal of the Representatives of Mass.-Bay, 1746*, p. 71.

³ *Memoirs of Last War*, p. 60.

⁴ Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and of Newcastle-under-Lyne, was born 21st July, 1693, and died 17th November, 1768. He is described as having been "nervous and pompous, always in a hurry, and always behind hand; ignorant of common things, and not learned in any sense." He certainly made a great fiasco of the plan to reduce Canada. Lecky says he vastly increased the evil of shameless corruption in the affairs of the government, "discredited and degraded his party, and left the standard of political morality lower than he found it."—*History of England in the Eighteenth Century*, vol. 11, pp. 438-40.