

5-6 EDWARD VII., A. 1906

In the Colonial Records of the Province of Pennsylvania, I find the following minutes of a Council held at Philadelphia, the 8th December, 1755 :

"The Captains of the vessels employed by Governor Lawrence to carry the Neutral French out of Nova Scotia, having landed them at the nearest place to the Post House, demanded their discharge, and such as produced the proper printed receipts had their discharges this day delivered to them :

"Imported to Philadelphia from Nova Scotia in the Sloop *Hannah*, Richard Adams, Master, 137 French persons.

"Sloop *Three Friends*, James Carlyle, 156 French persons.

"Sloop *Swan*, Jonathan Lovell, Master, 161 French persons, making a total of 454.

And again in the Pennsylvania Archives, vol. 2, p. 581, I read the following letter, dated Williamsbourg, Feb. 21st, 1756, from Gov. Dinwiddie of Virginia to Gov. Morris of Pennsylvania :

"SIR,—We have had 1,140 Neutrals from Nova Scotia, which gives great uneasiness to our people, we have recd them & now maintain them by my order and the Councils ; but whether the Assembly will be prevailed on to make some provision for them is very uncertain ; & I complain of Gov. Lawrence's not giving us some previous notice of their coming that we might be prepar'd to receive them.

"I entreat you to send me notice of what your Assembly has done, which probably may be of service with our people.

"ROBT. DINWIDDIE."

The Assembly of Virginia, it would appear, refused to provide for the deported Acadians and these were re-embarked on board vessels and sent to England, as shown by an extract from a letter dated, Whitehall, 8th July, 1756, from the Lords of Trade to Gov. Lawrence. "Notwithstanding what you say in your letter of the Acadians being received in the several Provinces to which they were sent, we must inform you that several hundred of them have since been sent over here from Virginia, and several from South Carolina, and that His Majesty has given orders to the Lords of Admiralty, to direct the commissioners for Sick and hurt Seamen to secure and maintain them."

These Acadians were sent to Liverpool, Southampton, Bristol and Penryn, where they were treated as prisoners until the spring of 1763, when through the good offices of the Duke de Livernois, they were brought to St. Malo and Morlaix.

In 1765, 78 families chiefly of those who returned from England were given lands at Belle-Isle-en-Mer in the Department of Morbihan and required, in 1767, to appear before a commission in order to make declarations as to their genealogies. L'Abbé LeLoutre, former missionary to the Micmacs, was present at these declarations, and after the genealogies of the families of a parish in Belle-Isle-en-Mer had been given—there were four parishes—he himself made a declaration as to how these Acadians came to Belle-Isle-en-Mer, in these words :

"Déclaration de Monsieur l'abbé Le Loutre, ancien vicaire général du diocèse de Québec en Canada. Du douze mars mil sept cent soixante-sept, a le dit messire Le Loutre déclaré que les Acadiens placés en cette isle ont été transportés par les Anglois à Boston et autres colonies angloises au mois d'octobre mil sept cent cinquante-cinq ; que de ces colonies ils ont été transférés en la vieille Angleterre et dispersés en divers endroits du royaume dans le courant de l'année mil sept cent cinquante six ; qu'en mil sept cent soixante-trois après le traité de paix ils ont été transportés en France par les Gabarres du roy et placés en divers ports de mer. Et qu'en mil sept cent soixante-cinq dans le courant du mois d'octobre ils ont passé en cette isle par ordre de Monseigneur le Duc de Choiseul, Ministre de la Marine. Ce qu'il a affirmé veritable et a signé après lecture le dit mois et an que devant.

Signé "J. L. LELOUTRE ptre. Miss."

By the deportation of the Acadians in the Fall of 1755, the families were broken up and their members cast to the four points of the compass. To trace these families