

Empire. In the early days of American discovery, while the Spaniards were searching for gold fields on the unhealthy shores of Central America, the French and English, with wiser foresight, directed their attention to the North and discovered the real gold fields of the Continent; the rich and inexhaustible fishing grounds of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. A Colony of French settled at Port Royal in 1605; a Colony of English Puritans landed 15 years later at Plymouth Rock. From these rival Colonies sprang all the wars and contentions by which the Continent was vexed for so many years. This is not the place to give a full account of the events which ended in the expulsion of the French from the Continent. The struggle was long and doubtful, and fortune wavered long between the rival banners. In the mean time, the English Settlements had extended to Cape Hatteras, and the French to the Island of Montreal. Louisburg became an almost impregnable fortress, and the River St. John was studded with forts from Partridge Island to the Nashwaak. The English Colonies rapidly rose into importance, and for many years carried on a constant warfare with the French Colonists of Acadie. Many of the deeds of valor done by the English Colonists in those days, were not surpassed by the bravest actions recorded in the War of Independence. The siege and capture of Louisburg in 1744, a work planned and carried out by the New England Colonists, was an achievement that is worthy to be named in connection with the capture of Quebec or the surprise of Gibraltar, and the taking of Fort Cumberland in 1755; afforded an additional illustration of the valor and loyalty of these men of New England.—Nor were they idle spectators, when five years later the last remnant of French power passed from this Continent. Of all the vast domain that France once possessed in the Northern part of the New World, only a few unimportant Islands are left—the feeble remnant of what was once so grand. How such an Empire was lost, must surely be a subject well worth the attention of the historian.

A little over a century ago, the British flag was planted on the Citadel of Quebec, and from that time a new era dawned on the history of Acadie. The French settlers were driven from their homes by the sides of its dykes and intervalles, and a new and more aggressive race usurped their places. Halifax was founded and English settlements commenced to be formed on the River St. John. But events were near which were destined to change the whole political aspect of the Continent. In a moment of insane folly, the British government claimed the right to tax the Colonists—and the attempt to enforce this right was followed by resistance. The sequel belongs to English history. During the war of Independence, the shores of Acadie were frequently attacked by privateers from the thirteen Colonies. But the people remained loyal, and all attempts to wrest Canada from the British were unsuccessful.

After peace was concluded in 1783, a large influx of loyalists from the New Republic hastened the settlement of the remaining British Colonies. Upper Canada was settled, and the foundations laid of those prosperous States which are now expanding into a new dominion. In the war of 1812, fresh trouble awaited the then feeble Colonies. Canada was persistently but unsuccessfully attacked, and troops were raised in all the lower Provinces for her defence. Halifax became the grand objective point from which the fleets of England issued to attack the Young Republic, and into its ample basin was brought the shattered *Chesapeake* after her memorable engagement with the *Shannon*. St. John was occasionally threatened, but in those days of sailing vessels, its violent tides and dangerous currents were its best defence.

More than half a century of peace has succeeded in which these Provinces have emerged from obscurity and become prosperous and wealthy; and the present year beholds them in process of being formed into a Confederacy—on which even the great neighbouring Republic affects to look with a jealous and even anxious eye. What the future destiny of the new Dominion is to be, no man can venture to predict; but the political changes wrought in this Continent during the past Century, have been so remarkable, that nothing which occurs in future, can justly excite our surprise. The Colonies of Britain which were so loyal, and fought so strenuously to extend her Empire, have become her commercial rivals, and, in a great measure, her enemies; while the old Colonies of France—in former days so hostile to her interests, are peopled now by a loyal population, whom no temptation which the great Republic can hold out, can turn from their allegiance to the mother land. In the meantime, the people of these Provinces await the advent of some historian who will place before them a true mirror of the times of the Ancient Colony of Acadie—who will trace its history down from the time of its discovery by Cartier, to the expulsion of the French, and from thence to the present day—who will recount its battles and sieges, and its various changes of masters, and what is of still more importance, the social character and customs of its people—their struggles against the severity of a climate to which they were not inured, and the double evils of disease and famine. Such a history, written in a pleasing style, and without prejudice or partiality, would be a work of inestimable value to the inhabitants of the Provinces, both as a text book for the instruction of youth, and the information of those of maturer years. When such a work appears, we promise it a warm reception; and, in the mean time, we can only recommend such of our readers as are interested in the early history of the Province, to procure Mr. Murdoch's work, which, in spite of many defects, is a book of great value for reference, and well calculated to lead enquiring minds to make further search into the early history of Acadie.