

commanding officer was busy perfecting every detail, and issuing the orders of the "Provincial Governor" who represented the British Crown, to his military subordinates, detailing their duty at each of the several French or Acadian settlements. Of these there were several, each one a little world within itself.

These officers, with requisite troops, repairing to the station assigned them, in conformity with their instructions, each issued an order directing, under penalty, that "all old men, young men, and lads of ten years of age," should meet at a place designated, on September 5th, 1755, to hear read a command of the Governor of the province.

On its face this notice was entirely innocent; and in some places was fully and in others not wholly complied with. Possibly some might have noticed that on that morning extraordinary military precautions had been very quietly taken, the strictest discipline observed, and the troops supplied with powder and ball. There could have been nothing beyond a suspicion, as the dread secret was unknown, save to a few trusty officers who were sworn to absolute silence and secrecy.

Grand Pré was a populous and thrifty village, surrounded by charming farms, with fields well tilled and barns overflowing from the recent harvest. A description of what transpired there will suffice for all, as the type was the same, and like agonies wrought everywhere. Col. Winslow, of Massachusetts, was assigned to duty in that district, and to the credit of his heart be it said, shrank from its performance with expressed disgust for being made the instrument of unwanted cruelty, but imperative orders forced him to obedience.

In compliance with official notice, "the old men, young men, and boys of ten years" gathered in the village church