

inhabited, and the indemnity promised them at the surrender of Fort Beau Sejour. Notwithstanding which, there could be no apology for such of them, as, having obtained the advantages of neutrality; violated the conditions on which they were granted, and without which, from the nature of the case, there was no just foundation to expect they would be continued. It was finally determined, at this consultation, to remove and disperse the whole people among the British Colonies; where they could not unite in any offensive measures, and where they might be naturalised to the government and country.

The execution of this unusual and general sentence, was allotted chiefly to the New-England Forces, the Commander of which, from the humanity and firmness of his character, was well qualified to carry it into effect. It was, without doubt, as he himself declares, disagreeable to his natural make and temper, and his principles of implicit obedience as a soldier were put to a severe test by this ungrateful kind of duty; which required an ungenerous, cunning, and subtle severity, calculated to render the Acadians subservient to English interests to the latest hour. They were kept entirely ignorant of their destiny until the moment of their captivity, and were overawed, or allured, to labour at the gathering in of their harvest which was secretly allotted to the use of their conquerors.

The orders from Lieutenant-Governor Lawrence to Captain Murray, who was first on the station, *with the plagiarism of the language, without the spirit of Scripture*, directed that if these people behaved amiss, they should be punished at his discretion and if any attempts were made to destroy or molest the troops, he should take an eye for an eye, and a tooth, and in short life for life, from the nearest neighbour where the mischief should be performed. To hunt these people into captivity was a measure as impracticable as cruel, and as it was not to be supposed they would not voluntarily surrender themselves as prisoners, their subjugation became a matter of great difficulty. At a consultation held between Colonel Winslow and Captain Murray, it was agreed that a proclamation should be issued at the different settlements, requiring the attendance of the people, at the respective posts on the same day; which proclamation should be so ambiguous in its nature, that the object for which they were to assemble could not be discerned; and so peremptory in its terms, as to ensure implicit obedience. This instrument having been drafted and approved, was distributed according to the original plan. That which was addressed to the people inhabiting the Country, now comprised within the limits of King's County, was as follows:—

“To the inhabitants of the District of Grand Pre, Minas, River Canard, &c; as well ancient, as young men and lads:

Whereas, his Excellency the Governor, has instructed us of his late resolution, respecting the matter proposed to the inhabitants, and has ordered us to communicate the same in person, his Excellency, being desirous that each of them should be fully satisfied of his Majesty's intentions, which he has also ordered us to communicate to you, such as they have been given to him; We therefore order and strictly enjoin, by these presents all of the inhabitants, as well of the above named districts as of all the other districts, both old men, and young men, as well as all the lads of ten years of age, to attend the Church at Grand Pre, on Friday, the fifth instant, at three of the clock in the afternoon, that we may impart to them what we have to communicate to them; declaring that no excuse will be admitted on any pretence whatever, on pain of forfeiting goods and chattels, in default of real estate.—Given at Grand Pre, 2nd September, 1755, and 29th year of his Majesty's Reign.

“JOHN WINSLOW.”

In obedience to this summons, four hundred and eighteen able bodied men assembled. These being shut into the Church (for that too had become an arsenal,) Colonel Winslow placed himself, with his officers, in the centre, and addressed them thus:

GENTLEMEN,

“I have received from His Excellency Governor Lawrence, the King's Commission, which I have in my hand; and by his orders you are convened together, to manifest to you his Majesty's final resolution to the French inhabitants of this his Province of Nova Scotia, who for almost half a century, have had

more indulgence granted to them than any of his subjects in any part of his dominions; what use you have made of it you yourselves best know. The part of duty I am now upon, though necessary, is very disagreeable to my natural make and temper as I know it must be grievous to you, who are of the same species; but it is not my business to animadvert; but to obey such orders as I receive, and therefore, without hesitation, shall deliver you His Majesty's orders and instructions, namely—that your lands and tenements, cattle of all kinds and live stock of all sorts, are forfeited to the Crown; with all other your effects saving your money and household goods, and you yourselves to be removed from this his Province.

Thus it is peremptorily his Majesty's orders, that the whole French inhabitants of these districts be removed; and I am through his Majesty's goodness, directed to allow you liberty to carry off your money and household goods, as many as you can without discommoding the vessel you go in. I shall do every thing in my power that all those goods be secured to you and that you are not molested in carrying them off; also, that whole families shall go in the same vessel, and make this remove, which I am sensible must give you a great deal of trouble as easy as His Majesty's service will admit; and hope that, in whatever part of the world you may fall, you may be faithful subjects a peaceable and happy people. I must also inform you, that it is his Majesty's pleasure that you remain in security under the inspection and direction of the troops that I have the honour to command.” And he then declared them the King's prisoners. The whole number of persons collected at Grand Pre, finally amounted to 483 men, 337 women, heads of families, and their sons and daughters, to 527 of the former, and 578 of the latter; making in the whole 1923 souls. Their stock consisted of 1260 oxen, 1556 cows, 5007 young cattle, 193 horses, 8690 sheep, and 4197 hogs. As some of these wretched inhabitants escaped to the woods, all possible measures were adopted to force them back to captivity. The Country was laid waste to prevent their subsistence. In the district of Minas alone, there were destroyed 255 houses, 276 barns, 155 out houses 11 mills, and 1 church; and the friends of those who refused to surrender, were threatened as the victims of their obstinacy.

In short, so operative were the terrors that surrounded them that of 24 young men, who deserted from a transport, 22 were glad to return of themselves the others being shot by sentinels, and one of their friends who were supposed to have been accessory to their escape, was carried on shore to behold the destruction of his house and effects, which were burned in his presence as a punishment for his temerity and perfidious aid to his comrades. The prisoners expressed the greatest concern at having incurred his Majesty's displeasure, and in a petition addressed to Colonel Winslow, intreated him to detain a part of them as sureties for the appearance of the rest, who were desirous of visiting their families, and consoling them in their distress and misfortunes. To comply with this request of holding a few as hostages for the surrender of the whole body, was deemed inconsistent with his instructions, but as there could be no objection to allow a small number of them to return to their homes, permission was given them to choose 10 for the District of Minas, (Horton) and 10 for the District of Canard (Cornwallis) to whom leave of absence was given for one day; and on whose return a similar number were indulged in the same manner. They bore their confinement and received their sentence with a fortitude and resignation altogether unexpected, but when the hour of embarkation arrived, in which they were to leave the land of their nativity for ever—to part with their relatives and friends without the hope of ever seeing them again, and to be dispersed among strangers, whose language, customs, and religion, were opposed to their own, the weakness of human nature prevailed, and they were overpowered with the sense of their miseries. The preparations having been all completed, the 10th of September, was fixed upon as the day of departure. The prisoners were drawn up 6 deep, and the young men, 161 in number, were ordered to go first on board of the vessels. Thus they instantly and peremptorily refused to do, declaring that they would not leave their parents, but expressed a willingness to comply with the order, provided the: