

detached by Captain Handfield at his fort at Minas, made the whole party prisoners and took them to Quebec, where they remained as prisoners until some time in the autumn of 1751. Then they were ransomed by the payment of a certain sum of money, for which Hamilton drew on Governor Cornwallis. While he was a prisoner at Quebec, Lieutenant Hamilton became acquainted with the notorious Abbé Le Loutre, Vicar General of the Bishop of Quebec, a bitter enemy to England's rule in Acadia, and in 1754, Abbé Le Loutre desiring for some reason at the time to conciliate the English, used Lieutenant Hamilton as a channel of intercourse between himself and the government. In a letter to Charles Lawrence, Lieutenant-Governor and President of the Council, dated Aug 27, 1754, Le Loutre writes: "I have had the honor of being acquainted with Captain Hamilton for several years. He knows my way of thinking, and the real desire I feel for the continuance of the good harmony that exists between our sovereigns. He wrote to me some time ago from Port Royal, and informed me that he would come to our neighborhood (Bean Séjour) and propose a reconciliation between our savages and the English. Since his arrival at Fort Lawrence, of which he advised me, he was pleased to accept the invitation to dinner which I then gave him on our part. It was then that we had a conversation as to the means to be employed to bring about this reconciliation. He wrote to you on the subject, Sir, and you have since given your orders to Mr. Hussey, who commands at Fort Lawrence," &c., &c. (N. S. Archives, Record Commission, B. 215.) This letter was read at a meeting of the Council held at the Governor's house at Annapolis on Monday, September 9, 1754, at which there were present Lieut.-Gov. Lawrence, Benjamin