

French, as a check to the French settlements in the south and west.

But before this, in 1689, the first congress of the Puritan Anglo-Americans of New England was held at Boston to devise means of driving the French out of Acadia. Sir William Phipps was delegated by them to go to England to request the aid of a British fleet.

With eight ships loaded with troops he landed afterwards at Port Royal and captured the unprepared garrison, which consisted of but three men. The Anglo-Americans, as described, were dispersed by the brothers, de La Ronde and de Bonnaventure. In 1710, however, with the province under other leaders, Col. Nicholson appeared before Port Royal with 35 ships of war and transports containing British and Anglo-American troops, to whom the feeble garrison was forced to yield, and three years after, by the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) Acadia was ceded to Great Britain and Port Royal became Annapolis, and the seat of British government in Nova Scotia.

It has been only of recent years, through the diligence of Abbe Casgrain, Rameau, the Chevalier Pascal Poirier and some others, who have hunted up records in obscure corners of cabinets in London, Halifax and Paris, that the truth of Acadia is revealed. Being a border province, it had been the battle ground of the English and French colonists for one hundred years. Being almost surrounded by navigable seas, into which the English thrust their predominating ships of war, it was considered less safe for French settlers, and it was neglected for this reason by the French administration in Canada, in spite of more agreeable climate, beauties of scene, richness of soil and accessibility to the ports of the world. By the feudal tenure system adopted by the Kings in Canada the land had been divided into seigneuries, or lordships, corresponding to those in France. The Acadian tenants paid rent monthly by military service under the leadership of their seigneurs. The seigneuries were few in number and the area of each was very large, because a few occupied the entire province. The principal ones in 1714 were Port Royal with a population of 900; Deminès, with 1,718; Cobequit, with 442; Beaubassin, with 840; Chipody, with 170; and Cotes de l'Est, with 180. In 1739, the entire population amounted to 7,114; in 1748 to 11,925, and at the time of the deportation in 1755 to 15,000.

The Acadians were people of the best character for mildness, hospitality and honesty. No convicts had been shipped from France to Acadia. The common people were derived from the fishermen of Normandy and Brittany; the farmers of Touraine and the vicinity of La Rochelle, and the ambitious merchant class of the coast cities of France, who came across the sea to trade in furs and the products of the new country. Add to these the explorers and their families, the lords of Canada and their soldier-retainers and the priests and missionaries and the classes of the people are complete. Of the lords of domain after the three great and princely families of La Tour, de Razilli and Denys, were Musse, or Mus, barons d'Entremont, of Poboocoup, the present possessor of which title Hilaire d'Entremont, recognized as Baron d'Entremont, of the Seigniorial Order of Canada, resides (1904) on his ancestral lands at Pubnico, Nova Scotia; then follow Boucher, seigneur of Grand Pré, where the story of Evangeline is laid. This family was sprung from Pierre Boucher, a sturdy settler of Quebec Province, who was an administrator of the country and seigneur of Boucherville; after follow the noble families of D'Amours, seigneur de Jettseg and Deschappens, Melancon, seigneurs of La Verdure, Le Sert, seigneurs of Beaulassin and La Valliere, Maun d'Aprenstigue, seigneurs of Martignan, the seigneurs Dubreuil, Abbadie, Barons of St. Castine (a family connected with the Royal Bourbons); the sieurs de la Boulais, and the seigneurs de Saint Auhm, le Poupet de la Boulardiere. These with their connection, the magistracy, and the upper class of the "Bourgeoisie" formed quite an aristocracy for so small a population. The houses, or chateaux of the seigneurs were large enough to hold a garrison, and the greater number of them were fortified and built of stone; that of Denys de Fronsac at Nipissieuit contained a battery of six cannon. The castle of the d'Entremonts, called "Chateau du Cap Sable," on the east side of Pubnico Bay, Nova Scotia, destroyed at the time of the deportation in 1756-7, was similar to the others. An illustration from a drawing made of the ruins of Castle Longueuil in 1793 will give an idea of the style of these ancient Canadian and Acadian strongholds.

The headquarters of all this country of Acadia was at Port Royal, now Annapolis, Nova Scotia. Here stands the "old fort," covering 27 acres of land, with earthen walls backed by granite 24 feet high, surrounded by a ditch, crossed by