

the people in the exercise of the religion of their fathers, and, owing to strong national sympathy, it was seventeen years before they could be persuaded by the authorities at Halifax to take an oath of allegiance which in the judgment of any civilized community would make such people safe subjects of a government under which they lived. The terms of this oath were not such as would make it obligatory on the people to take arms on behalf of England in the event of war between the two countries, and from time to time a more unqualified oath was demanded of them. To such demand they always replied that in case of war they would remain neutral and that they would positively take no stronger oath than that they had already taken. When Cornwallis came, empowered by England at last to establish civil government and promote settlement, he insisted on this oath, but as strongly as ever the people refused to take it. From July, 1750, to July, 1756, Colonel Charles Lawrence was Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, and from July, 1756, to October, 1760, Governor-in-Chief, the actual command of the province devolving solely upon him after October, 1753. Lawrence was a soldier, and whether he was as utterly unscrupulous and cruel as some writers have made him out or not, it is evident that tenderness and pity were not his distinguishing traits. In 1745, William Shirley, who was then Governor of Massachusetts, had planned, and through the almost fanatical zeal of New England militia troops had carried out, the destruction of the fortress of Louisburg, and Lawrence and Shirley were in frequent communication, and in regard to the necessity of sweeping the French from the continent were entirely of one mind.