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## THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME ACADIA.

In all our history there is no name of greater charm or sadder memory than Acadia. Naturally, then, the question of its origin is of considerable interest and many writers have discussed it. Yet I believe the true origin of the word has never yet been given, and the most widely-accepted origin is wholly erroneous. If the reader, divesting himself of all prejudice, will act as judge upon the evidence to follow, I think he too will come to the same opinion.

Let us notice first of all, merely as matter of curiosity, some of the more remarkable attempts to explain the name. The earliest of these that I have found is in a rare work, published at London in 1750, entitled "A Genuine Account of Nova Scotia," which reads,—

"When the French got Possession of it, they called it *L'Acaddie*, in Allusion to *Arcadia* in the *Grecian Peloponnesus*, but with what Propriety I cannot pretend to determine." This theory is also given in Williamson's History of Maine, Volume I, page 188. A curious and absurd explanation is contained in an anonymous work published in London in 1863, "A Peep at the Western World," which tells us that Acadia