

• THE ACADIANS •

AND THEIR FATE.

OF the many who have read Longfellow's *Evangeline* with unbounded delight, how few there are who know that the plaintive, poetic story of Acadia, is but a picture of a real people, illustrating their simple mode of life and their multiple misfortunes. Yet our Nova Scotia bore that romantic name, and her people were the Acadians of history, romance and song.

The story carries us back to that long ago, when, from the frozen sea to the tropical gulf, this vast country was nearly unknown wilderness, its monotony being undisturbed save by a few English colonies on the Atlantic shore of what is now the United States, and like settlements by the French in Canada, each claiming by assumed right that which belonged to neither, and each fiercely jealous of the acquirements of the other.

Thus, the two most powerful nations of Europe sought extension of dominion and addition of wealth, while colonists, from various quarters and of all classes, endeavored to improve their condition by casting their fortunes in the wilds of the "new world."

The experience of all these early pioneers was usually pitiful in the extreme, it not infrequently happening that