

homes in Acadia, the peninsula now known as Nova Scotia. This effort proved a failure, especially because of the inroads of settlers from the English colonies of Virginia, who claimed the peninsula by right of discovery and whose people led by a free-booter in the end utterly destroyed the colony.

The French government had given the rugged realm its tropical name, but in the turmoil of the nations the English obtained possession and in 1621, with greater fitness, pronounced it to be Nova Scotia, or New Scotland. But neither tropical nor frigid designation brought to them quietude to its borders. It became the shuttlecock of war and diplomacy. In due time the French became its master, to be overcome by their persistent enemy in 1654. Thirteen years later the French were in power, fickle fortune returning it to the English in 1714. Thus, the past has shown little certainty of tenure of possession, and that the imperious English so deemed it is amply shown in the fact that the treaty by which it was secured to them contained the to them galling proviso that their new subjects, the Acadians, or French citizens of Nova Scotia, might enjoy freedom of worship, being Catholics, while the English government was intensely Protestant, and still more, they were granted immunity from military service, being thus permitted to enjoy the benefits of a government, and be in it protected, without being compelled to raise a hand even in their own defense. This unprecedented favor may have partly risen from the fact that joining the English forces they would be brought face to face with her hereditary foe, and thus be compelled to battle against personal friends and relatives; but, odious as this tacit citizenship must have been to the haughty English government, it must in justice be