

THE TRUE STORY OF THE ACADIAN DEPORTATION.

BY THOMAS O'HAGAN, M. A., PH. D

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wards the English officers and soldiers, in a manner that seems unaccountable and that kindled their utmost indignation. Towards the Acadians his behavior was still worse..... The Acadians built small vessels and the French authorities at Louisburg sent them the necessary rigging. Nicholson ordered it back; forbade the sale of their lands and houses, and would not even let them sell their personal effects; coolly setting at naught both the treaty of Utrecht and the letter of the Queen. Cauldfield and Doncette, his deputies, both, in one degree or another, followed his example in preventing so far as they could the emigration of the Acadians.

The Acadians being thus foiled by the English in their every attempt to leave the country, asked that as subjects of Great Britain they be exempted from bearing arms against the French, or Indians, their allies. There was surely nothing unreasonable in this demand, seeing that the English failed to carry out the terms of the treaty, which gave the Acadians the right to leave the country, and seeing, too, that the French who resided on the north side of the Bay of Fundy, at River St. John, Chipody, Petecodiac and Memramcook, were not only their compatriots but their brethren and relatives. Such a request was made in after years by those who came from New England and settled on the Acadian lands when they did not desire to wage a war with their kinsmen, who were fighting for American independence. They had been retained in the country contrary to their will and contrary to the terms of the treaty of Utrecht—was it not most natural that they should impose the conditions under which they should continue as subjects of Great Britain?

As to the character of the oath which the Acadians took, I think there is not a doubt that it was at no time unqualified. In support of this contention let me first cite Governor Lawrence, the very man who deported the Acadians. In his circular to the governors of New England, which accompanied the transports laden with exiled Acadians, appears the following: "The Acadians ever refused to take the oath of allegiance without having at the same time from the governor an assurance, in writing, that they should not be called upon to bear arms in the defence of the Province, and with this General Phillips did comply", of which His Majesty disapproved.

Again, writing to Sir Thomas Robinson, November 30th, 1755, Lawrence says, speaking of the Acadians of Beaubassin: "They were the descendants of those French who had taken the oath of allegiance to His Majesty in the time of General Phillip's government with the reserve of not bearing arms."

Governor Cornwallis, in his letter, dated September 11th, 1749, to the Duke of Bedford, writes:

"I cannot help saying that General Phillip's deserved the highest punishment for what he did here, his allowing a reserve to the oath of allegiance"

The same governor, addressing the Acadian deputies,

said:

"You have always refused to take the oath without an expressed reservation."

The oath which the Acadians took and which was entitled "Oath of Fealty" ["Serment de Fidélité"] was as follows:

"Je promets et Jure Sincèrement en Foi de Chrétien que je serai entièrement Fidele et Obeierai Vraiment Sa Majeste Le Roy George second que je reconnoi pour le Souverain Seigneur de l'Acadie en Nouvelle Ecosse. Ainsi Dieu me Soit en Aide."

Turn we next to the conduct of the Acadians, as subjects of Great Britain, during the forty three years they occupied the country following the treaty of Utrecht. This is a phase of the question which demands the fullest and closest scrutiny and investigation, as upon the loyalty of the Acadians to Great Britain must largely turn the justification or condemnation of their expulsion and deportation. It will be best to let the testimony of the English settle this point. The mere statement of an historian, based upon no evidence but hear, will not be accepted—the proof of the loyalty or disloyalty of the Acadians must be deduced from official documents and the opinions of those who have no historical case in case in court.

On March 15th, 1744, war was declared between England and France, and the French prepared for an invasion of Grand Pre and the other Acadian settlements subjects to British rule. Would the Acadians remain faithful to their oath of allegiance at this trying moment? Surely this event would test their fidelity. During this war, which is known in history as King George's war, Acadia was invaded at least four times by the French. The Acadians, however, remained loyal to the English and could not be shaken in their determination nor induced by coaxing or threats to swerve in their allegiance to Great Britain.

After having exhausted every means of persuasion, Duvivier and de Gann, the French generals, who commanded the first expedition, issued the following severe orders: "We order you to deliver up your arms, ammunitions.....and those who contravene these orders shall be punished and delivered into the hands of the Indians, as we cannot refuse the demands these savages make for all those who will not submit themselves." With this order the Acadians refused to comply, stating in their reply amongst other things, that "We live under a mild and tranquil government and we have all good reason to be faithful to it"

Hannay, who is no friend of the Acadians, speaking of the expedition of Duvivier says:

Duvivier, unsuccessful at Annapolis, returned to Mines where he proposed to remain for the winter with his soldiers; but the Acadians sent in such a strongly worded remonstrance that he was constrained to withdraw. At Beaubassin he found the people equally averse to his remaining and finally returned to Louisburg."

Writing to the Secretary War, Governor Mascarene, who succeeded Armstrong, says under date July 2nd, 1744 "The Acadians of this river have kept fidelity and no way joined with the enemy, who

has killed most of their cattle, and the priest residing among them has behaved, also, as an honest man, though none of them dare come to us at present. They helped in the repairing of our work to the very day preceding the attack."

In another letter, dated December, 1744, Governor Mascarene says: "To the timely succor received from the Governor of Massachusetts and our French inhabitants refusing to take up arms against us we owe our preservation. If the Acadians had taken up arms they might have brought three or four thousand men against us."

Now what must we infer from these letters of Governor Mascarene? What but that the Acadians who were faithful to their oath of allegiance in such a trying and perplexing situation were surely not disloyal when neither occasion nor inducement offered itself. It is worthy of noting here, that not one of Governor Mascarene's letters testifying to the loyalty of the Acadians during this war can be found in the Nova Scotia archives. The compiler's purpose, evidently, was to omit every thing that would give proof of the faithfulness of the Acadians to their oath of allegiance.

A word here as to the character and conduct of Abbe Le Loutre, the French missionary, who played a part in the events of this epoch. There can be no doubt that this over zealous and hotheaded priest did everything in his power to stir up the Indians against the English, and on this score his conduct is entirely responsible. But the reader should remember that Le Loutre was never a missionary to the Acadians on English territory. This should be borne in mind by those who charge, without any foundation, Le Loutre with instilling disloyalty into the hearts and minds of the Acadians. No doubt he did everything possible to induce his country living on English territory to withdraw from the country, but there is no evidence whatever that he ever made any attempt to turn them from their allegiance while they chose to remain subjects of the English Sovereign. Abbe Le Loutre and his missionary companions labored in French territory and hence their zeal and ardor in behalf of their countrymen were entirely justifiable. But Le Loutre's attempts to coerce the Acadians into abandoning the English territory was wrong, and for this he was reprimanded by the Bishop of Quebec. He had the undoubted right to persuade them, but here both right and duty ended. It should, however, be remembered that as Richard says, "The guilt of the French, in using extreme measures to compel the Acadians to withdraw from the English territory, does not surpass nor even equal that of the governors: in one case there was violence in the exercise of a right in the other violence against the exercise of a right." The conduct of the French was blameworthy rather in its methods than in its purpose.

As to the Abbe Le Loutre's zeal, which had grown into a fanaticism, surely his desire to win over the Acadians to the French territory where their faith would not be tampered with was most natural, in view of the projects which Governor Shirley had disclosed by letter to the Duke of New Castle under date, August 15th 1746,....."By which means and removing the Romish priests out of the province and introducing Protestant English

Schools and French Protestant ministers and due encouragement (continued on page 3)

IL MAIGRISSAIT A VUE D'OEIL

LA SANTE DE M. GEORGE SENEY DE MOUNT PLEASANT

Les medecins ne s'accordaient pas sur la nature de la maladie.—Il n'était plus qu'une ruine physique lorsque survint la guérison.

Du "Raporter" de Millbrook.

M. George Seney qui de meure près de Mount Pleasant, comté de Durham, Out., est un homme bien connu dans tout le comté. Il est le propriétaire de la maison Seney à Mount Pleasant et il l'a dirigée, jusqu'à, il y a un an, à la satisfaction de tous ses clients. M. Seney est un de ceux qui doivent leur santé et leur force aux qualités vivifiantes des Pilules Roses du Dr Williams. Voici ce qu'il a dit récemment durant une entrevue, à un journaliste, sur sa maladie, et sa guérison: "Je m'apercevais, que ma santé s'en allait", dit M. Seney, "mais je n'éprouvai réellement de crainte que lorsque je devins si faible que je ne pouvais plus vaquer à mes occupations. J'appelai alors deux medecins en consultation, mais il ne s'accorderent pas sur la nature de ma maladie. Cependant celui des deux que je préférais, me déclara que ma maladie était causée par une sécrétion d'humours morbides dans le sang. En conséquence il me lança plusieurs tumeurs que j'avais sur le cou, ce qui me procura beaucoup de soulagement. Mais ma santé était devenue si mauvaise que j'étais presque une ruine. Je n'avais presque plus d'appétit et mes nerfs semblaient détendus et j'éprouvais un grand affaiblissement moral. La médecine me faisait peu de bien, lorsqu'elle m'en faisait et j'ignorais où chercher du soulagement. J'avais beaucoup lu et beaucoup entendu de louanges des vertus curatives des Pilules Roses du Dr Williams et je pris enfin la résolution de les essayer. Avant d'en avoir épuisé une seconde boîte, j'éprouvais une amélioration dans mon état et après avoir persévéré encore un peu, je recouvrais ma santé et mes vigneurs normales. Il y a bientôt un an que j'ai cessé le traitement et je continue de jouir des bienfaits d'une parfaite santé, je recommande énergiquement les Pilules Roses du Dr Williams et je crois que le récit de ma guérison peut encourager ceux que le liront".

Les Pilules Roses du Dr Williams sont un médicament unique qui enrichit le sang et fortifie les nerfs, attaquant le mal dans son principe et l'expulsant en dehors de l'organisme. Elles sont, sans contredit, le plus grand remède du XIXème siècle et ont guéri des milliers de mala les abandonnés des medecins. La grande vogue des pilules roses du Dr Williams a incité des marchands véreux à les imiter et tout acheteur doit veiller à s'assurer que chaque boîte soit revêtue d'une bande portant en toutes lettres la marque de commerce enregistrée "Dr Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People." Des pilules colorées en rose, vendues à la douzaine, au cent, à l'once et renfermées dans des flacons de verre sont des imitations frauduleuses et doivent être refusées impitoyablement quelque plausible que semble paraître l'histoire dont le marchand pourra tenter d'agrémenter son débit.

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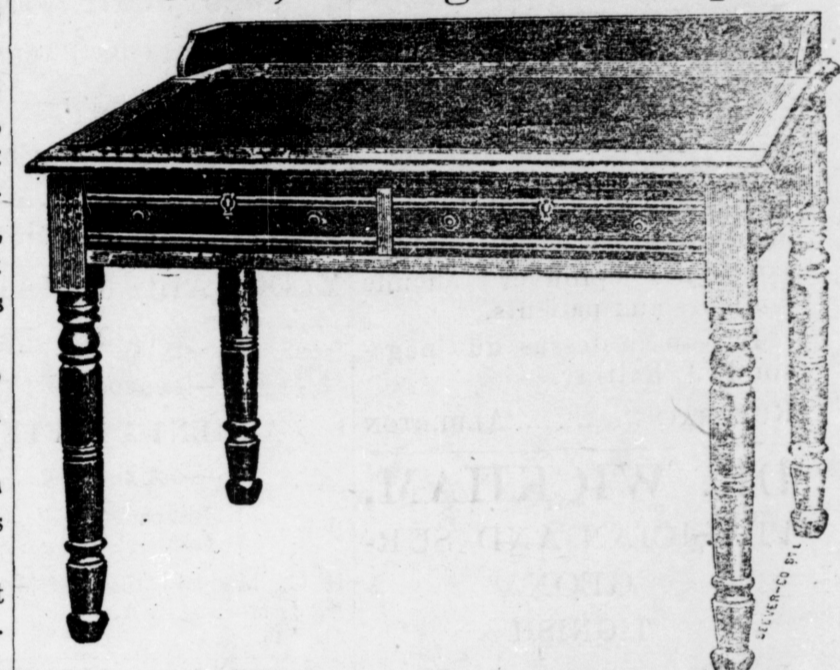
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