

greater number had committed no act whatever inconsistent with neutrality; but, in the great catastrophe which was impending, the innocent were to be placed in the same category with the guilty. Not one inhabitant had been deserving of mercy. Their fate was decided in Governor LAWRENCE's Council, at which were present Admirals BOSCAWEN and MOSTYN, whose fleets were cruising on the coast. It was resolved to disperse through the English colonies the remnant of this unfortunate people; and in order that none might escape, the most profound secrecy was enjoined up to the moment fixed for the removal, which was to take place on the same day and at the same hour in all parts of Acadia at once. It was decided also, in order to make the success more complete, to bring together the inhabitants of the principal places. Proclamations, prepared with perfidious skill, invited them to meet in certain places under the most severe penalties. Four hundred and eighteen heads of families, relying on the British faith, so assembled on the 5th of September in the Church of Grand-Pré. Colonel WINSLOW went thither with a large attendance. There he showed them the commission which he held from the Governor, and informed them that they had been called together to hear the final decision of the King with respect to them. He declared to them that, although the duty which he had to perform was a most painful one to him, he was compelled, in obedience to his orders, to inform them "that their lands and their cattle, of all kinds, were confiscated to the Crown, together with all their other property, except their money and their clothing, and that they themselves were to be deported from the province." No motive was assigned for this decision, and none could be assigned. In full civilization and in a time of political and religious quiet, such an act of spoliation was inexcusable, and, like the usurer, had to conceal its criminality by silence. A body of troops which had been kept concealed up to that point, emerged from their ambush and surrounded the church. The inhabitants, taken by surprise and unarmed, offered no resistance. The soldiers collected the women and children; 1,023 men, women and children were collected at Grand-Pré alone. Their cattle consisted of 1,269 oxen, 1,557 cows, 5,007 calves, 493 horses, 3,690 sheep, and 4,197 swine. A few Acadians having escaped into the woods, the country was devastated to prevent their obtaining subsistence. At Les Mines, 276 barns, 155 other small buildings, 12 mills and one church were burned. Those who had rendered the greatest services to the Government, such as the old notary LE BLANC, who died at Philadelphia of grief and misery, while seeking his sons scattered through the English provinces, were no better treated than those who had favored the French. No distinction was made. The men included in both classes were allowed, and it was the only consolation allowed them, before their embarkation to visit, in parties of ten, their families, and to gaze for the last time on that country which was once so calm and happy, in which they were

born, and which they were never to see again. The 10th was the day fixed for their embarkation. A calm resignation had succeeded to their first despair. But when the time came for them to bid a last adieu to their country, to go and live dispersed in the midst of a people foreign in language, in customs, in manners and in religion, the courage of these unfortunate people gave way, and they gave themselves up to the most profound grief. In violation of the promise which had been made them, and by an unexampled refinement of barbarity, families were separated and dispersed throughout different vessels. In order to put them on board, the prisoners were arranged in sixes, with the young people in front. These having refused to march, and having claimed the fulfilment of the promise made them, that they should be put on board with their relatives, they were replied to by the advance of soldiers with their bayonets crossed. The road from the Grand-Pré chapel to the river Gaspereaux was a mile in length; it was lined on both sides by women and children, who, on their knees and bathed in tears, encouraged them by calling down blessings on their heads. The sad procession moved slowly along, praying, and singing hymns. The heads of families walked after the youth; at last the procession reached the shore, the men were put into some vessels and the women and children into others, pell-mell, without any regard whatever for their comfort. Governments have committed acts of cruelty under the impulse of unreflecting anger, but they had been provoked and irritated by aggression and repeated attacks. There is no example in modern days of chastisement inflicted on a peaceable and inoffensive people with so much premeditation, barbarity and coolness as that to which allusion is now being made.

On the same day and at the same hour, all the other Acadian settlements presented the same spectacle of desolation. The vessels, laden with the numerous victims, sailed for the different provinces where they were to be dispersed. They were thrust ashore on the coast between Boston and Carolina, without bread and without protection, and were left to the charity of the inhabitants of the country in which they might happen to be.

For many days after their departure, their cattle might be seen collecting around the ruins of their dwellings, and their dogs passed the nights in pitiful howlings at the absence of their masters. Happy even in their grief, they did not know to what extremes avarice and ambition can impel mankind.

Well, Mr. SPEAKER, these are facts which it is important to remember. Here is a French colony, situated a few hundred leagues from Canada, deported in a body, and the remnant of which long after returned to the same territory. Still more, it is with the descendants of a small part of these exiles that it is now proposed to unite us. But a few months ago, I went among those people, and when I saw the magnificent