

1713. not abused their privileges, and that it was even on their account that the Indian allies of France had for some time left the English in peace.

The Captain-General either did not like these reasons, or, convinced that time must have changed the nature of things, thought that he might, without risk, put the French on the same footing as the English. He began by forbidding all intercourse with Isle Royale, and next informed them that he gave them only four months to decide on taking the oath of allegiance, which all subjects owe their sovereign.

De Saint Ovide, who was soon informed of this, notified the settlers, that as soon as they complied with what was exacted, they would find themselves in a very different position from that in which they had hitherto been; that they would soon be deprived of liberty of practising their religion publicly; that they would be deprived of their priests, and if, destitute of all spiritual succor, they were so happy as to adhere to the faith of their fathers, they could not reckon that their children would long resist the seduction and threats that would be employed to force them to change their belief. In a word, that they would not be slow to see themselves the slaves of the English, who would treat them with that harshness that they must expect from their natural antipathy to the French, and which the French refugees, although united to them by the bonds of a common religion, daily experienced.¹

They stand firm and are left in peace.

This advice was not needed by those to whom the Governor of Isle Royale gave it. They had promptly answered the Governor-General as they should,² and had even

¹ See Phillipps to St. Ovide, May 14, 1720, Aug. 10. N. S. Doc., pp. 26, 38. For Mascarene's view of the matter, see pp. 41-2.

² See Letter of the Inhabitants of Les Mines to the Governor, Canada Doc., V. vii., p. 680. Nova Scotia Doc., p. 28. They justified their delay by their inability to sell, as no English settlers came within the year. Haliburton (i., p. 94 n.) men-

tions that the priest who waited on the Governor to remonstrate on the subject of the oath, was escorted by 150 young men, a retinue more numerous than the Governor's garrison. These Acadians were refused admittance on English ships, and French ships were not allowed to enter the Acadian ports to receive them.