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Account of the Treasurer of

The Colony of Rhode Island

FOR THE

PORT ROYALL EXPEDITION

1710

Issued at the General Court of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, by its

Governor, George Leander Shepley, Esquire and the

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HE STRUGGLE known as the War of the Spanish Succession was the last attempt of King Louis XIV to overcome his European

enemies. It was known in America as Queen Anne's War.

New England had suffered heavily from attacking war parties sent out from the Canadas. Reprisal was difficult, as leagues of pathless forest controlled by Indians friendly to the French stretched between the towns of the opponents and furnished grave obstacles to English attack. The sea furnished a comparatively easy and open way of approach to certain Canadian The only station of any importance within striking distance of New England was Port Royal, on the western shore of what is now Nova Scotia. Several attacks were made on this port. After the Deerfield massacre in 1704, Col. Benjamin Church led an expedition along the Maine coast and up to Grand Pré and Port Royal, which resulted in the destruction of some French property, but which had no material success. In 1707, an expedition under Col. John March with Lieutenant-Colonel Appleton as second in command attacked Port Royal, but was repulsed.

New England continued to regard Port Royal as the center from which came many of its troubles, and the tenacious New England spirit clung to the idea that this place must become England's own.

In 1710, after strong representation made to her Majesty, Queen Anne, Great Britain authorized an expedition under the leadership of Col. Francis Nicholson. Nicholson had been governor of different American colonies, but had had no military experience.

British ships arrived in Boston September 18. The attacking squadron as finally made up consisted of three fourth-rates; two fifth-rates; the province galley; one bomb-ketch; twenty-four small transports; two or three hospital ships; a tender and several small sloops carrying timber on which to bed cannon. On September 24, the fleet arrived off Port Royal, and on the 25th a landing was made by 400 British marines and 1500 provincials.

The French in Port Royal at this time were few in number and, realizing the futility of resistance, Subercase, their commander, surrendered the Port on October 1 or 2.

Twice before this time had Port Royal been taken by New England men, and twice had it been restored to France by treaty. This time England kept what she had acquired. Colonel Nicholson changed the name of the place to Annapolis Royal, and with the capture, French dominion in Acadia ceased, and three years after with the Treaty of Utrecht the province became Nova Scotia.

Rhode Island furnished in all about one hundred and eighty men. The names of eighty-five of these appear in the billeting roll which is part of the account. Together with the New Hampshire troops, this levy formed a battalion of 300 men. Massachusetts furnished two battalions of 450 men each; Connecticut, one battalion of 300 men.

EDWIN AYLSWORTH BURLINGAME NORMAN MORRISON ISHAM CHARLES EDWARD CANNON

Note.—The information here given is taken in large part from Parkman's A Half-Century of Conflict, to which the reader is referred for a full account of the long struggle between English and French on American soil.



The Account

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Expedition ——In ye year 1710——

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