

Résumé of Imprisoned Beaubassin Inhabitants to Monkton

in Leicester Harmsworth ed. *The Northcliffe Collection* (Ottawa, F. A. Acland, 1936), p.33-34
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015027942021&view=1up&seq=7&skin=2021>

1755 original in French

Petition to Monkton from the inhabitants of Beaubassin. Being all prisoners either at Fort Cumberland or Fort Lawrence, they ask what they are being subjected to. When they received orders to go to Beauséjour, they at once did so without order or arrangement, not knowing what was going to happen to them, as they heard nothing of so universal a detention. This is causing an unendurable hardship to them and their families, which no Christian could fail to appreciate. Having been assembled in the fort, Monkton told them that the orders from the General at Halifax were that they were to be transported to Louisbourg. If that is his decision, they accept it, well aware that, though born and settled for 60 or 80 years in a country, inhabitants cannot dwell there against the will of the sovereign, to which as Christians they must submit without questioning. But as Christians they must think of their families. When they learned of the detention of the petitioners they escaped into the woods, and other safe places to die of hunger, on account of the fear which possesses the larger part of them, and the lack of food (they have only a little milk among them). They ask that their families may have news of them, and be told to be easy in their minds, as there is nothing to disturb them. They themselves suffer from sleeping on boards and from attacks of vermin. If they had foreseen what would happen, they would have provided themselves with coverings and other comforts, and have warned their families to do the same. They ask to be allowed to procure these things and prevent illness and pestilence from spreading among them.