

against Montreal by way of Lake Champlain, while Vetch, then Governor of Nova Scotia, was summoned to Boston to take command of the 1,500 provincials who accompanied the British forces which sailed from Boston to enter the Canadian territory by way of the Gulf and River St. Lawrence.

After this expedition had proved a complete failure through the wreck of several of the transports on the Isle aux Oufs on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, and the incapacity of the Admiral, Nicholson returned to England and in 1713 was appointed Governor of Nova Scotia, having as the special object of his governorship the settlement of the French question which had arisen from the terms of the capitulation agreed upon by himself and Subercase in 1710, and subsequently ratified by the Treaty of Utrecht. Nicholson showed the worst side of his nature during the term of his office, and the records of the time are filled with personal complaints of his conduct. He succeeded, however, in preventing the emigration of the Acadians to Isle Royale (Cape Breton).

After his term of office in Nova Scotia expired, he returned to England and was Knighted. In 1720 he was appointed Governor of South Carolina and administered his office with his accustomed ability till 1725, when he was made a Lieutenant-General and returned to London, where he died in 1728.

He was a singular compound and was a man of terrible temper. After he had been in one of his fits while he had command of the army, an Indian said to one of his officers, "the General is drunk;" "No," said the officer, "he never drinks liquor." The Indian replied, "I don't mean that he is drunk with rum; he was born drunk," a statement which carries in it the germ of Lombroso's central idea about criminals, and of Naidau's about degenerates. It is told of Nicholson, that falling in love, his suit was opposed by the father of the lady. Nicholson swore to have his blood. Hearing that she was about to be married he threatened to cut the throats of the bridegroom, of the minister who should perform the service, and of the justice of the peace who should issue the license. Suspecting as a rival a clergyman, he waylaid him on the road and in the King's name and as his superior in the church forbade the pastor to enter the lady's house or to speak with her.

Notwithstanding his choleric temper and the peculiarities in which he indulged, Nicholson must have possessed the power to command in an eminent degree. Probably no other man ever acted as governor in so many different provinces. He had a broad and comprehensive view of public affairs and was one of the earliest advocates of a grand scheme of confederation to embrace all the provinces on the North American Continent, the object of which was the defence of these colonies against the encroachments of the French on the north and against the hostile Indians on the borders. He submitted his plan to the King who heartily approved of it and recommended the measure to the favourable consideration of the assemblies. Virginia, however, would have nothing to do with the scheme, which fact so exasperated Nicholson that he recommended that all the American colonies be placed under a Viceroy, and a standing army maintained among them at their own expense. His project was not received with favour by Queen Anne and her ministers.