

C H A P. XXV.

An account of Nova Scotia from its first discovery to its complete settlement in 1749. The proposals made to the soldiers and sailors after the peace, to provide for them by giving them land in Nova Scotia; the great success of these proposals; the building of the town of Halifax; and a description of the country.

WE are now brought by the order of time to the settlement of Nova Scotia or Acadia. This country was in the reign of queen Elizabeth, considered as a part of Virginia, and as such was included in the charter of the western company established by king James I.

In the year 1618, sir Samuel Argall, governor of Virginia, made a cruizing voyage along the coast northwards, as far as cape Cod in New-England, when the Indians informing him that some white men, like himself, were come to inhabit to the northward of them, he being sensible that all the country, as far as it had been discovered by Cabot, belonged to the Virginia company his employers, sailed thither, and found a settlement, with a French ship riding before it. This vessel having but one deck, sir Samuel soon drove the men from it with his small arms, and having taken the ship, landed his men, marched to the fort, and summoned it to surrender. The French asked time to consider of it; but this being denied,

denied, they got privately away, and fled into the woods; upon which the English entered the place, and having lodged there that night, the French came the next day, and surrendered themselves to sir Samuel, cancelling the patents that had been granted for their settlement by the French king. Sir Samuel now permitted those who chose it, to stay and take a passage to Europe in the fishing vessels, which then frequented the coast, and the rest, who were willing to join the English, he took with him to Virginia.

Sir Samuel being then informed, that the French had another settlement at a place they called Port Royal, situated on a bay on the south west coast of Acadia, sailed thither without delay, and obliged them also to surrender; when resolving that they should quit the country, he made those who did not care to return home, to remove to the river St. Laurence, where Quebec, now the capital of Canada, has since been built.

In the year 1621, Sir William Alexander, afterwards created Earl of Sterling, applied to King James I. for a grant of the country to the north of New-England: when it was suggested to that King that the tract of country on the continent of North-America, belonging to the crown, being very large, and not likely to be planted by the English in any reasonable time, it would be a very wise and prudent measure, to grant, under the great seal of Scotland, a part of it to his subjects of that kingdom, upon a supposition that it would be more beneficial to them, and more for the interest of these kingdoms, if they went over and settled there, than if, as they frequently
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did, they removed to Poland, Sweden, and Russia, where there were at that time many thousands of Scots families.

These reasons appeared of such weight to king James, that he readily granted a patent to sir William, and the next year, that gentleman, and some others who were concerned with him, sent a ship with passengers to plant and settle there.

At that time Newfoundland was well known, on account of the fishery, and the ship being late in her voyage, put in, and wintered there. In 1623, they sailed from thence, and made the cape at the north shore of the island of Cape-Breton, and coasting till they came to Cape Sable in Acadia, they found three good harbours, and went ashore at one of them, which they called St. Luke's Bay. They there found a large river, that had eight fathoms water at ebb, and having sailed up it, the ship returned to England, and the proprietors published an account of the country, which they described as a kind of paradise; sir William Alexander himself wrote and published a book on this subject, and king James, in order to facilitate this plantation, erected a new order called the knights of Nova-Scotia.

Thus, that country, called by the French, Acadia, obtained the name of Nova-Scotia, or New Scotland, from its being intended to be settled by the Scots; but the scheme of that settlement was unhappily turned into a job, and by that means defeated. Afterwards another grant was made of the northern part of the country to sir David Kirk, from whom the French king bought it, or at least agreed to give him
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him 5000l. for it. Though it is evident this proprietor had no more right to dispose of the property of the crown in that country, than a nobleman in England has to dispose of his estate to the French king, yet this is an evident proof that the French acknowledged the right by which that proprietor held it, and held so just an opinion of the pusillanimity of king James, as to be in no apprehensions of his vindicating the unalienable rights of the nation.

Oliver Cromwell, however, sent major Sedgwick to dislodge the French from Port-Royal, which he did, and though he afterwards consented that a French proprietor should enjoy the country, yet it was upon condition that he should purchase it of the earl of Sterling, which he afterwards did, and then sold it to sir Thomas Temple, who was both proprietor and governor at the restoration: after which the French settled there again, and continued in the quiet possession of the country 'till the year 1690, when they were dispossessed by sir William Phipps, governor of New-England; but it was afterwards given up again to the French, by king William III. at the treaty of Ryfwick.

In all these changes the island of Cape-Breton followed the fate of Nova-Scotia, and both continued in the hands of the French 'till the year 1710, when governor Nicholson made himself master of Port-Royal, which was then become a place of great consequence, as it gave the French an opportunity of distressing our trade, to such a degree, that it was properly stiled the Dunkirk of America. The taking of this place was therefore
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considered as an important service, and queen Anne, to shew that she would never part with it, gave it her own name, and called it Annapolis-Royal. Upon col. Nicholson's return to England, she made him governor of Nova-Scotia and of Annapolis-Royal, and commander of all her majesty's forces there, and in Newfoundland.

Things were in this situation, when the treaty of Utrecht was concluded, by which our right to Nova-Scotia, or Acadia, with all its ancient boundaries, the city of Port-Royal, now called Annapolis, and every thing in those parts that depend on lands and islands, together with the dominion, property, and possession, of the said islands and lands, shall be for ever vested in the crown of Great-Britain: to which the French king added, the exclusion of the subjects of France from fishing on the coast of Nova-Scotia, and within 30 leagues, beginning from Cape Sable, and stretching along to the southwest.

This colony was however much neglected for many years; for though Nova-Scotia had been so long delivered up to the English, yet we had scarce any settlement there, except at Annapolis Royal, and Canso, while the French had a number of little towns and villages, scattered along the coast, and on the banks of the rivers; but the English commander at Annapolis, was in some degree acknowledged as governor. The country was then divided into ten or twelve districts, and each district annually chose a deputy to be approved by the commander and council at Annapolis;

polis; this deputy was a sort of agent for his countrymen the descendants of the French in that district, and reported the state of it from time to time; but in what manner is not difficult to determine. There was no civil power; the French missionaries who were not only appointed by the bishop of Quebec, but absolutely under his direction in their several districts and villages, acted as the sole magistrates, or justices of the peace; yet all complaints might, if the parties thought proper, be brought before the commander and the council at Annapolis, which was very rarely done.

In this wretched situation were these two settlements in the beginning of the war before the last, surrounded by disguised enemies, continually encroaching, and whose numbers daily increased. At length these descendants of the French, though professedly the subjects of Great-Britain, joined with that nation, destroyed Canso, and laid siege to Annapolis, but without success, so that at the conclusion of the peace in the beginning of 1749, there were no other English in Nova-Scotia, besides the garrison of Annapolis, and the inhabitants who lived within a few miles round that place.

However, the peace was no sooner concluded, than the earl of Halifax projected the complete settlement of Nova-Scotia by the English, and animated with the warmest zeal for the honour and interest of his country, resolved to use his utmost endeavours to carry it in the most effectual manner into execution. He with the other lords commissioners of trade and plantations,
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having gained his majesty's approbation, they in March 1749, published proposals, offering proper encouragement to such of the officers and private men, as after the late conclusion of the peace, had been dismissed his majesty's land and sea-service, and were willing to accept of grants, in order to settle in Nova-Scotia. Fifty acres of land in fee simple were offered to every private soldier or seaman, free from the payment of any quit-rents and taxes, for the term of ten years, and at the expiration of that time they were to pay only one shilling a year for every 50 acres. But this was not all, every private soldier or seaman who had a family, was to have ten acres for every person of which his family consisted, including women and children; and farther grants were to be made to them on the like conditions, in proportion as their families encreased, or to their abilities for cultivating the land.

Eighty acres were offered on the same conditions, to every officer in the land-service under the rank of ensign, and that of lieutenant in the sea-service, and to those who had families, 15 acres more for every person of which their families consisted.

On the same conditions 200 acres were to be granted to every ensign, 300 to every lieutenant, 400 to every captain, and 600 to every officer above the rank of captain, in the land service. Every lieutenant in the sea-service was to have 400 acres, and every captain 600; while such of the above officers who had families, were offered a further grant of 30 acres, over and above their respective quotas for every person belonging

ing to them. The same conditions that were proposed to private soldiers and sailors, were also offered to carpenters, ship-wrights, smiths, masons, joiners, brickmakers, bricklayers, and all other artificers necessary in building and husbandry.

In short, all who were willing to accept these proposals, were to be subsisted with their families, not only during their passage, but for 12 months after their arrival at Nova-Scotia, and to be furnished with arms and ammunition as far as should be thought necessary for their defence; with a proper quantity of materials and utensils for husbandry, clearing and cultivating their lands, erecting houses, carrying on the fishery, and such other purposes as might be found proper for their support.

These generous proposals had all the success that could be desired; and about the beginning of May most of the transports set sail from Portsmouth, with above 3000 families, and soon after others followed from Liverpool and Ireland. This embarkation, which was the largest ever made on such an occasion, was doing at once what in other settlements had not been done under a long course of years. This great number of settlers arrived safe at Chebucto harbour on the 28th of July, after a pleasant passage of between five and six weeks; losing few or none in the voyage, which was in a great measure owing to the ventilators, fixed in the transports; a happy invention, then but lately discovered.

On the arrival of this numerous body, they found the Sphinx of 20 guns, which had entered
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the harbour a few days before, with col. Cornwallis, their governor on board. His excellency had been informed of the arrival of the French at Cape-Breton, which had been just restored to that nation, he therefore sent for the English garrison from Louisburgh, and they soon after entered the harbour, with the regiments of Hopson and Warburton, on board other transports; the officers bringing with them all their furniture, several milch cows, and other stock, with military stores, and ammunition of all sorts. About the same time there also arrived a company of rangers from Annapolis, and encamped near the new settlers, in order to give them assistance and protection.

The next care of the governor, was to pitch upon a proper spot for the first settlement, and as the peninsula appeared preferable, both on account of its commodious situation, and the fertility of the soil, the able-bodied men on board each ship were employed in clearing ground in order to build a town at the south point, at the entrance of Sandwich river; but many objections being soon found against that place, another spot was chosen by the governor, at about the distance of a mile and a half from it, on the side of Chebueto harbour, and on the declivity of a rising ground that commands the whole peninsula, and would shelter the town when built from the north-west winds. The beach they found was a fine gravel, convenient for small boats, the anchorage was every where good for large ships, within gun-shot of the town, and small but navigable rivers of fresh and wholesome

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waters flowed round about it. Here then they made a second and more successful attempt, and indeed it would not have been easy to have chosen a more happy situation, they therefore cleared the ground in as expeditious a manner as possible, and having erected a large wooden house for the governor, with proper storehouses, the ground was laid out so as to form a number of strait and beautiful streets, crossing each other at equal distances, upon a most excellent plan, said to have been formed by the earl of Halifax; the work went on briskly; the people of New-England brought several ships laden with planks, door-cases, doors, window-frames, and other parts of houses; and the people being employed in ships companies, this created an emulation, that rendered their labours remarkably successful, so that in about three years time, this town, which was named Halifax, from that noble lord, to whom this settlement owed its beginning, was finished, and every family had a good house of their own, of which the master was landlord. Within the same space of time were also erected a church, and wharfs, the town was pallisadoed, and other fortifications erected: some land was also cleared for agriculture, and already planted, notwithstanding the opposition they met with from the French, and their tools, the Indians. To explain this circumstance, it is necessary to observe, that in the beginning of the settlement, and soon after the landing of the English, 100 black cattle and some sheep were brought them by land from a French settlement at Minas, a town about 30 miles from the bottom of Bedford Bay; and French deputies also coming

to make their submissions, it was proposed to cut a road thither, those deputies promising to contribute 50 men towards carrying on that work. The English also received the promise of friendship and assistance from the Indians, their chiefs waiting upon the governor for that purpose. But these submissions and these promises were soon broken, by the perfidy of the French court, which disapproved of these proceedings, and resolved to harass the English before their town was built, and their fortifications erected. Instructions were therefore sent from France to be communicated to the descendants of the French in Nova-Scotia, and immediately the scene was changed; the French engaged the Indians to use their utmost endeavours to prevent the new colony from proceeding; and the year in which peace was proclaimed and Cape-Breton restored was not expired, when the town began to be frequently attacked in the night, and the English, in a country which in the strongest terms had been secured by treaty to the British crown, could not stir into the adjoining woods, without the danger of being shot, scalped, or taken prisoners. The English however prosecuted the settlement with indefatigable industry, and the town, as has been already mentioned, was soon happily finished.

But it was impossible to clear woods and plough lands, without separating into small parties, and this work was rendered extremely dangerous; for though the French and Indians durst not attack any considerable body of the English, yet they frequently fell upon small parties; and tho' they had been often repulsed, they always re-

turned, whenever they could find an opportunity of doing it to advantage. Complaint of this open war in a time of peace, was now made to the court of France, when his most christian majesty proposed that commissaries should be appointed to settle the bounds of Nova-Scotia; but those of the French endeavouring by all the arts of sophistry, to prove that Nova-Scotia ceded to the English by the treaty of Utrecht, was no more than the peninsula of that country, the British commissaries justified our claim to the whole, by memorials filled with the strongest and most evident proofs; and the most trifling answers being returned to these, admiral Boscawen was sent to seize the French ships in North-America, that England might once more have something to restore to France, as an inducement to that faithless nation to adhere to her treaties; but this expedient was in vain; France appeared evidently to have concerted the means of conquering all the British dominions on the continent of America, and therefore war was entered into to prevent it. During which the town of Halifax became firmly established, and that being the principal rendezvous for our men of war, which naturally causes a quick circulation of money, the inhabitants were soon in a very prosperous situation.

Nova-Scotia is situated in between $41^{\circ} 30'$. and $49^{\circ} 30'$. north latitude, and between 60° and 66° of west longitude, and is bounded by the bay of St. Laurence, on the north-east; by the river of St. Laurence on the north-west; by New-England on the south-west, and by the bay of Fundy, and the Atlantic ocean on the east. According to these

these limits it contains about 420 miles in length, and 380 in breadth. The south-eastern part is a large peninsula, extending from the north-east to the south-west, and joined to the main land by an isthmus a little above the gulph of Canso. Though the weather is very sharp in winter, yet the air, especially about the town of Halifax, is remarkably clear, so that the severest frosts are frequently accompanied with a fine azure sky and sunshine: but though the cold in winter is very severe, the summer is hotter than in England. The coast has the advantage of many bays, harbours, and creeks, and the land is enriched by many rivers, some of which are navigated for a long course by the native Indians. The harbour of Chebueto, upon which is situated the metropolis, may justly be esteemed one of the finest in the world, and has extraordinary advantages for a fishery. The entrance into it is from the south, with a large island of an irregular form, lying on the north-east side, named Cornwallis island, from the first governor of Halifax. Betwixt this island and the opposite shore on the south-west, is a channel deep enough for the largest ships. This island, as well as a smaller one that lies higher up the harbour, named George Island, is very commodiously situated for a fishery, and has conveniencies of all sorts proper for drying and curing the fish.

About two miles higher up the harbour is a creek on the south-west side, with a small harbour at its entrance. This creek, which was called by the first settlers of Halifax, Sandwich River, is at the mouth about as wide and deep as
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the Thames at London-Bridge, and is salt water for about four or five miles up, when it terminates where a small fresh-water rivulet falls into it from the north. From the mouth of Sandwich River to the opposite side of the harbour, is about two miles, with good anchoring ground for the largest ships in any part of it, and a fine watering place on the north-east side: the land on both sides is exceeding high, and in general very rich and fertile, but covered with wood.

About four or five miles north of the above river is a narrow entrance of half a mile into Bedford Bay, which is about 12 miles in circumference, and has several creeks at the bottom of it, abounding with the finest salmon in the greatest plenty: there are also several islands in it; and a great quantity of pines, fit for masts, grow on the western side of it. This bay, with the harbour, and Sandwich river divide the peninsula from the main land.

Upon the opposite shore are several large rivers, among which that of St. John is the most considerable. It is ten leagues distant from the gut of Annapolis, and has a very long course. There are prodigious falls of water near its mouth no less than 30 fathoms deep, occasioned by the great head of water above, and the channel here being pent up between two steep mountains. By this river, and the assistance of some land carriage, there is a communication with the river of St. Laurence; the French had therefore erected a fort upon it, which was taken by the English in the beginning of the late war.

The woods abound with game, especially partridges, wild ducks, wild geese, woodcocks, herons,

herons, pigeons, &c. among the beasts are most of the sorts found in New-England. The trees are oak, fir, spruce, birch, &c. and the fruit found growing wild, are goosberries, raspberries, strawberries, &c.

The inhabitants of this province, are computed at above 20,000. The commodities exported from thence are chiefly lumber, such as plank, staves, hoops, joists, &c. and fish.

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