



Class F1047

Book 585





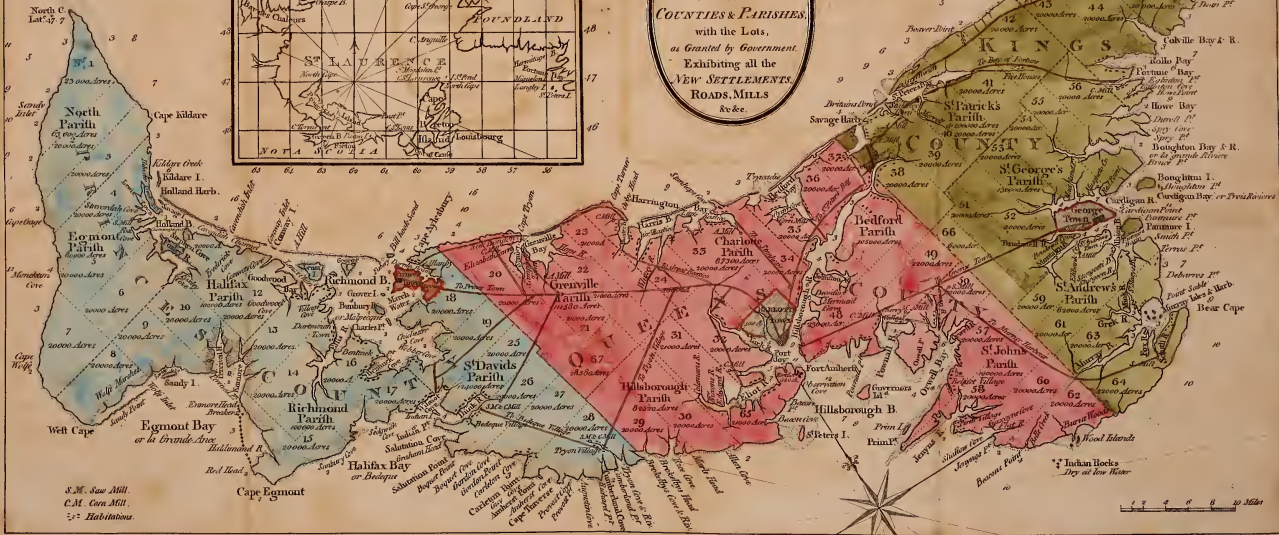


Charlote Town Cons. & Bazaar lots 7300
George Town D^e & D^e 4000
Prince Town D^e & D^e 4000

Queens County 468 400
King County 412 000
Prince County 187 000
Contents of the Island. 1565 400 Acres



PRINCE EDWARD
Island,
divided into
COUNTIES & PARISHES.
with the Lots,
as Granted by Government.
Exhibiting all the
NEW SETTLEMENTS.
ROADS, MILLS
&c. &c.



S.M. Saw Mill.
C.M. Corn Mill.
H. Habitations.





27455
4700 K
75

D13

AN
ACCOUNT
OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND,
IN THE
GULPH of St. LAWRENCE,
NORTH AMERICA.

CONTAINING

Its Geography, a description of its different Divisions, Soil, Climate, Seasons, Natural Productions, Cultivation, Discovery, Conquest, Progress and present State of the Settlement, Government, Constitution, Laws, and Religion.

—◆—
Est quoddam prodire tenus si non datur ultra.

HORACE.

—◆—
BY JOHN STEWART, Esq.

London:

Printed by W. WINCHESTER and SON, Strand.

1806.



F1047

.S85

2-12380

PREFACE.

HAVING resided many years in Prince Edward Island, and being much interested in its prosperity, I have ventured (though conscious of my want of abilities to do justice to the subject) to print the following account of that Island, which I trust will be found just and correct as far as it goes: the object is to make the Colony better known among those who are interested in its prosperity, or on whose judgment and determinations its future prospects depend, and I flatter myself, that the account which I have given of the progress and state of the settlement, will shew that any disappointment which has been experienced in regard to its colonization and settlement, is fairly to be charged to the neglect of many of those into whose hands, the property of the lands unfortunately fell, and not to any defect in the climate or soil. The accounts of the Island which were published soon

after its conquest, were so favourable, both in regard to its fertility, and the natural beauty of the country, that a great part of the proprietors (who never saw the Island) seem to have expected, that it was to be settled by a resort of people in consequence of its natural advantages, without any exertion on their part, and that their large grants of forest lands were to be converted into valuable estates, by the labour and exertions of people, who they expected would be tempted to resort to, and settle in the Island, as their tenants, without any expence or exertion on their part.

They did not consider, that it was in the neighbourhood of a vast continent, in many parts of which, lands were to be obtained by grant from the Crown, in such tracts as were suitable to every class of adventurers, and that men emigrating at their own expence from Europe, to seek for settlements in America, would naturally resort to countries in which they might be able to obtain lands from Government in perpetuity, rather than to a country where the whole of the soil, though uncultivated, was private property, and in which they could only settle as tenants to people who themselves were making no

exertions for the benefit of the country, or contributing in any respect to alleviate the difficulties incident to its situation and circumstances.

To this unfortunate mistake in the conduct of the proprietors, is to be attributed the slow progress the colony made for many years ; but the principal difficulties of a new settlement being now surmounted, better prospects seem to open upon its future progress, many of those, by whose connection with the colony its settlement was so long impeded, have retired, and have been succeeded by others who have more activity, and juster views of their own interest, and the value of the country ; and should the measures which have been in contemplation for the benefit of the colony, be carried into effect, there can be no doubt but its future progress to complete cultivation and settlement will be as rapid, as it has hitherto been remarkably slow.

Since the following pages were written, I have seen two recent publications, one entitled “ *Strictures and Remarks on the Earl of Selkirk’s Observations, &c. by Robert Brown, Esq.*” the other, “ *Remarks on the Earl of Selkirk’s Observations, &c. (anonymous)*”

I am no "*trader in emigration*," but in justice to my fellow subjects in the British Colonies, I cannot avoid taking notice of some things contained in these publications.

If the state of the Highlands, and the prospects of improvement under the judicious system of management now said to be pursuing for that purpose, is such as these writers represent it to be, I cannot conceive any necessity for that vein of misrepresentation, that runs through these books as to the state of the colonies, and the prospects to be expected from settling in them; they have their difficulties, that is certain, and any man that emigrates, under an idea that he is going to a country where he is to live without labour is most grossly deceived: on the contrary every man who expects to thrive in a new country must work and be industrious, they are not calculated for indolent dissipated people, such will find in old countries many substitutes of which they will here be entirely destitute, and we think it sufficient to say, that the natural and moral state of things in the colonies is such, as promises to every industrious man an ample reward for his labour, with a certainty of leaving his family if not wealthy, still with such prospects as will

divest his mind of all anxiety on their account: I do not mean to make any comparisons; I am no way desirous of holding out incentives to Highland emigration, and I could appeal to very distinguished Members of the Highland Society on that subject; but as a colonist I cannot help saying, that these gentlemen have taken most unwarrantable liberties with their fellow subjects in asserting, that, *a system of espionage* is established in the colonies, to prevent letters giving an unfavourable account of their affairs from reaching this country; and that letters purporting to be written by emigrants to their friends in Scotland, giving a flattering account of the country, are manufactured there, and transmitted for the purpose of deceiving others: these are heavy charges, and should not have been hazarded lightly; I have been five and thirty years acquainted with the colonies, and will venture to assert, that no evidence to justify such an infamous charge can be produced: any person acquainted with the state of these countries, will be satisfied that the first part of the charge must be unfounded, as the greatest part of the letters sent from thence to this country are by private hands, and merchant ships, that load in the different ports; these cannot be all "*traders in emigration,*" or in-

terested in deluding their fellow subjects, and opportunities of this kind occur too frequently, and from such a variety of places as to make such attempts impracticable, and as to the criminal trick imputed to them, of writing letters in the name of poor people who cannot read or write themselves, I believe it is equally without foundation; it is possible that such a thing may have been done, and therefore it is easily asserted; and that may serve a temporary purpose where better matter is not at hand, but I will venture “*to foretell without being inspired with the spirit of Prophecy, or gifted with the second sight,*” that if the account which these publications give of the present state of the Highlands, is not better founded, than are the charges against the colonists, that before Highland emigration is stopped very different measures than any yet resorted to, will become necessary: the account which I have here given of the conduct of the proprietors of Prince Edward Island, will shew how little foundation there can be for supposing any of them connected with such practices; from 1776 until 1803, not one of them was concerned in carrying a single emigrant from Scotland, and with respect to the common settlers a great many of them are so far from wishing to encourage

emigration to the Island, that they do every thing in their power to prevent it: every man that comes to the colony is looked upon by many of the old settlers as a misfortune to them, as it lessens the chance of getting the lands escheated for non-performance of the terms of settlement; an object which they have long considered as much more interesting to them than any benefit to be expected by encouraging their friends in Scotland to become their neighbours. I have more than once witnessed great chagrin and disappointment among them on any accession of inhabitants, particularly among the Highlanders, who being more addicted to raising cattle than agriculture, require, according to the custom of their country, large bounds; which makes them often think that a township is little enough for them when it does not contain, perhaps, twenty families: these are facts well known in the island, and will account naturally enough for the dismal letters which Mr. Brown states to have been received from that country.

Charges of a criminal and disgraceful nature against a distant community of our fellow subjects, who are so situated as to have no means of guarding against or repelling such attacks, till after they have, probably, had the full effect intended by their accusers, does not

seem a very honourable proceeding ; and I think it not unlikely, that on this occasion, it will lead to a discussion and disclosures, which may have effects the very reverse of what the authors of these publications intended.

If without more authentic evidence than can be brought in support of these charges, any man were to publish to the world, that persons are employed in the Highlands, to take up and destroy all letters that come to the country, directed to poor people, which may be supposed to come from America ; or, that very strong temptations are held out to particular people who have emigrated, to induce them to return, and to give such accounts of the state of the colonies as may deter others from emigration. Such an assertion could not fail giving general offence, and no respectable person who is acquainted with the morals and customs of Scotland would think it any justification to the author to say, that such a thing is talked of among the lower orders, or that such and such "*traders in emigration*," had asserted that they knew it to be a fact ; and yet, just on such authority, do the authors of these performances venture to impute equally unworthy conduct to their fellow subjects in America.

A great noise has been made about Highland emigration, and the public mind has been agitated on the subject by various publications, calculated to alarm the nation as if there was an absolute danger of that district of the kingdom being depopulated; and under the impression of this alarm, Parliament was induced to pass an act, which under the appearance of preventing emigrants going to America, from suffering any hardship or inconvenience on the passage to that country, enforces a number of regulations to be observed on board ships carrying emigrants; which on the whole, rather more than doubles the *real expence* of a passage across the Atlantic; this mode of making emigration so expensive, that it must be out of the power of the very poorer class; I take it for granted was adopted in compliment to the constitution, by which the power of going to, or settling in any country not in an actual state of hostilities with our sovereign, has always been acknowledged; but I very much doubt whether in ten years it will be found to have diminished emigration. It will certainly have a considerable effect towards preventing people going off in the way that would be most comfortable to them; men, women and children together, two or three hundred in a ship at a moderate expence, that would leave them something wherewith to make a comfortable beginning in their

new situations with the additional advantage of a *free choice in that respect*. They will now be compelled to go off in fiftens and twenties, and instead of going to our own colonies which is represented to be their wish, they must go to the United States, to which alone they will be able to procure passages from the great intercourse that subsists between them and the west coast of Scotland; every ship bound to them, it will be soon found, will carry as many emigrants as can be done without subjecting them to the regulations of the late act: and the number of ships from the ports in the firth of Clyde, and the north of Ireland, will be found perfectly equal to carry all that wish to go, as much so as if the business was left on the old footing; and, I am confident it will soon appear, that all that the late act has effected, will be, that instead of preventing emigration, it has driven thousands desirous of settling in *our colonies* to the American States; and such has been *the sole effect* of the clamour with respect to emigration for the last twenty years. *Millions of capital, and thousands of industrious people, who might have been advantageously settled in our own colonies, have been sent to the United States to nourish the pride and insolence and increase the power and resources of perhaps, our most inveterate enemies.* It is curious to notice the noise that has been made about highland emigration for some time past, at

the same time that not a word is said of the emigration from this end of the island, which is of so much more real consequence. Yet upon enquiry I am confident it will be found, that full as many people, and at least, one hundred times as much property, has been carried to the United States by emigrants from the ports of London, Bristol, and Liverpool, within the last ten years as from all the kingdom of Scotland in double that time. As a colonist I may be permitted to say, without offence to my countrymen in the north, that we would have willingly parted with our share of highland emigration, for a very small proportion of the English capital and industry that has been carried to the United States in this period.

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. The second part outlines the procedures for handling discrepancies and errors, including the steps to be taken when a mistake is identified. The third part provides a detailed breakdown of the financial data, including a summary of the total income and expenses for the period. The final part concludes with a statement of the overall financial health and a recommendation for future actions.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Situation and Divisions	1
Bays, Harbours, Rivers, Headlands or Capes	4
Charlotte Town, George Town, Prince Town	9
Face of the Country	23
Soil and natural Productions	27
Forrest Trees and other Vegetable Productions	36
Native Animals, Birds, Fishes, Reptiles and Insects ..	59
Climate and Seasons	95
Cultivation and Rural Affairs	122
Discovery and Settlement	147
Administration of Lieutenant-Governor Fanning	233
Constitution, Laws, and Religion	266
Fisheries	291

ERRATA.

- Page 9, Line 20, for *eighty* read *eighty-four*.
Page 12, Line 15, for *freezing* read *fraziering*.
Page 22, Line 15, for *Durk* read *Dunk*.
Page 25, Line 7, for *keeps* read *keep*.
Page 60, Line 19, for *Number* read *Numbers*.
Page 61, last line, read when it sells *at* &c.
Page 71, Line 10, for *myctea* read *nyctea*.
Page 103, Line 14, for *when* read *where*.
Page 187, Line 2, for *Hierliky* read *Hierlihy*.

SITUATION AND DIVISIONS.

PRINCE Edward Island is situated in the Gulph of St. Lawrence, North America : Charlotte Town, the capital of the Island, is in latitude $46^{\circ} 12$ north, and longitude 63 degrees west of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. All the south side of the Island is in sight of the Continent ; the distance between Cape Traverse on the Island, and Cape Tourmentin in New Brunswick, is only ten miles, and between Carribou Point in Nova Scotia and the opposite part of the Island, about twelve miles. From the east point, a very considerable part of the west coast of Cape Breton is seen at from ten to twelve leagues distance.

The North Cape of the Island, is one hundred miles due south of Cape Rosier, at the entrance of the river St. Lawrence. The sea between the Continent and the Island, is known by the name of Northumberland Straits; the length of the Island, measured along shore from the east point to the North Cape, is about one hundred and forty miles; the greatest breadth being the division line between King's and Queen's Counties, is little more than thirty-six miles; towards both extremities the Island decreases much in its breadth.

Prince Edward Island is divided into three counties, and sub-divided into parishes and townships, which last are distinguished by their numbers. The divisions stand as follows :

King's County has St. George's, St. Andrew's, St. Patrick's, and East parishes, sub-divided into twenty one townships, besides the proposed town and Royalty of George Town and several Islands.

Queen's County is divided into five parishes named Charlotte, Grenville, Hillsburgh, St. John's, and Bedford parishes, sub-divided into twenty-three townships, and the town and Royalty of Charlotte Town, which is the capital of the Island, and three Islands, two in Hillsburgh Bay, and one between Harris and Harrington Bays.

Prince County is divided into North, Egmont, Richmond, Halifax, and St. David's parishes, and sub-divided into twenty-three townships, and the proposed town and Royalty of Prince Town, this county has also several islands in its bays. The townships, of which there are sixty-seven in all, generally contain twenty thousand acres each, some contain one or two thousand acres more, and lot 66 contains only ten thousand acres; the total contents of the Island stand as follows:

King's County	4,16000 acres
Queen's County	4,94000
Prince County	4,71000
	<hr/>
Total	1,381000

Besides the Islands scattered in the different Bays, which probably contain about ten thousand acres among them.

Bays, Harbours, Rivers, Headlands, or Capes.

This Island is much intersected by water as may be seen by looking at the map, the principal bays on the south side are Egmont, Halifax, Hillsburgh and Cardigan Bays, all of great extent; on the same side we have also Hillsburgh, York, Elliot, Cardigan, Montague, and Brudnel rivers, all of which will admit ships of the line, where they will be completely land-locked and sheltered from all winds; Dunk, Vernon, and Murray rivers also on the south side, will accommodate vessels of three hundred tons with safe and convenient harbours; beside which the whole extent of the coast from West Cape to the East Point, presents a succession of smaller bays, coves and creeks, many of them forming safe and convenient harbours for trading vessels. On the north side of the Island we have Holland,

Richmond, Grenville, Harris, Bedford, and St. Peter's bays, all barred harbours, and not fit for large vessels, except the first, which is safe and convenient, its bar being much protected by the land stretching to the northward towards Cape Kildare, and having a sufficient depth of water for ships of five hundred tons burthen on its bar: Richmond, Harris and Grenville Bays have occasionally been frequented by Ships of from two to three hundred tons, and in a Country where good Harbours were not so common, would certainly not be thought bad ones; many Harbours in Europe, the receptacles of an extensive commerce, are much inferior in every respect.

These Harbours are seperated from the Gulph by high sand Hills, narrow cuts through which form the entrances into them; they have all much the same appearance, and resemble greatly the entrance of Shields or Newcastle River in the North of England, they are all of them extensive, branching out into fine arms and creeks,

with from two to five fathoms water, and after carrying that depth for a considerable way, some of them approach so near the heads of rivers and harbours on the south side of the Island, that it is believed there is not a point on the Island which is not within eight miles of navigable water. Harrington Bay and Savage Harbour on the north side also, though bad harbours, are extensive sheets of water, and admit small schooners and shallops ; they afford many fine situations round them, and enable the people settled on their banks to enjoy the benefit of fishing in the gulph. Bedford and St. Peter's Bays will admit vessels of an hundred tons, but the channel of the latter has been subject to alteration for some years past, and it is said not to have so much water on its bar as formerly.

The principal Capes and Head-lands, on the north side are North Cape, Cape Kildare, Cape Alesbury, Cape Tryon, Cape Turner, Shipwreck Point, and East Point ; on the south side are West Cape, Cape Egmont, Cape Traverse,

Point Prim, the Wood Islands, Bear Cape and Boughton Island; the navigation round the Island is in general very safe; vessels in Northumberland Straits should keep a good look-out for the Indian Rocks, which lay about three miles south west from the Wood Islands on the Coast of Township N°. 62, they are of considerable extent and dry at low water: Vessels drawing above nine feet of water should not approach the coast between the Wood Islands and Point Prim nearer than a mile and a half. From Cape Traverse to St. Peter's Island there is a shoal which is not accurately laid down in any chart yet published; large vessels should not approach that part of the coast nearer than two miles.

The North Coast of the Island forms a deep bay, in which it is dangerous to be caught near the the center of the coast, with a north east wind; if it blows hard, vessels will not be able to clear the land either way, and if the gale continue must be driven on shore; ships

in this situation, when they find they cannot clear the land nor keep off the shore, should attempt one of the large barred harbours, though the sea breaks on the bars, and they would most probably strike, yet the third or fourth sea will generally carry them over, when they will immediately be in smooth water in which the ship may be run ashore, if she has suffered so much as not to be able to lay at her anchors. The people in vessels, in danger of shipwreck here, should never quit their vessels, as the north east wind by which alone their danger is occasioned, rises the water so much on this part of the coast, that vessels will drive so close to the land as to enable their people to get ashore with very little risk ; by far the greater part of the coast is a sandy beach and where the coast rises into cliffs there is but one or two places of small extent, where they will meet with any difficulty in getting on shore : vessels of one hundred tons will generally drive so far up that when the gale takes off they will be left entirely dry.

Charlotte Town, George Town and Prince Town.

Of the three towns which have been named, Charlotte Town only has yet assumed the appearance of a town, it is regularly laid out on the banks of the Hillsburgh River; by looking at the map it will be seen that the situation is both central and convenient, having a safe internal water communication with a very considerable part of the Island, by means of the Hillsburgh, York, and Elliot Rivers, which meet in its harbour. The ground is well adapted for the scite of a town, rising gradually to a moderate height above the water, and is generally sound dry land, the ascent from the river is very easy, the streets are laid out at right angles, those running from the river are one hundred feet in breadth, the cross streets were originally laid out at eighty feet, but have since been reduced to forty feet in breadth. The building lots are eighty feet in front, by one hundred and sixty in depth, and many of the inhabitants having several contiguous lots, are thereby enabled to have large gardens, by which means the place already

occupies a considerable surface, though it does not contain more than seventy houses; and though many of them are very indifferent, yet the town viewed from the harbour or the opposite shores has a very pleasing appearance. The only public building yet erected in it is a church. There is a common of one hundred acres adjoining the town, and with every building lot there is granted a pasture lot of twelve acres in the Royalty, a tract of seven thousand acres so called, which surrounds the town and common, and has an extensive front both on Hillsburgh and York Rivers. Many of these pasture lots have been purchased from the Grantees by a few individuals on speculation, and some progress has been made in improving these accumulations, there being several small farms within the Royalty. The Hillsburgh River opposite to the town is rather an arm of the sea than a river there, the depth of water in its channel opposite to the town is eight fathoms, and the largest ships may lay within less than a quarter of a mile of the town ;

vessels of two hundred tons go up the Hillsburgh River fourteen miles above the town, which itself is three miles from the harbour's mouth; the entrance is narrow and is susceptible of being strongly fortified: after passing the narrows the harbour opens into an extensive bason, which receives the Elliot, York, and Hillsburgh Rivers, each of which have a sufficient depth of water for the largest ships for several miles, where they will be completely sheltered from all winds. The tides are so strong as to enable ships to work out and in against a contrary wind: at full and change they rise about nine feet, neap tides rise between four and five feet, the bottom is either soft mud or strong clay. The greatest inconvenience of the harbour is, that, the flats run out a considerable distance from the shore. Wharfs to receive ships where they would always lay afloat must be run out to the channel, which is near six hundred feet opposite to the town; there is no danger however in allowing ships to ground upon

the flats as they are all deep mud, and the shores are either sand or soft flat stones on which light vessels or small craft can be laid with perfect safety. The town is protected on the side of the harbour by two batteries, that at the west end of the town is mounted with eleven heavy guns, so disposed as to command every part of the harbour, the other is placed on the bank of the river in front of the town and mounts four guns, which also point to the harbour and the opposite side of the river, the entrance of the harbour is defended by a block-house mounting four guns, in front of which is a stone battery mounting five guns, with a ditch and freezing, the whole well stockaded, where these works stand the Narrows are scarcely half a musket shot across: there is also a battery on the eastern side of the narrows not at present in repair: from the block-house all vessels approaching the harbour are seen at three leagues distance, a circumstance of much consequence to the safety of the place which has immediate no-

tice by signal from the block-house of every vessel that appears either by day or night. The whole of the works in their present state are intended against shipping; should it ever be adviseable to fortify the place the situation is such as to admit of its being done very effectually. The barracks are situated at the west end of the town, and consist of two separate ranges of buildings, each 260 feet in length, which front each other, being divided by a spacious parade; they are calculated to accommodate upwards of three hundred men with their officers, a handsome colonade runs along the front of each range, the whole are painted white, and though flat roofed have a respectable appearance, and in point of accommodation are not surpassed by any barracks in North America; within the same inclosure are an Hospital, a store for provisions, and another for the ordnance, and a wharf in front of the town 248 feet in length is also a military erection. There is a reservation of a tract of land called the Fort Lot

on the west side of the harbour, extending from the entrance of the Narrows almost to the mouth of Elliot River, on this tract Fort Amherst formerly stood on an elevated spot three hundred yards from the water, it was erected immediately after the conquest of the Island, was a large square redoubt with a broad deep ditch, mounted eighteen pieces of cannon, and contained handsome barracks; soon after its erection it was twice attacked by the French and their Indian allies, but they failed in both attempts. The situation is commanded by higher ground at a small distance, on this account the Fort was dismantled and destroyed by Governor Patterson soon after his appointment to the government, and there being near three hundred acres of fertile clear land within the reservation, extremely beautiful in point of situation, the Governor was tempted to make a grant * of the

* In 1796 proceedings were instituted against this grant by direction of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent then commanding His

whole to a person who re-conveyed it to himself, and on this place he built a handsome farm-house and extensive offices, and laid out large sums in its improvement.

The amusements which Charlotte Town can yet afford are only such as may be expected in a young country thinly inhabited: in Spring, Summer, and Autumn, shooting, fishing, riding, and sailing; water parties are frequently made, when each family taking their dish en *pic nic*

Majesty's forces in the Nova Scotia district, and the same was soon after vacated, and the place was for some time considered as military ground, but in 1800 His Grace the Duke of Portland, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, was pleased to direct Lieutenant-General Fanning, Lieutenant-Governor of the Island to grant a lease thereof to the late Monsieur Calonne the French Minister, who then proposed to settle on the Island with a number of French Royalists, reserving to the Crown such a rent as the Governor might think reasonable, which was fixed at 251. per annum. The buildings and improvements made by Governor Patterson had previously been suffered to go into decay, having fallen into the hands of some of his creditors, who not being sanguine as to the solidity of their title did not think fit to be at any expence about them. It is a fine tract of land and the situation and aspect extremely pleasing.

a marquee is pitched at some of the many charming spots on the banks of the adjoining rivers, and many happy hours are thus pleasantly spent. In winter there is some shooting, but it is often attended with more fatigue than most people would think it worth, as it is generally necessary to use snow-shoes whenever we go off the roads in the forest. Driving carioles is a favourite amusement at this season, they go with great rapidity when the roads are well beaten: but the rivers in fine weather when the snow is not too deep on the ice afford the best field for this diversion. There is an assembly once a fortnight in winter, which commences with the Queen's birth day, and the party is numerous enough to be very happy. Private theatricals were attempted for two winters, but some of the party being only temporary residents, that amusement has been given up for the present.

George Town, situated in King's County on a Peninsula between two navigable rivers or arms of the sea, is yet as a Town but in embryo, there being but a few lots granted, and only three or four built upon; the situation is very fine, and the Harbour one of the best in North America; like the Harbour of Charlotte Town it has three large branches, with depth of water for the largest ships, besides two fine basons completely land-locked; in front of the whole there is a capacious roadsted open only to the south east, a wind which seldom blows hard on this coast: An island on each side of the bay makes it very remarkable, and the access is perfectly safe, being quite free from rocks or shoals; in many parts of the harbour the water is deep close to the land, there are several situations in the different branches where large ships can lay within their own length of high water mark, on the south west front of the town in particular, large ships may lay close to the shore perfectly protected from wind and sea, and the situation large enough to accom-

moderate an extensive commerce. It is generally believed in the island that if the capital had been fixed here, it would have been before this time a large town, as the situation possesses many advantages over Charlotte Town, it being much nearer the ocean and of much easier access, as any wind that will bring ships through the Gut of Canso, will carry them into this harbour with ease, whereas the westerly winds which prevail so much on this coast, render their getting to Charlotte Town more tedious, particularly in the Autumn: its lying very little out of the tract from Canada to Nova Scotia and the United States, and its contiguity to the fishing grounds would probably have made it much frequented by shipping, if it had been settled, and could afford them such necessary assistance as ships usually want coming from sea, as matters are, they will find fresh provisions, vegetables, wood, and water, with a safe harbour, that is of such easy access, that they may enter it by their charts, without the aid of a pilot.

The lands round all the branches of this extensive harbour are remarkably well timbered, and as yet in a great degree untouched, which with its other advantages, render it a most eligible situation for ship building and the timber trade. Building lots in George Town contain about half an acre each, with which is granted a pasture lot of ten acres in the Royalty annexed to the town, and any person proposing to settle there, on application to the Governor in Council, will readily obtain a grant of a town and pasture lot, the fees on which will amount to about forty shillings. Besides the Town and Royalty of George Town, seven townships of twenty thousand acres each, abutt upon the waters of this harbour; the oldest and most forward settlement, is situated on Township, No. 59, two-thirds of which is the property of Sir James Montgomery, His Majesty's Lord Advocate for Scotland, whose father, the late venerable Lord Chief Baron of Scotland, was one of the few proprietors to whose exertions at the beginning of

the settlement, the colony is under any obligations. In 1803 the Earl of Selkirk settled a considerable number of people on Township, No. 53, one third of which is his lordship's property, and settlements are now making on the other two-thirds of that township, by the Earl of Westmoreland, and the Honourable Robert Dundas Saunders, to whom these portions belong. There are also a considerable number of people settled on Townships, Nos. 54, 55, and 61, those on the two last mentioned, are settled without the intervention of their respective proprietors, by whom they have been entirely neglected hitherto : Townships, Nos. 51 and 52, are totally uninhabited : the quantity of land settled is indeed but small, in comparison of the extent of country round the different branches of the harbour, the vacant front on which would accommodate five hundred families more, each of which would bound on navigable water.

Prince Town, situated on the north side of the Island on a branch of Richmond Bay, is yet like George Town little more than a name, though there are perhaps as many people within the Town and Royalty as at Charlotte Town; but thinking that agriculture should precede town building, they have neglected the town lots, and by accumulating a number of contiguous pasture lots each, have formed a number of small farms, which are in a considerably forward state of improvement.

Richmond Bay, though a barred harbour, is the largest on the north side of the Island, and has from twelve to fourteen feet water on its bar: It has two principal entrances besides smaller ones; it is very extensive and some parts of it are much exposed in bad weather; there are however several arms of it that are well sheltered and perfectly secure in all weather; that on which Prince Town is situated is a safe harbour for trading vessels. Before the American War, Richmond Bay was the principal

station used by the New England people, for carrying on the cod fishery in the Gulph of St. Lawrence, it contains six islands, three of which, have above five hundred acres each.

There are seven townships, containing among them one hundred and forty thousand acres, abutting upon Richmond Bay, it has also a safe inland water communication with Holland Bay, by Cavendish Channel, affording great convenience in the transport of produce from one harbour to the other; two roads, neither of them much above two miles in length, connect it with the lands lying on Halifax Bay and Durk River, situated on the south side of the Island. There are very considerable settlements on Richmond Bay, which are increasing very fast in population, the land being in general very good, and abounding with fine timber.

FACE OF THE COUNTRY.



This Island is in general level, having but few hills, and none of them very high or steep, probably the highest spot on the Island does not rise above five hundred feet above the level of the sea, and the soil on the hills is in general the best on the Island, being moister, and less apt to be sandy than the low grounds, the timber on them is in general hard wood, and the trees are larger, and stand at a greater distance, than on the low grounds, a sure indication of their superior soil: the highest land on the Island is on the road between Charlotte Town and Prince Town, stretching from the head of Harris Bay to the head of Grenville Bay, and is intersected by several streams which run into these bays: There is also a considerable hill towards the

source of Elliott River, on the road from Charlotte Town to Tryon Settlement and Bedeque: there is likewise some high ground about the head of Hillsburgh River, particularly on the south side, and along both sides of Hill River, but none of these hills are either so high, or so abrupt, as to prevent their being cultivated with ease. Though some parts of the coast have a low flat look, the greatest part of the face of the country is much waived and often rises into beautiful swells, and being much intersected with arms of the sea, creeks, and rivulets, presents every where a vast variety of fine situations for building and improvements. The heads of the rivers and the creeks, are all more or less bordered by salt marshes, producing annually large crops of strong nutritive grass, without trouble or cultivation, which makes excellent hay, on which the greater part of the cattle are supported during the winter, but it is not good for working horses or milch cows; these marshes, when dyked in from the salt

water, make the most valuable lands on the Island, this however is a work in which no great progress has yet been made. Springs of the clearest and purest water, abound all over the Island, and which not only do not freeze in the winter, but the runs from them into the sea, keeps a channel open, though the ice on both sides thereof will be a foot thick or more on the salt-water. Fine water is also obtained by digging wells at a moderate depth, it being rarely necessary to exceed twenty-five feet, and there is very seldom an instance of being disappointed in getting water. There are not many swamps of any extent in the Island, and still fewer lakes or ponds of fresh water in comparison to the extent of the country. Traveling is not difficult through the woods, even where there are no roads, there being very little underwood to what is generally found in most other countries covered with forest, nor is it in the least incumbered with rocks, like the neighbouring country of Nova Scotia. The want of stone is perhaps the greatest

natural want in the Island, it being in general of a soft sandy nature, and in some places difficult to be had of any kind. No mineral has yet been discovered in the Island, though there are strong indications of iron in many places. In looking at the face of the country, every person will be at once struck with the great difference in appearance between it and the neighbouring continent, it having every where much the same appearance, without any impediment to the cultivation of the whole, no rocks, no impenetrable swamps, no extensive pine barrens to separate the settlements, so that there need not be a waste acre in the Island, a very uncommon circumstance, and which must finally enable it to maintain a much greater population than most other countries of the same extent. Roads are very easily made, from the nature of the soil and climate, and very considerable progress has been already made in that respect, considering the great extent of the Island, and the small number of inhabitants, there being tolerable

roads between the capital and all the principal settlements, which have been chiefly made by the statute labour, all males from 16 to 60 years of age, according to their different circumstances, being obliged to perform from four to six days labour on the high roads annually. The facility with which roads can be made, is a circumstance of the most interesting nature, and when viewed in connection with our many navigable rivers and creeks, affording a safe water communication to a great part of the Island, cannot fail to be highly advantageous in every stage of our progress and settlement. The laying out of high roads, erecting of bridges, and appointing and regulating ferries is vested in the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor for the time being, and His Majesty's Council, and a reservation is made in the grant of every township, of such parts thereof, as may be wanted for high roads, so that there can be no part of the Island in which a just and reasonable claim to a road can be

refused. The Governor and Council are however restricted from pulling down houses, or destroying orchards, gardens, mills, or mill dams, in laying out roads, and doubtless it will also become just and necessary in the progress of the settlement as roads multiply, to grant a reasonable compensation to the proprietors and occupiers of all inclosed and cultivated lands, through which it may be found necessary to lay out new roads for the public accommodation, which compensation it will frequently be proper to levy on the district for the benefit of which the road is claimed, in order to prevent the wanton abuse too common in new countries on the subject.

SOIL AND NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

The soil is in general a light red loam, in some places approaching to a tolerable strong clay, but in most districts more or less sandy; but even where the soil may be called sandy, if it incline to a dark color it is very fruitful, and with tolerable cultivation yields good crops: where white sand predominates the land is poor, and wants frequent manuring. The quality of the soil in its natural state, may always be known by the kind of timber it produces; the best land growing together, large maple, beech, black and yellow birch, mixed with the different kinds of pine and fir, the trees will stand at a distance, and the roots do not appear to run along the surface, which in general will be found covered with the dwarf yew, or as it is commonly called ground

spruce, which is always an indication of good land. The next best kind is that which produces large hard wood of the kinds above mentioned, unmixed with any evergreens or soft wood, if the trees stand at a great distance, and push their roots well out of sight, and the surface is covered with the dwarf yew, this land is very little inferior to the first mentioned kind. The next indication is, when the land being covered with hard wood, and the roots run much along the surface, and that is without the dwarf yew on it, this land is poor in comparison to the others, the upper stratum of the soil will be found thin, and the subsoil cold and hard. The worst land in its natural state, is that which produces nothing but spruce, small white birch, and scrubby pines, this land is generally very light and sandy, and requires too much manure, to be profitably cultivated in the present state of the Island.

The value of the swamps or low wet ground

is not yet much known by experience, few attempts having yet been made to reclaim any but such as by producing in their natural state abundance of grass, promised an immediate profit with very little expence; the management of these has been merely to drain them a little where that was required, and to cut away the trees and bushes with which they are more or less encumbered, and then to throw some timothy grass seed on the surface; in this way without further cultivation large crops of that grass have been obtained. The low grounds which produce strong alder bushes, large annual weeds, particularly nettles, are also fine lands, and will produce large crops of the same grass without any other cultivation than grubbing up the bushes, burning the surface, and then bush harrowing the seed upon it.

Of the swamps which produce nothing but small black spruce trees, or those which having few or no trees of any kind, are covered with a soft bog or moss, in which a man will sink to

his knees; nothing is known of their value, no attempts having yet been made to improve them; under some of the swamps beds of strong white clay have been discovered, the same article is also seen in some districts in walking along shore between high and low water mark, it is said to be very fine, and is preferred at Halifax, by the regiments in garrison, for cleaning their accoutrements to what is imported from England, which is the only use it has ever yet been put to.

In some districts large tracts of the forest were destroyed by fire near a century back, the soil of these tracts is not esteemed so valuable as that whereon the original growth of timber is still standing, many parts of them are without useful timber of any kind, and a great deal is overrun with strong ferns, dwarf, laurel, and other shrubs; the ferns are difficult to be got the better of, they grow in some places six and seven feet high, and push their roots very deep into the earth. The burnt

lands, as these tracts are called, were long thought of little or no value, from an idea that the fire had in a great measure destroyed their fertility. It is probable, that in general they never were so good as the other parts of the Island, the very circumstance of their original growth of timber having been destroyed by fire, shews that the predominant species upon them was such as indicates an inferiority of soil, as we now know by many years experience, that though the fire will sometimes in very dry years, in the months of May and June, kill and partially burn the timber on our best lands, it never acts so severely on them as to injure their fertility, on the contrary, the finest crops are procured by burning all the timber upon them. From the appearance of the burnt districts, and the number of old pine trees and stumps still remaining upon them, it is evident that these lands were covered chiefly with pine and other resinous woods, and therefore, the soil in its original state, could not have been of the best. There is

c

now,

now, however, good reason to believe from a variety of trials, that the greater part of the burnt lands will pay very well for their cultivation; I have lately been surprised to see parts of them which had been long considered of little or no value, brought into cultivation at a much smaller expence certainly, than it is possible to cultivate the forest lands for: still it must be confessed, that in general, the lands on which the original growth of timber remains, and is such as has been noticed, as indicating the best soil, are much more to be relied upon, though the process of bringing them into cultivation is more expensive, and the necessary time greater, than is required for the burnt lands. A settler in indigent circumstances, who relies from the beginning for the means of subsistence on the produce of his labour, must not at first meddle with the burnt lands, he should cut down and clear away the forest, which will never disappoint him. Let him but get rid of the timber, and scorch the surface with fire, whatever seed he com-

mits to the earth, will produce him a good crop, though the stumps of the trees still remain. A settler who is farther advanced, has a stock of cattle, and a capital to command labour, may find it profitable to cultivate the burnt lands, large tracts of which he will be able to render tolerably productive, in much less time than is required to get rid of the stumps of the trees, in the lands which he clears from the forests, a circumstance which forms no trifling temptation to their cultivation ; at the same time it is universally allowed, that our forest lands are much easier cultivated, than the forest lands on any part of the neighbouring Continent, the surface being much easier levelled, and almost totally unincumbered with rocks and stones, so that when the stumps of the trees are got the better of, all the difficulties to complete cultivation are overcome.

FOREST TREES AND OTHER VEGETABLE
PRODUCTIONS.

I regret much, that my knowledge of this part of my subject, does not enable me to treat it scientifically, but feeling, that in a description of the Island, at least an attempt to bring its natural productions into notice will be expected, I must enter on it, though with diffidence, sensible that my knowledge thereof is very imperfect.

Beech (*Fagus Sylvatica.*) This tree grows in great abundance, probably better than one-half of the Island is covered with it, in some districts it forms nine-tenths of the forest, in others, it is more mixed with other trees, its mast is produced in vast quantities in some seasons, the effects of which shall be

mentioned hereafter, it is a large handsome forest tree, the timber is sometimes exported, but the chief value of it at present, is for fire wood, for which, no other wood exceeds it.

Birch, of this we have four species, 1st. (*betula alba*), of this, there are two varieties, one is the tree common in parks in England, and in the Island is called grey birch, the other is a much handsomer tree, and of quicker growth, has a glossy smooth white bark, which divides into *laminæ* as thin as cambric paper, and answers well to write on: in the forest this tree grows to a large size, the Indians forming canoes of the bark of a single tree, which will carry five or six people, the bark is also used for making various useful articles, such as buckets, bowls, and baskets, they are chiefly made by the Indians, and are sewed when cut to the shape intended, with small slips of the roots of black spruce trees, they are made to hold water, are light, and will last a long time: it is per-

haps the only bark which is less liable to decay than the wood which it incloses, when the trees fall in the woods, the bark will remain entire many years after the tree is completely rotten ; it is very inflammable, emitting a strong vivid flame, and a very thick black smoke, which might be easily condensed and collected in the form of oil. Many fine white birch trees grow in the old French cleared lands, in such situations, it is often a very ornamental tree, growing to a considerable size, and having a large spreading top with bright green leaves.

2d. Black Birch (*betula nigra.*) This is the largest of our deciduous trees, it is common all over the Island, where the original growth of timber has not been destroyed by fire ; it is much used in all the northern countries in America for ship building, it is nearly of the colour of light mahogany, and takes as good a polish : it makes handsome bedsteads and chairs, but does not answer so well for tables. being apt to cast in that article. The exporta-

tion of this timber, has long been common from all the neighbouring countries, and a few cargoes have recently been exported from this Island, it is chiefly sent to Liverpool, and other ports in the north of England, and also to Scotland and Ireland, where it is much approved of, several attempts have lately been made to introduce it into the London market, but the timber merchants appear to be against it, and they have too much the command of the trade, to render it practicable to introduce a new article without their concurrence.*

* A gentleman who lately imported a cargo of timber from the Island, consisting chiefly of this article, being informed that it was very fit for stocking fire arms, had a few muskets and fowling pieces stocked with it, by an eminent tradesman in that line in the City, who making a favourable report of the timber, it was offered to Government, and these articles were sent to the Horse Guards, for the inspection of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who was pleased to refer the matter to the Board of Ordnance, who sent them to the Tower; here the business turned out very different from what was expected, none of the customary means to secure a favourable reception had been resorted to, and a report was made against the justice of which, thousands can bear testimony, the timber being represented as inferior to common beech, and too soft to hold the screws; at this time walnut

3d. Yellow Birch (*betula lenta.*) This often grows to a large tree, and is also used in ship building. It is strong and elastic, which makes it much used for many domestic articles; lands on which the original timber has been destroyed by fire, frequently grow up with yellow birch, these tracts afford a great deal of this timber, of a size fit for making hoops, for which it is very proper, wherever it grows in this manner, it indicates a better soil than when the young growth consists of white birch: yellow birch trees, growing single on old cleared lands are frequently very fine ornamental timber.

4th. Alder (*betula alnus.*) This seldom grows into a tree of any value: its bark

tree wood, which is commonly used for this purpose, was not to be had at any price, and this timber which is notwithstanding the report, believed to be nearly equal thereto could have been supplied at one-third the usual cost of that article; while the musket and fowling piece sent to the Horse Guards, remained there, they were seen by several experienced officers, and the stocks much approved of: the gentleman is now convinced, that he began his application at the wrong end.

dyes a good dark brown, it grows in low rich lands, and along the sides of creeks and rivulets.

Of the Maple we have three species, 1st. The White Maple (*acer negundo*) it is firm and smooth, and takes a fine polish, and is fit for many common purposes, it also affords sap for making sugar, but not so rich in quality as the rock or curled maple.

2d. The Red Maple (*acer rubrum.*) This tree is small and of no value, and is generally found growing in swamps.

3d, The rock or curled Maple (*acer saccharinum.*) This is frequently a large tree: the butts of many of them for six or eight feet from the ground, being finely curled, renders this timber extremely beautiful in cabinet work, as it is very close grained, and susceptible of a high polish: what is called the bird's eye maple is a variety of this tree. The chief value

of the maple at present, arises from the quantity of sugar annually manufactured of its sap, the making of which generally commences about the 25th of March, and continues through the first ten days in April; the quantity made varies much in different years, and depends greatly on the weather at this period: the more snow there is on the ground, the trees run the greater quantity of sap, dark or rainy weather is unfavourable; the sap is produced in the greatest quantities in bright sun shiny days after a frosty night: To procure the sap a gap is cut in the tree with a common felling axe, this is from an inch and an half to three inches deep, and from six to eight inches long, slanting in the form of the letter V, and should face the south west; the sap will run freely from this gap, from the lower end of which it is guided into a trough placed below, by a chip driven into a slight cut just under the gap; a full grown tree will sometimes run upwards of two gallons a day; the persons employed in the business visit the trees frequently

to see that the sap runs fairly into the troughs, and to collect it into barrels, which are placed conveniently for that purpose, in them it is drawn on hand sledges to the boiling place, or as it is called the sugar camp: the apparatus for boiling generally consists of three kettles, the largest double the size of the second, and that rather more than in the same proportion to the third, these are suspended over a large fire made in a temporary hut in the forest; the sap is first boiled in the large kettle, and removed into the others in succession, as it is reduced by boiling to the quantity each can contain; when removed into the second kettle the first is again filled with fresh sap, and boiling is continued in all the kettles which are filled up from each other; the liquor requires to be frequently skimmed; to prevent its rising suddenly over the kettle, a small bit of tallow or butter is occasionally thrown in: when the syrup in the smaller kettle appears of a proper consistency, it is poured into wooden moulds, the kettle is again filled up from the

second, which is replenished from the larger, and that is filled with fresh sap; a small quantity of lime water is sometimes put into the smaller kettle to promote its granulation. In every stage of the work much attention is required to make good sugar: before boiling the sap should be strained to clear it of chips and other adventitious substances. The sugar thus produced is by some rendered as white as the finest Muscovado sugar, but that is by no means generally the case, much of it being made in a very slovenly manner, is very dark coloured, extremely hard from too much boiling, difficult to break, and takes a long time to dissolve the manufacture upon the whole is in a very imperfect state in this Island, though it is certainly improving. When well made this sugar is an agreeable sweet, and answers all the purposes of common sugar; very good vinegar is also made by boiling three gallons of sap into one, and then fermenting it with yeast.

The sugar thus obtained from the maple is all clear gain, being made at a time when very little other out of door work can be performed. Three smart lads working together, will often make one hundred weight each in the course of a fortnight, and sometimes in a favorable year more. The trees are found in more or less plenty all over the Island, where the original growth of forest remains; the greatest part of the inhabitants supply themselves with all the sugar they consume in this manner, and many have a good deal to dispose of.

The maple tree adds much to the beauty of our forest scenery in the Autumn, as the leaves of a single tree will assume every tint from green to rich crimson and bright scarlet colour.

Elm (*ulmus americana*) of this tree, I think we have only one species, and that not very common, nor in great plenty, in any part of the Island.

Oak of one kind only, (*quercus rubra*) or Red Oak, is in some districts of the Island, found in considerable quantity, and is said to be of a superior quality to the same species on the neighbouring Continent, I suspect from the different appearance of it in some districts from others, that we have more than one variety of this species, the value of this timber is much inferior to the white oak of the Continent.

Poplar or Aspen (*populus tremula.*) This tree is in some districts of the Island in great plenty, it is not an indication of good soil, the wood when green, is soft and white, it is much used for fencing, for which, when split into rails, it is more valuable than any other wood produced in the Island, being much more durable ; when dry, it is extremely hard and light, and is very fit for some kinds of turner's work.

Swamp Willow (*salix.*) This is a very use-

less tree, never grows to any size, nor are its twigs of any value, being very brittle, it is the first tree that blossoms in the spring, and its white flowers are to be seen, when all the other trees retain their winter appearance.

Ash of two species. 1st. White Ash, or (*fraxinus excelsior.*) This is a valuable tree, but in no great quantity on the Island, it grows only in good land, is strait and tall, and sometimes found of a large diameter.

2d. Black Ash, or (*fraxinus Americana.*) This is a wood of very little value, the chief use to which it is put at present, is the making of baskets and brooms.

Pine, of this we have several species. 1st. The White Pine (*pinus strobus*) which in point of size, greatly exceeds all the other productions of the forest, being found three, four, and five feet diameter, and of a great height, I have seen one made into a

main mast for a 64 gun ship, without any additions ; but the number of large sticks fit for the navy, in any one district, is not so great as to make them an object worth the attention of government : the quantity of pine upon the Island is not abundant, it is no where to be found in large groves unmixed with other trees, as is frequently the case on the Continent.

2d. Yellow Pine (*pinus pinea*) is harder and heavier than the white pine, but never grows to the same size : the quantity of this wood on the Island is not great, and is chiefly confined to two or three districts of small extent.

3d. Pitch Pine (*pinus tæda.*) Of this we have very little, and of very inferior value, no attempts to extract tar from it have ever been made, that I am acquainted with, its knots and roots being full of terebinthin oil, afford a fine light when burning, and are sometimes used instead of candles.

4th. Larch (*pinus larix.*) This is the only tree of the terebinthine kind which sheds its leaves in autumn, its turpentine is said to have powerful medicinal qualities: I have seen it have very good effects in colds and coughs. The timber is valuable on account of its durability, making the best knees for ship building, and the best trunnels of any wood which grows in this climate.

5th. Fir (*pinus balsamia.*) This tree yields a fine balsam, contained in small blisters on the outside of the bark, (commonly known by the name of Canada balsam) it is used both internally and externally. The timber of this tree is coarse and brittle, and is seldom used where pine can be obtained, where the grain of a fir tree does not twist so much as to prevent its being split, it makes good rails for fencing, for which it is much used, and also for lath wood.

6th. Spruce (*pinus canadensis.*) Of this we

have three varieties, 1st. the black spruce, which often grows into a large tree, fit for masts and spars : of the tops of this tree, the spruce beer, now so well known in England, is made. 2d. White Spruce, this is a wood of very little value, but being light, is sometimes used for spars and rafters, where that quality recommends it. 3d. Red Spruce, this wood is not so valuable as black spruce, but much superior to white spruce, it sometimes grows on old cleared lands which have been long out of cultivation, in which situation, it forms very ornamental groves, its figure being regularly conical, and feathered to the ground.

7th, Hemlock (*pinus abies*). This tree in size is next to the white pine, to which, however, it is much inferior ; its chief value is for making wharfs or buildings in the water, in which situation it is more durable than any other timber of this climate ; the bark is excellent for tanning leather, and the tops yield a medicine, which has been found very powerful

in scorbutic complaints ; some make a decoction of them, boiling them in the same manner as the tops of the black spruce, for making spruce beer, others bruise them and pour cold spring water upon them, which is allowed to stand twelve hours, and then poured off, when it will be found thick and ropy : I have seen this taken three times a day with great effect ; a jill before breakfast, the same quantity an hour before dinner, and the like going to bed ; it agrees well with the stomach and gives a powerful appetite.

Wild Cherry (*prunus virginiana.*) Of this we have several varieties, which have not yet been properly distinguished, but none of them are of any value, the only use ever made of them is to put them to spirits, for which they are said to answer as well as the best cherries, making good cherry rum and cherry brandy, the trees grow in great numbers in land newly cleared, unless kept down by its being cultivated, and are particularly

foud of situations where the original timber has been destroyed by fire, they are of very quick growth, but never grow to a size to make their timber of any value, and do not live above fifteen or twenty years.

White Cedar (*thuja occidentalis.*) This tree is common only in the north west corner of the Island, where it occupies a considerable district, it is a very different tree from the red cedar of more southern climates.

Having gone through the catalogue of forest trees, I think it proper to observe, that the timber of the Island, is allowed to be much better than the like species on the neighbouring parts of the Continent, being of a finer, and closer grain and texture, not so subject to shakes and defects, the pines, black birch, beech, and maple, are also larger than they are generally found on the adjacent parts of the Continent.

It is not in my power to describe with scientific accuracy, the indigenous shrubs and vegetables of the Island ; many of them are only known to me by trifling names which can convey no information, I shall therefore only briefly take notice of the most common.

The Black Currant (*ribes nigrum*) is very common in low rich moist land, and in its native state, is very harsh and disagreeable, whether it is susceptible of improvement by cultivation, I am not informed, no trials that I am acquainted with, having ever been made to cultivate them.

Wild Gooseberry (*ribes grossularia*) is also very common in the borders of the forest, and is often found in the old French cleared lands, they improve very much by cultivation, though they are far from disagreeable in their native state, and coming early, we have them

for baking, for which they are very good, before any other fruit.

The Whortle Berry, or Blue Berry (*vaccinium corymbosum*) grows in great abundance in many districts, and is very good, a gallon of spirits resembling gin in flavour, has been distilled from a bushel of them, in some districts they are in such plenty, as to furnish the swine with their chief food for several weeks.

The Cranberry (*vaccinium oxycoccos*) grows on a small low creeping vine close to the ground, in the edge of marshes adjoining the upland, and in low, wet, poor, sandy land; the berries hang on very slender stalks, at first they are white but turn red as they ripen, and when full grown, are nearly the size of a common cherry, they remain without injury on the vines all winter, though they lose somewhat of their acid: They are much sought for exportation, as they

keep a long time; as a sauce for the table they are generally preferred to any other acid fruit. There is another species of cranberry not so large, nor so pleasant a fruit, but growing in clusters on a very pretty looking shrub, it is very ornamental, the fruit remaining on long after the leaves are fallen, in large bunches of a bright scarlet colour.

The Raspberry (*rubus idæus*) is found in the greatest plenty, wherever the forest is destroyed by fire, or the timber cut down, and the land left uncultivated, the first thing it produces is the raspberry, which soon covers the whole surface of such places, the fruit is equal to any I ever saw in England, though growing wild, I never saw the white species produced but in one spot of small extent, at first I was inclined to think they had been imported, but upon enquiry, I was convinced they were like the red, the indigenious production of the soil, though they appeared to be as fine flavoured, and large as any I ever saw.

The running Brambleberry (*rubus molucanus*) are sometimes found in cold moist situations, but are not very common, nor any where in great plenty.

The Strawberry (*fragaria vesca*) is very common in lands that have been long cleared, without being cultivated, and are also found in open spots in the forest, they are all of the scarlet kind, and though small, are well flavoured, and in some situations, grow large and in great plenty ; it has been remarked, that wherever the strawberry grows before the soil is cultivated, it afterwards throws up white clover in great abundance.

The Hazle Nut (*corylus avellana.*) is common in many parts of the Island.

The Bayberry (*myrica cerifera*) is a small shrub, seldom rising above two feet and a half, it yields a strong aromatic perfume, and from the fruit which clings together in little green

clusters, a fine green wax is extracted by boiling which makes excellent candles.

The Ginseng (*panax trifolium*) is found in great plenty in the forest, where the timber is large, and the soil good, no attempt that I know of, has ever been made to ascertain its value.

Dwarf Elder () is very common in rich deep soil.

The Maiden Hair (*adiantum pedatum*) is very common in the woods among evergreens.

The Sarsaparilla (*aralia*) is found in great abundance, and from the warm nature of the soil is said to be much better than any to be found on the Continent, within five degrees of the same latitude.

Pigeon Berries () grow in little clusters on a small plant, are of a

bright scarlet. and in some districts are in great plenty, they have a mawkish sweet taste, and fatten common fowls very fast.

The Night Shade (*solanum nigrum*) is much too common, and has the same poisonous effects here as in England.

Besides these, there are several kinds of wild fruit, many shrubs, and a variety of plants that are not distinguished by any but trifling names, some of which, are much better known to the Indians, who frequently cure their disorders by means of herbs, without the assistance of any medical person.

NATIVE ANIMALS, BIRDS, FISHES,
REPTILES AND INSECTS.

WE have no animals on this Island but what are met with on the neighbouring continent, and never having been accurately examined or properly classed, neither a perfect catalogue nor a complete description of such as we are enabled to notice can be given; some of the names, I imagine, are adopted from the resemblance of the animal to those of a different climate, and are sometimes so erroneously applied, that it is to be apprehended they may often mislead.

The following catalogue, arranged in the order of Linnæus, is intended to give an idea of this branch of our natural history.

Seal (*phoca vitulina*). This animal is very

common, and is to be seen in all our rivers and harbours; it is hardly possible to cross either without seeing them; upon the setting in of the winter, when by the general freezing of the creeks and rivers, they are obliged to quit them, they assemble in great numbers on particular parts of the coast, where they know by experience that the surface will continue long open; they often quit the water at this period, and lay in great numbers carelessly sleeping on the ice: from this habit a curious circumstance happened a few years ago: on the setting in of the winter 1797, a great number of seals had assembled in a part of Hillsburgh Bay, where the strength and rapidity of the tide had prevented the surface from freezing, though all the rest of the bay, the harbours and creeks which run into it were completely frozen, and as usual great number of them were laying on the ice, when the severity of the frost increased so rapidly, that the whole of this opening, on which they depended for a communication with the sea, was frozen up so strongly in a few hours.

that when they observed their situation they could not penetrate the ice, and as there was no open water in sight of them, instead of going seaward on the ice, they took to the land, and attempted to cross the Island to get into the gulph at the north side thereof, but this was an exertion for which they were totally unqualified, and few of them got above two miles into the woods before they were completely exhausted, in this state they were discovered by some of the neighbouring settlers, and several hundred of them killed, proving a valuable booty, as many of them were very large.

Besides the seals which constantly frequent the waters of the Island, there is a larger kind brought on the coast annually in the month of April by the floating ice from the northward, which are often in great numbers, and the taking them is constantly attended to, and is frequently very productive to those who follow the business, the oil is generally carried to Halifax or Quebec, where it sells from twenty-five to

thirty-two pounds per ton; the method of taking the seals is by following the ice with schooners, the success depends on the quantity of northern ice that may be brought by the wind on the coast; sometimes vast quantities come, other years little or none; when the fishermen meet with the ice they either fasten their vessels to it, or if from appearance they judge that to be unsafe, leaving part of their crew on board to manage the vessel, the rest go upon the ice, where they find the seals asleep, frequently many hundreds together, and being an unwieldy heavy animal, which can only move very slowly out of the water, they are easily killed, a great many are shot, some are speared, others are killed by the stroke of a heavy stick on their noses, in these ways they frequently in two or three days get as many seals as their vessels will carry; sometimes the number taken is very trifling, either from there being little ice on the coast, or the weather being so bad as not to permit the vessels going among the ice; it is a precarious business, and

attended with a considerable risk of the lives employed in it.

Red Fox (*canis alopex*). We have also the grey and the black fox; the number of foxes taken on the Island is very considerable; some years ago before bear skins were so much used in England they bore a much higher price, and were more in demand than at present; foxes do no farther injury than killing a few fowls, they never attack sheep; they are commonly taken in steel traps, sometimes they are inveigled to a particular spot in the night by a bait placed for them, here a person is concealed with a gun, at such a distance as to make sure of them; in this way five or six have been killed by one person in the course of a few hours.

Wild Cat (*felix lynx*) called by the French Loup Cervier, this is a large animal standing about two feet and a half high, the head and body of a full grown one, will be about three

feet in length, the head is the only part of it that resembles a cat, the tail is only about an inch and a half in length; the colour a light grey, the feet are very large, spreading much to enable it to run on the snow, it is armed with strong claws and looks more formidable than it really is; it lives upon hares and partridges which it takes by surprize; they are sometimes seen crossing the rivers on the ice in winter; when pursued in that situation by dogs it sits down quietly, until the dogs come up, when it seems much surprised at their hostility, and in return generally knocks the first dog down with a stroke of its fore paw, and then runs off, if it has above half a mile to run before it reaches the woods, the dogs will generally come up with it, when it is easily killed even by a single dog, if it escapes the dogs until it gets into the woods, it immediately runs up a tree, when it is a certain mark with a gun, very few of them have been known to attack sheep or lambs; they are chiefly caught in the winter in snares and steel traps; the

skin is sold at from ten to fifteen shillings; the flesh is as white as veal, and has been frequently eaten by epicures and much relished.

Otter (*mustela lutra.*) These have been very plenty in the Island, and are still caught in considerable numbers, some of the skins sell as high as six dollars.

Martin (*mustela.*) This is a very shy little animal and is seldom seen in the woods, though some years in great abundance, it is taken in the winter by means of a small log-trap baited; its fur has been out of fashion for muffs and tippetts for some years, which has rendered it less valuable than formerly.

Weasel (*mustela martes.*) This little animal is common, and often destructive among poultry.

Ermine (*mustela erminea.*) This beautiful little animal is red like a fox in summer and

white in winter: it is distinguished from the common weasel by the tip of its tail which is always black; it is not common but is sometimes seen in making roads, when it is necessary to cut and remove many fallen trees, in the bodies of which it makes its nest.

Bear (*ursus arctos*.) The Bear known here is the black species, though they are distinguished by their muzzles, some having them red, others white, the latter are said not to do any mischief, living upon berries, ants, small fish which they catch in the creeks, and a large insect, which they obtain by tearing the old wind-fallen trees to pieces; the former are sometimes very destructive among the cattle, and will attack the largest ox or cow: the quantity of black cattle, sheep, and hogs, destroyed by them annually on the Island is very considerable, but like other evils which settlements in new countries are subject to, it will lessen rapidly, and in less than half a century, I have no doubt but the bears will be

entirely extirpated. When we compare the mischief done by them, to the ravages of the wolf, in the new settlements on the Continent, it is trifling indeed. The bear, unless surprised and closely attacked, almost always runs away from a man, and except it be the she bear with her young cubs, is very seldom dangerous; in upwards of twenty years residence on the Island, I do not know a single instance of any persons losing their lives by a bear.

Ground Mouse (*sorex murinus*.) This is the little animal whose ravages have been so much spoken of and exaggerated to almost every person who has ever heard any thing of the Island, being often represented by those who are disposed from interest or otherwise, to depreciate the value of it, as attacking us periodically, and destroying every kind of vegetable production, than which nothing can be more groundless, or unfounded. In thirty years I have been acquainted with the Island

and upwards of twenty years actual residence there, I have never known mice do any injury to the crops, two or three years only excepted and then partially, and by no means general through the Island. Yet I am sensible it is often mentioned in Nova Scotia, as what frequently happens, although it might be expected, that the quantity of grain which we send them annually, ought long ago to have induced them to desist from a representation, so palpably erroneous and unjust.

The same species of mice are frequently to be met with on the adjacent parts of the Continent, where they occasionally do considerable mischief, in those particular districts which happen to be in the neighbourhood of tracts of beech-wood forest. Though the mice may sometimes partially injure the crops, yet there are many years successively in which none are to be seen on the Island, and no person who is well acquainted with it, is under any serious apprehension of injury from them,

and as the beach-wood forests are diminished, so will the number of the mice decrease. It being well known their increase is owing to the great crops of beech mast, produced occasionally in certain districts, as a proof of which it is observable, that in those parts that are remote from any quantity of that wood, no injury to the crops has ever been known to happen.

Hare (*lepus timidus*.) Hares are in great plenty all over the Island, they are chiefly taken in winter, by means of long fences or hedges made of brush wood, cut down and piled so closely, that they cannot easily get through, and in every fifteen or twenty yards of this fence a small opening is left, in which a snare is placed.

The Musquash (*castor zibethicus*) builds a cabin of mud and sticks in fresh water ponds; he is not very shy, being frequently seen swimming about the ponds.

The Mink () is an amphibious animal, and burrows in the earth by the side of rivers. Its fur is more valuable than the musquash, it is a mischievous little animal, making its way into out-houses, and destroying poultry and eggs.

Of squirrels, we have three species. The red squirrels (*sciurus flavus.*) The striped squirrel (*sciurus striatus.*) The flying squirrel (*sciurus volans*) this is a beautiful lively little animal, its fur is extremely delicate and fine, but it is not so common as the two first species, squirrels increase vastly in number like the mice, after an abundant crop of beech mast, particularly the striped squirrel.

The only mamillary biped which we have is the Bat (*vespertillio murinus*) they are to be seen in great plenty on summer evenings in the neighbourhood of houses and at the edge of the woods.

The following catalogue of birds, though not complete, is the fullest I believe that has yet been collected,

Bald Eagle	<i>Falco leucocephalus.</i>
Brown Eagle	<i>Falco fulvus</i> , not often seen.
Large brown Hawk	<i>Falco hudsonius.</i>
Hen Hawk	<i>Falco sparverius.</i>
Pigeon Hawk	<i>Falco columbarius.</i>
White Owl	<i>Strix myctea.</i>
Speckled Owl	<i>Strix aluco.</i>
Barn Owl	<i>Strix passerina.</i>
Bird Hawk	<i>Lanius canadensis.</i>
Crow	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Blue Jay	<i>Corvus cristatus.</i>
Crow Black Bird	<i>Gracula quiscal.</i>
Great red crested Wood Pecker	<i>Picus pileatus</i>
Red-headed Wood Pecker	<i>Picus erythrocephalus</i>
White-back Wood Pecker	<i>Picus auratus</i>
Speckled Wood Pecker	<i>Picus maculosus</i>
King's Fisher	<i>Alcedo aleyon.</i>

Humming Bird	<i>Trochilus colubris.</i>
White-head Coot	<i>Anas spectabilis</i>
Black Duck	<i>Anas nigra</i>
Brant Goose	<i>Anas bernicla.</i>
Wild or Black Goose	<i>Anas canadensis.</i>

The last is the largest bird of the goose kind, it is a bird of passage, and gregarious by the mixture of this with the common goose a mongrel is produced, which is a much finer bird on the table than either of the parents, but will not breed again. Vast flocks of geese arrive from the southward towards the end of March and beginning of April, they stay but a few weeks, passing on to the northward as the season advances; a few of them, however, breed in unfrequented places on the Island, and are sometimes caught, both old and young, in the month of July, when neither can fly, they sometimes chuse to lay their eggs in the old deserted nest of the bald eagle, on the top of a dead Pine tree, eighty or ninety feet from the ground, to which they bring their young when hatched; when

they build on the ground, if they find their nest has been discovered and their eggs handled, they will immediately remove them one by one, flying, with the egg grasped between their bill and neck.

The geese begin to return from the northward about the 1st of September. In October and November they are in great numbers in all the harbours, creeks and rivers on the Island; when they return they are at first very poor, but in a few weeks become very fat and fine by feeding on the roots of the salt grass, which every where grows along the shores, and which they dig up out of the sand and mud; they are never strong nor fishy like the European Wild Goose. The Brant is a still finer bird, and are also in great numbers, they do not leave us so soon in the beginning of the Summer as the geese, staying generally till about the tenth of June, when they collect in prodigious large flocks, and go all away in two days, the noise they make for some days before they go off,

when the flocks are collecting, may be heard for many miles: they return about the same time the geese do, and stay till about the end of November, when they go off to the southward, but not with the formality they observe in their migration northward, they never breed on the Island, nor any where round the Gulph, but are known to breed in great numbers on the lakes on the Coast of Labradore, and on Sagany River, which runs into the River St. Laurence.

Sea Duck	<i>Anas mollissima.</i>
Dipper	<i>Anas albeola</i>
Widgeon	<i>Anas penelope.</i>
Sea Pigeon	<i>Anas histrionica.</i>
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors.</i>
Grey Duck	<i>Anas sponsa.</i>
Red-bellied Sheldrake	<i>Mergus serrator.</i>
Pyed Sheldrake	<i>Mergus castor.</i>
Penguin	<i>Alea impennis.</i>
Shag	<i>Pelecanus graculus.</i>
Gannet	<i>Pelecanus cassanus.</i>
Loon	<i>Colymbus immer.</i>

White Gull	<i>Larus canus.</i>
Grey Gull	<i>Larus fuscus.</i>
Mackerel Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus.</i>
Tee-Arr, or fishing Gull	<i>Sterna minuta.</i>
Crane	<i>Ardea canadensis.</i>
Wood Snipe	<i>Scolopax fedoa.</i>
Grey Curlew	<i>Scolopax totanus.</i>
Large-speckled Curlew	<i>Scolopax lapponica.</i>
Beach Bird	<i>Tringa arenaria.</i>
Black-breasted Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula.</i>
Kildee	<i>Charadrius vociferus.</i>
Pyed Plover	<i>Charadrius apricarius.</i>
Partridge	<i>Tetrao marilandicus.</i>

The partridge is very common in our woods, and like the mice and squirrels, become very plentiful, the year after a great crop of beech mast; they are considerably larger than the English partridge; the flesh is as white as that of a pheasant, which it resembles more on the table than a partridge, when disturbed the whole covey fly upon the nearest tree, where they often sit quietly till they are all successively

shot; in the months of April and May they are easily found in the woods, from the male bird making a loud noise, by beating with his wings on an old log, which is heard at a great distance. It has been found necessary to prohibit the killing of partridges between the first of April and the first of September, by an act of the legislature; any person convicted before a magistrate of trespassing against this law, forfeits the sum of ten shillings for every partridge so killed, one half to the informer or prosecutor, the other half to the treasury of the Island: with this exception, every person is allowed to shoot when and where they please, which with the liberty claimed of fishing in ponds and rivers, measured into the different townships, and for which the proprietors pay quit rent to the crown, is complained of as a hardship: restraining people in both cases to lands owned and occupied by themselves, or to those totally unsettled and neglected would certainly be more equitable.

Wild Pigeon (*columba migratoria*.) Wild Pigeons come in the spring from the southward in great plenty, and breed in the woods during the summer months: some years they are in much greater number than others, when the corn is cut and in shocks, they come out of the woods in greater numbers than could be wished, and are particularly troublesome in fields near the woods.

Robin (*turdus migratorius*). This bird comes from the southward in April, they are in great numbers, and are about the size of an English black-bird; they stay till November.

Snow Bird (*emberiza hyemalis*). The snow bird is about the size of a sparrow, has a beautifully variegated plumage; they are to be seen about the houses and barn yards in winter, in small flocks; they are very delicate, and said to be equal in flavour to the European ortalon.

Boblincoln	<i>Emberiza oryzirora.</i>
Yellow Bird	<i>Fringilla tristis.</i>
Winter Sparrow	<i>Fringilla grisea</i>
Spring Bird	<i>Fringilla.</i>
Cat Bird	<i>Muscicapa carolinensis.</i>
Yellow Crown.	<i>Muscicapa flavo.</i>
Blue Bird	<i>Motacilla sialis.</i>
Common Wren	<i>Motacilla trochillus.</i>
Blue Titmouse	<i>Parus americanus.</i>
Tomteet	<i>Parus virginianus.</i>
Bank Swallow	<i>Hirundo riparia.</i>
Whip Poor Will	<i>Caprimulgus europæns.</i>
Night Hawk	<i>Caprimulgus americanus</i>

There are many other birds whose names I am not sufficiently acquainted with to enable me to include them in this catalogue.

REPTILES.

Toad	<i>Rana bufo.</i>
Pond Frog	<i>Rana ocellata.</i>
Green Frog	<i>Rana arboria.</i>
Bull Frog	<i>Rana Boans.</i>
Brown Lizard	<i>Lacerta punctata.</i>

SERPENTS.

Brown Snake	<i>Coluber sipedon.</i>
Green Snake	<i>Coluber saurita.</i>
Striped Snake	<i>Anguis eryx.</i>

None of these Snakes are dangerous, or their bite in the least poisonous. That there is no dangerous reptile in the Island, must be considered as a very pleasant circumstance, as people can traverse the forest every where, and sleep there without being under any apprehension of injury.

AMPHIBIOUS FISHES.

Dog Fish	<i>Squalus catulus.</i>
Shark	<i>Squalus carcharius.</i>
Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser sturio.</i>

Sharks are not often seen, however, they are to be met with on the Coast of the Island, but have very seldom been known to come into the harbours. Sturgeons are very com-

mon in the summer months in all the harbours, the Indians are the only people who catch them, some of them are six and seven feet in length.

FISHES.

Eel (*muræna anguilla*). Eels are in great plenty here, and in no other country finer, they go into the mud in the winter, many feet under the surface ; they are found in greatest plenty in the harbours on the north side of the Island, where they bed in the muddy flats, they are also known to get under the salt marshes in some places, and are particularly fond of situations where there are springs of fresh water issuing out of the earth, they are taken in winter by cutting holes in the ice, and driving a spear into the mud, these spears have five prongs, the extremities of which are all turned up inwards, ending in a sharp point, when they happen to strike an eel in the mud, it is held between the prongs which being elastic, open by the pressure, and when pulled up, the sharp turned-up prongs prevent the eels escaping

till they are shook off the spear upon the ice, it is very laborious work taking them, but they are well worth the trouble, being extremely rich and fine, a barrel of eels is reckoned of as much value to a labouring family as one of salted meat, they are also taken on the flats in summer nights by torch light; the calm nights which so frequently happen in the months of June and July afford many opportunities for this kind of fishing, which is not an unpleasant amusement, various other fish such as skate, flounders, trout, tom-cod, bass, and plenty of lobsters are taken at the same time, the whole is done by spearing, except the lobsters, which are taken by putting a cleft pole over their backs, and pressing it down, until it takes sufficient hold of them, when they are lifted into the boat, by this means the shell is not in the least injured. The fish seem infatuated by the light, and keep swimming round the boat; the torches used, are made of the white birch bark tyed up in a small bundle, this easily takes fire, burns

with great brilliancy, and lasts a considerable time, the only apparatus is a cleft stick of seven or eight feet in length, which is stuck up in the bow of the boat or canoe, in the top or cleft the torches are stuck, and when nearly burned out, are replaced by a fresh one. The Indians are the most expert hands at this fishery, and their light bark canoes, which they manage with wonderful dexterity, give them a great advantage over a person in a common canoe or skiff.

Haddock

Gadus æglesinus.

Cod

Gadus morhua.

Cod are perhaps no where in greater plenty than on the coast of the Island, all the principal fishing ground in the Gulph of St. Laurence, is in sight of our shores, the Americans at present, reap the greatest advantage of the cod fishery here.

Tom-Cod or Frost Fish (*Gadus luscus.*)

This fish is in great abundance in all our harbours, in flavour it much resembles the whiting of the British seas, they come into the creeks and rivulets to spawn in vast numbers in the month of December, when they are easily taken.

Hake	<i>Gadus molva</i>
Sculpion	<i>Cottus quadricornis.</i>
Flounder	<i>Pleuronectes flessus.</i>
Halibut	<i>Pleuronectes Hippoglossus.</i>

This is a very large fish, and though often eat is very coarse, the fins only are very palatable, they are sometimes got of 300lb. weight.

White Perch	<i>Perca lucioperca.</i>
Sea Perch	<i>Perca undulata.</i>
Bass	<i>Perca ocelata.</i>

Perch are very fine here, and are found in all our rivers and ponds that have a communication with the sea. Bass are in great numbers in all our harbours, they are frequently

got at the narrow entrance of the north-side harbours on moon-light nights, with a hook and line; the line and hook baited with the tail of a lobster is coiled up and thrown into deep water, and drawn on shore quickly, in this way many are taken, they are also speared on the flats in the bays and harbours of the south side, where they are in great plenty.

Chub *Perca philadelphica.*

Bream *Perca chrysoptera*

Mackerel *Scomber scomber.*

Mackerel are in great plenty on this coast, and come into all our harbours, in which they are caught from July to November.

Salmon (*salmo salar.*) Though salmon are found in all our rivers, they are not in such abundance, as in the great fresh-water rivers in our neighbourhood on the Continent, in some of which, are perhaps the greatest salmon fisheries in the world, on the north side of the Island, in all the harbours they may be

seen leaping out of the water frequently in the months of June and July, particularly at St. Peter's Bay, where, and in the River Morell, which runs into it a great many are taken: they do not come into the Hillsburgh River, and the other rivers on the south side of the Island, until the latter end of September, and the beginning of October, when they are on the point of spawning, and are not good. The old French people on the Island say, that salmon were formerly in much greater plenty than they have been for many years past, as a proof of which, they relate that two brigs of considerable burthen, used to load annually with salmon, caught in the harbour of St. Peters, for Rochelle in France.

Trout (*salmo fario*) are found in all our rivers, harbours, and ponds, and having access to the sea, are extremely fine, and often very large. Trout fishing in the bays on the north side in the latter end of May and beginning of June, affords fine amusement to such as are

fond of it, the method is to anchor a boat near the edge of the channel, where there is a considerable ripple occasioned by the tide, here an angler is not incommoded with any thing, and he has room to display his skill to the utmost, and is sure of abundant sport. In July the trout go into the fresh water, and in some places are taken in great numbers.

Smelt (*salmo eperianus*.) Smelts are in great abundance, they are finest in winter, and are easily taken by cutting a hole in the ice, on the salt water close to the shore, where the water is not more than eighteen inches deep, they bite readily at a little bit of white meat. In April they go into the fresh-water brooks and springs, in such numbers that they may be taken up by a scoop nett in bushels, they are much larger, and finer flavoured than any I ever saw in England.

Herring (*clupea harengus*.) This fish frequents the coasts, bays, and harbours of this

Island, in immense shoals; in the latter end of April and beginning of May, they may literally be said to fill them, particularly the north-side harbours, and the harbour of George Town; there is no difficulty in taking them in any quantity in which they can possibly be wanted.

Alewife or Gasperaux (*clupea serrata.*) This species, though not so plentiful as the common herring, are found in great numbers in many parts of the Island, they go into the fresh water to spawn. In the beginning of June, great shoals of them go up the Hillsburgh River, towards the head of which a good many are taken annually.

Skate *Raia batis.*

Thornback *Raia clavata.*

There are many other fishes not known to me by such names, as will enable me to arrange them.

Crabs, Lobsters, and Shrimps. (*Cancer*).
 Lobsters are in the greatest plenty in all our harbours and on the coast, they are seldom sold for more than sixpence a dozen, and are often very fine. The crabs are of no value. Shrimps are found on all the flats in our harbours in summer and are large and fine.

VERMES.

Sea Clam	<i>Holothuria phantaphus.</i>
Squid	<i>Sepia media.</i>
Hog Clam	<i>Mya arenaria.</i>
Razor Shell Fish	<i>Solen ensis.</i>
Long Shell Clam	<i>Solen radiatis.</i>

Oyster (*ostrea*). Oysters are in great plenty in all the harbours on the Island, in some places beds of them of several acres extent may be found, most of the lime hitherto used in the Island has been burnt from their shells, and it is commonly the practice to burn the live oysters for that purpose, putting many hundred barrels of them in a kiln together.

They are preferred to any other American oysters by all Europeans who have eaten them.

Muscle (*mytilus edulis*). Large beds of muscles are found in most of our harbours, which are never used for any other purpose than making lime of their shells.

INSECTS.

Horned Beetle	<i>Scarabæus simson</i>
Lady Fly	<i>Coccinella</i> , several species.
Fire Fly	<i>Lampyrus lucida</i> .

Grasshopper (*grillus*). Several species which are often injurious to our grass lands and pastures in dry summers.

Bug	<i>Cinex</i> . several species.
Butter Fly	<i>Papilio</i> numerous species
Dragon Fly	} <i>Libellula</i> , several species
Adder Fly	
Wasp	} <i>Vespa</i> , several species.
Hornet	

Bumble Bee	}	<i>(Apis)</i> several species
Wild Bee		
Ant		<i>(Formica)</i> many species
Black Fly	}	Numerous species
Brown Fly		
Horse Fly		<i>(Tabanus)</i> several species
Mosquito		<i>(Culex Pipiens)</i>

Mosquitos and the small black or Sand Fly are very troublesome in summer, but they decrease much as the country is cleared ; they are worst in the neighbourhood of salt marshes or wet ground ; in open clear lands that face the south west they are not much felt, except in calm moist weather.

Upon looking over this account of our native animals, I found that the sea-cow, formerly so plenty, had escaped my attention, as many people think they will again become so, and as they still exist, though greatly reduced in number, it is hoped the following short account of them may be satisfactory.

Sea-cow (*trichecus manatus*). This large amphibious animal was found in great numbers on the north coast of this Island thirty years ago, but they have now become very scarce, and are seldom seen on shore. From 1770 to 1775, they were annually caught in considerable numbers near the north point of the Island, at that time Governor Patterson assumed the right of granting the sea-cow fishery as it was called, (though the whole business was carried on on dry land) by an annual licence, upon which a considerable fee was paid, and sometimes it was very profitable, as great numbers were then taken.

These animals were accustomed to resort to one or two particular spots near the north cape, and several hundreds would sometimes go on shore at once; they were left undisturbed until the wind blew off the land, when the people got between them and the sea, and probed those that were next to them with sticks, whose points were brought nearly to the same degree

of sharpness as the large tusks of these animals, this set them in motion towards the woods, and they probed on those that were before them, and the whole flock, said sometimes to exceed three hundred, were soon in motion and proceeded into the woods, where they were easily killed with long spears. It sometimes happened that without any apparent reason they would turn back towards the sea, before they had got so far from it as to render the attempt to begin the slaughter safe, and if still in sight of the sea, on their return they kept in a body to which nothing could be opposed with any effect; but when got a considerable way into the woods they appeared to loose their sagacity, and scattered in different directions, seeming at the same time insensible of danger, though the slaughter of their fellows was going on close to them. I have been informed that some of them would weigh four thousand pounds; their oil is said to be the purest of all animal oil, and the French inhabitants of the island eat it very readily; some parts of the skins are an inch and

a half in thickness, and prodigiously strong and valuable for making many useful articles, which, if kept dry, are very durable, even without tanning or dressing of any kind : the large tusks produce a species of Ivory closer grained than the common Ivory. These teeth are evidently given them by nature to enable them to dig the shell fish out of the bottom of the sea, on which they appear to live, no other substance being ever found in their stomachs. They are not found on any other part of the eastern coast of America, to the southward of Hudson's Bay, than in the Gulph of St. Laurence, all the southern part of which, is of a moderate depth of water, seldom exceeding 25 fathoms, and the bottom generally sandy, and producing vast quantities of shell fish.

The coast both to the northward and southward of the gulph, for a great distance is every where rocky ground with deep water, which is supposed to be the reason that these animals, who require only a moderate depth of water, and a sandy bottom for producing shell fish,

are not found on this coast, but in the gulph ; besides what were taken annually on this Island in the manner above mentioned, great numbers were taken on and about the Magdalen Islands in the summer months, where they resorted much at that season of the year with their young, of which they are so fond, that they will run any risk for their preservation ; and though they were supposed to have decreased much, they were still found in considerable numbers, till after the American war, when so many New England fishermen poured into the gulph, and attacked them about the Magdalen Islands in summer, that in two or three years the species were nearly destroyed, few having been seen for several years after, however the breed still exists, and they are now known to be increasing fast, and if the killing them was but under proper regulations, they might again become so numerous as to be an object of great consequence, but this never can be the case while the New England fishermen are allowed to come into the gulph and destroy them.

CLIMATE AND SEASONS.

The climate of this Island partakes in an eminent degree of the well-known healthfulness of the neighbouring countries of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada, to all of which it is in some respects superior, being intirely free from the fogs by which the two first are so much infested, and unincumbered with lakes of fresh water which so often generate sickly seasons in the latter, producing intermittent and other fevers, happily unknown here, to which we may add that the cold is not by many degrees so great in winter; for which our insular situation, and distance from any high land will naturally account; it is a common expression with Canadians who occasionally visit the Island, when they see the houses of our

new settlers, " If we were not to use other precautions against the winter, we should be all frozen in our beds : " Canadian houses must be all warmed by stoves, here stoves are by no means common, houses tolerably finished are as completely warmed by a common fire-place as in England, not that we can compare the temperature of the two climates as by any means similar, but our fires have only a dry elastic cold to get the better of. English cold is a raw damp obstinate intruder. In Canada the severity of the winter otherwise healthy, often produces the pleuresy, which frequently carries off the young and healthy, here the complaint is almost unknown.

The seasons here have been variously described, often as has suited the humour or views of the relator, and accordingly falsehood has not been spared either in exaggeration or depreciation : if we have had sanguine individuals, who overlooking the disadvantages of a winter, of

above four months continuance, and all the difficulties incident to a new country in such a climate, have injured themselves and deceived others, the Island has equally suffered from disappointed unprincipled adventurers, some of them speculators in land, others on the public offices of the colony, the one wild and extravagant in their expectations, the others turbulent and flagitious in their schemes. The former disappointed by their own folly, the latter by the good sense and spirit of the colony, have in revenge equally contributed, and often united their utmost endeavours to misrepresent and depreciate the Island, both in respect to its natural qualities, and the administration of its public affairs: hence the various accounts in circulation of the climate, soil, and circumstances of the country, than which, nothing can be more contradictory.

The winter of this climate, is the season which has created the the greatest controversy

among those who pretend to describe it, I shall therefore begin with that season, and as far as my experience will enable me, endeavour to give my readers a clear idea of its nature and duration. In the first place, I must state, that the changes of temperature in our winters, are much greater, and more rapid, than any thing of the kind ever experienced in Great Britain, without however producing any ill effects, that I have ever observed, on the general health of the inhabitants.

The commencement and duration of the winter varies much in one year from another, the Hillsburgh river opposite Charlotte Town, has been crossed on the ice, as early as the first week in December, and on other years has been open as late as the 20th of January, and on several years successively, as late as the 8th or 10th of that month, and in the spring we have the same harbour, sometimes not clear of ice before the 20th of April, and on other years, open at the same time in March; these are

varieties of such an extent as to furnish the means of deception either way, to those who are not very scrupulous, and accordingly accounts are to be met with, which state our winters to be of six months continuance, while others will allow us to have little more than three; but, it is to be observed, that with respect to the temperature and character of this season, nothing can be concluded from the circumstance of its commencing early, as experience teaches us, that a winter which is early in its commencement, is often mild throughout, and on the other hand, winters late of setting in, are commonly severe in proportion; our hardest winters however, have a great deal of mild weather, even during that part of the season, when the most severe cold might be looked for. The following circumstances, I think will be readily admitted by all who know the country, as pretty accurately describing our winter. The last half of November and the first half of December, English winter weather, sometimes raining,

sometimes freezing, sometimes snowing with gales of wind, not often however so hard as is common in Europe at this season, but this period like the whole of our winters, varies much in one year from another ; sometimes a great part of it is real winter weather, in other years, the whole is quite mild, the thermometer often rising higher than it ever does in England at this season, sometimes the first part of this period is a little winter, and the last mild autumnal weather ; on other years, the weather continues uninterruptedly mild, till the middle of December, and then the winter sets in steadily at once ; from the middle to the latter end of this month, we generally have the winter set in in earnest, but in other years it is quite mild, till after the commencement of the new year ; for two years successively I have ploughed all the last week of December ; this, however, is the natural time to look for our winter, and in which it will be both beneficial and agreeable, there cannot be a pleasanter contrast

in regard to winter weather, than between our dry clear bracing cold, and the raw moist unsteady weather which sometimes precedes it, and which is so common for a great part of the winter in many countries. I may here observe that from our latitude, we of course have the sun considerably longer above the horizon than in England at this season, which added to the general clear state of our atmosphere gives us at least two hours more day light than in any part of Great Britain at this period of the year.

In January and February we look for a great deal of steady cold weather, yet it often happens, that after fifteen or twenty days severe frost, the weather changes, and it becomes mild for as long a time, the mercury falling only a few degrees below the freezing point, and sometimes by the winds coming to the S. W. for several days together, the weather becomes so warm as to form a very extraordinary contrast to the surface of the earth,

and the waters all covered with ice ; and though we generally have the deepest snows in these months, yet in some years we have much bare ground at this time, which is by no means desirable, as it interferes with our winter employments, by preventing the use of sledges on the roads from the want of snow for them to run on, whereby the getting of timber and fire wood out of the woods, and hay from the marshes is much impeded ; the want of snow at this period is also injurious to our grass lands, by exposing them too much to the severity of the frost when it happens that after a thaw or a tract of mild weather the cold again becomes severe before any snow falls to cover and protect the surface.

Though the weather is never so severe in March as frequently happens in the two preceding months, a great part of it is sometimes boisterous and cold, and that most frequently happens when the preceding part of the winter has been remarkably mild, but in

what is called a natural winter this month produces very pleasant weather, the days are now long, the sky in general very clear, and in the middle of the day the heat of the sun very considerable, dissolving the snow and ice rapidly ; it is generally in this month that most of our timber is brought out of the forest, and also a stock of fire wood laid in for the remainder of the year. About the middle of the month the sap begins to rise in the trees, and towards the latter end of it the business of making maple sugar commences. The mouths of the harbour's, channels when the tides are rapid, the heads of the rivers and creeks which have been frozen during the preceding months now open ; and aquatic birds begin to return from the southward.

In this and the two preceding months, a freezing rain, or as it is commonly called, a silver thaw, sometimes happens on these occasions, the trees are frequently so incrustated

with ice, that many of the smaller branches break with its weight, as the smallest twig will sometimes have an inch of ice round it, this state of the weather generally takes place in the night, and continues but a few hours. If the sun happens to shine while the trees are in this state, nothing can exceed the splendor of the forest, every branch seems enclosed in diamonds, and reflects the rays of the sun with the utmost brilliancy; it is impossible to describe the effects of the scene that this state of the weather occasionally exhibits.

The month of April is often more variable and unsteady than its predecessors, frequently exhibiting summer and winter alternately in the course of a week; when the wind is to the southward or S. W. we have always genuine mild spring, sometimes indeed very warm for many days together, exhibiting a most tantalizing contrast to the surrounding objects, and when we are expecting that a few days more

will secure us against the return of winter, perhaps the wind suddenly chops round to the northward, and it becomes as unnaturally cold, with considerable falls of snow, but which seldom lays on the ground above a day or two ; sometimes there is much easterly wind in this month, which on this coast is always damp and disagreeable, and often attended with rain : in other years, the first part of the month will be cold, and all the rest fine steady spring weather, the snow disappearing rapidly, and the ground getting dry very soon, ploughing often commences about the middle of the month, and in warm sheltered situations, there is a considerable degree of vegetation towards the latter part of it. In some years the spring is so forward as to enable the farmers to commit a good deal of seed to the ground before the end of the month.

The month of May is subject to easterly winds, which are always damp, chilly, and disagreeable, and we have still occasion-

ally night frosts after a N. W. wind, but when the wind is to the S. W. the weather is very fine, and vegetation advances rapidly; by the 20th the fields will generally be green, and towards the latter end of the month the trees commonly get into leaf: from the middle of the month, the weather sets in dry, little rain falling from this time, till towards the end of July: rains, with a wind from the eastward in this month, are cold and injurious to vegetation; when they happen with the wind from the westward, they are highly beneficial.

In June the face of the country, assumes the most vivid appearance, and the air is most delightfully perfumed by the blossoms of the trees, and the flowers of various aromatic shrubs and herbs, the atmosphere is so loaded with the farina of the trees, that great quantities of it which fall on the water is driven ashore by the winds, and collects at high water mark, in the form of a beautiful yellow

powder : from the middle of the month, the S. W. wind sets in steadily, and the weather then becomes nearly as warm as in the two succeeding months : it generally blows a fresh breeze during the day, but at sun-set the wind dyes away, and the nights continue calm. In a forward season, a few of our wild strawberries will be found ripe on a southern aspect about the end of the month ; and I have more than once seen green pease at the same time.

In July the weather is very fine and steadily warm, the thermometer standing generally between seventy and eighty, sometimes it rises as high as eighty-six, the wind blows almost constantly at south-west a fresh breeze, and coming immediately off the water serves to temper the heat ; when the wind fails in the evening and the night continues calm, the heat is at this time more disagreeable during the night than in the day, the weather often continues dry through the greater part of the month, but we

are generally relieved from any drought by heavy showers, though of very short duration, which accompany thunder storms ; these storms very seldom do any mischief, they are always over in two or three hours, and the weather immediately becomes clear and steady. From the middle of this month most of the vegetables common in England at this season will be found in great abundance in our gardens. About the 20th hay-harvest generally commences, and by the end of the month early sown barleys will often be fit to cut.

In August the heat generally continues the same as last month, but commonly more rain falls ; heavy dews are frequent when the weather is dry, which are very beneficial ; by the middle of the month the harvest is pretty general over the Island.

The first part of the month of September the weather in general is nearly as warm as in August, but about the equinox the winds be-

come more variable, being sometimes to the northward of west, which soon cools the air, and also veering to the eastward with rain, high winds are common for some days after the equinox, and after the middle of the month frosts are frequent about the heads of creeks, rivulets, and low springy lands: upon the whole the weather is now more like the weather in England at the same season than any other part of the year.

October though sometimes wet is often the pleasantest month in the year; the heats are gone and the weather generally fine; the gales of wind which happen about the equinox, and the frosty evenings and mornings which are common, seem to purify the atmosphere, and the air is remarkably pure, elastic, and exhilarating. The same kind of weather often continues through the first fortnight of November; sometimes it is so mild that the native strawberries come into blossom on southern aspects, as luxuriantly as in the month of May; on

other years it is wet and variable, with frost and showers of snow, but which does not yet lie on the ground more than a few hours. The leaves fall off the trees during the last part of October and the beginning of November.

I have already observed that we are in a great degree free of fogs, which will appear the more surprising as we are in the vicinity of countries known to be extremely subject to them, so near indeed, that many people may be inclined to doubt the possibility of our being so perfectly free from them as I have asserted, to such I can with great truth aver that I have seen two years successively pass without producing one foggy hour, and I am confident I have seen more fog in one month of November in London, than I witnessed in all the time I have passed in this Island; I have heard many attempts to account for an exemption so singular, but none of them perfectly satisfactory. Some account for it from the high land of the Island of Cape Breton lying between us and the Banks of

Newfoundland and those on the eastern coast of Nova Scotia, which are the great scenes of fog, and from which it spreads over all the sea coast of that country, New Brunswick and the coast of New England, particularly the first, where it prevails much in all the summer months; if the intervention of the Island of Cape Breton between us and the Banks is the only reason of our enjoying a clear sky and dry atmosphere while the contrary prevails so near, it seems difficult to account for a circumstance that is constantly observed. By looking at the chart of this coast it will be observed that the Gut of Canso divides the Island of Cape Breton from the peninsula of Nova Scotia, the eastern end of this strait terminates in Chedabuctou Bay on the coast of Nova Scotia, it is often observed in the months of June and July that this Bay and all the land around it is frequently enveloped in fog for eight and ten days together, and that the fog seldom comes entirely through the Gut, which is only twenty one miles in length, for several days together

it will not come above two or three miles into it, and sometimes not at all, when it does come through the Gut it seldom lasts above a few hours. It is also observed that the mouth of the River St. Laurence, and the coast from Cape Rosier to the Bay of Chaleur, though not so much subject to fogs as the coast of Nova Scotia, has a good deal of foggy weather in the spring and the first part of the summer, yet the wind blowing directly from thence over the Gulph, does not bring the fog to this Island. It has been often said that we are to attribute our freedom from fogs to the nature of our soil, which is warm and dry. and also to the small depth of water in all the southern part of the Gulph, which seldom exceeds twenty five fathoms. It is probable that an attentive consideration and comparison of the circumstances by which we are favoured with so fortunate an exemption may hereafter enable Naturalists to account in a more satisfactory manner than has yet been done, for these fogs which are so injurious to some of the neigh-

bouring countries : intailing on them the unpleasant prospect of continuing for ever, subject to the necessity of relying on the importation of bread-corn for their daily consumption.

The north east winds are always attended with rain from May till the middle of November, after that they generally bring snow, all our heaviest falls of snow come with them. After a fall of snow if it comes to blow fresh before the surface hardens, the snow drifts much on the cleared lands, and on the ice, which makes travelling difficult till the wind subsides, it also fills up the roads, which must be beat again ; in a populous neighbourhood that is soon accomplished, by every person turning out with their sleighs and teams for that purpose. In the forest the snow never drifts, which makes travelling there more comfortable at this season.

The light frosts which have been mentioned to

commence after the middle of September, do not affect the high open lands for many weeks after that period, being chiefly confined to the heads of creeks, the neighbourhood of springs, and low wet lands: near the salt water in places open to the W. and S. W. it will often be the latter end of October before the potatoe tops are affected by it. It is not till after the middle of September, that a fire, evening and morning, becomes a desirable companion, and it does not come into constant use till November. In April it is not steadily attended to, in May it is often allowed to go out, and early in June is generally given up, except during a north-east wind. Cattle are seldom regularly housed till the beginning of December, and by many not till the latter end of that month, and some remain out in the forest a great part of the winter, which season they frequently survive when strayed, living like deer by brouzing upon the young wood.

In the summer a white mist rises in the

night, upon the creeks and runs of fresh water, which is always an indication of fine weather for the ensuing day; when these mists do not rise on the creeks at this season, rain may be expected in the course of the ensuing day: they do not spread above a few yards beyond the water from which they originate, and are always dissipated before the sun is half an hour above the horizon.

The Aurora Borealis is observed at all seasons of the year, and is commonly the forerunner of a southerly wind and rain: this luminous appearance is sometimes extremely beautiful, and in our pure atmosphere is seen to great advantage, it generally begins in the north, runs up to the Zenith, and sometimes overspreads the whole concave with streams of light, variegated with blue, red, and yellow of various tints; in a calm night, the sound caused by its flashings, may often be distinctly heard.

Many people will be apt to conclude that the great and rapid changes to which our climate is subject, must have a bad effect on the health of mankind, yet I think I may venture to assert that it will be very difficult to mention another spot on the face of the earth, where the inhabitants enjoy more uninterrupted health. The fevers and other diseases of the United States are entirely unknown here, no person ever saw an intermittent fever produced on the Island, nor will that complaint when brought here, ever stand above a few days against the influence of the climate. I have seen thirty Hessian soldiers who brought this complaint from the southward, and who were so much reduced thereby, as to be carried on shore in blankets, all recover in a very short time; few of them had any return or fit of the complaint, after the first forty-eight hours from their landing on the Island. Pulmonary consumptions which are so common, and so very destructive, in the northern and central States of America, are not often met

with here ; probably ten cases of this complaint have not occurred since the commencement of the settlement. Colds and rheumatisms are the most common complaints, the first generally affects the head more than the breast, and the last seldom proves mortal. A very large proportion of people live to old age, and then die of no acute disease, but by the gradual decay of nature. Deaths between twenty and fifty years of age, are few, when compared with most other countries ; and I trust I do not exaggerate the fact, when I state, that not one person in an hundred (all accidents included) dies in a year.

It follows from what has been said, that mankind must increase very fast in such a climate, accordingly, large families are almost universal, six or seven children in as many years, seems to be the common rule, and few leave off without doubling that number. We seldom find a pair without a family where they have come together under such circumstances as to

give them a reasonable ground of hope on that subject, and instances have sometimes occurred when people who had given up every idea of the kind, by removing to this Island have had large families. Many people here grow to a large size, perhaps in no other country will the proportion of men of six feet high be found greater; the countenances as well as stature of the young people, whose families came from the highlands of Scotland, often exhibit a remarkable contrast to the hard features, and low stature of their parents; plenty of wholesome food, as well as salubrity of air, no doubt contributes to this difference. Industry will always secure a comfortable existence, which encourages early marriages, the women are grandmothers at forty, and the mother and daughter may frequently be seen with each a child at the breast at the same time.

People determined upon going to America, will do well to compare this, with the repre-

sentation given by that celebrated writer and
 traveller, Volney: Speaking of the climate
 of the United States, under his third general
 head, he says: " Autumnal intermittent fe-
 " vers, or quotidian agues, tertian, quartan,
 " &c. constitute another class of diseases,
 " that prevail in the United States to a de-
 " gree, of which no idea could be conceived,
 " They are particularly endemic in places re-
 " cently cleared, in valleys on the border of
 " waters, either running or stagnant, near
 " ponds, lakes, mill dams, marshes, &c. In
 " the autumn of 1796, in a journey of more
 " than seven hundred miles, I will venture to
 " say, I did not find twenty houses perfectly
 " free from them: the whole course of the
 " Ohio, a great part of Kentucky, all the
 " environs of Lake Erie, and particularly the
 " Genesee and its five or six lakes, the course
 " of the Mohawk, &c. are annually visited
 " by them. Setting off from Fort Cincinnati
 " on the 8th of September, with the convoy
 " of the Pay-master General of the Army,

“ Major Swan, to go to Fort Detroit, about
“ two hundred and fifty miles distant, we
“ did not encamp a single night without at
“ least, one of the twenty-five of us in com-
“ pany, being seized with an intermittent
“ fever. At Grenville, the magazine and
“ head quarters of the army that had
“ just conquered the country, of three hun-
“ dred and seventy persons, or thereabout,
“ three hundred had the fever; when we
“ arrived at Detroit, there were but three of
“ our company in health, and the day follow-
“ ing, both Major Swan and I were taken
“ dangerously ill with a malignant fever. The
“ malignant fever annually visits the garrison of
“ Fort Miami, where it has already more than
“ once assumed the character of the yellow
“ fever. These autumnal fevers are not directly
“ fatal, but they gradually undermine the
“ constitution, and very sensibly shorten life.
“ Other travellers have observed before me,
“ that in South Carolina for instance, a per-
“ son is as old at fifty, as in Europe at sixty-

“ five or seventy; and I have heard all the
“ Englishmen with whom I was acquainted
“ in the United States, say, that their friends
“ who had been settled a few years in the
“ southern or central States, appeared to them
“ to have grown as old again as they would
“ have done in England or Scotland. If these
“ fevers once fix on a person at the end of
“ October, they will not quit him the whole
“ winter, but reduce him to a state of de-
“ plorable weakness and langour.” Lower
“ Canada and the cold countries adjacent,
“ are scarcely at all subject to them. They
“ are common in the temperate and flat coun-
“ tries; and particularly on the sea shores
“ more than on the mountains. †

† View of the climate and soil of the United States of America. trans-
lated from the French of C. F. Volney. London, printed for J. Johnson,
St. Paul's Church Yard, 1804. Page 235.

CULTIVATION AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

Agriculture and raising cattle, are the general pursuits of the inhabitants of this Island, before the commencement of the last war a few were engaged in the fishery ; at the first settlement of the colony, there was unfortunately too great a propensity to engage in the cod fishery, to the neglect of cultivation and improvements. At that time all the necessaries of life consumed by those engaged in the fishery, [were necessarily imported from other countries, at an expence the profits could not bear, and accordingly most of the adventurers in that line failed. In the first seven years after the commencement of the settlement, ten times as much money was thrown away on fishing projects, as was expended on the cul-

tivation and improvement of the lands; the American war during its continuance, completely stopped these schemes, and so far at least was of some benefit to the Island, as after the people were accustomed to agriculture, few of them had any desire to abandon it for the fishery: before any country can supply itself with the necessaries of life, to hold out incentives to its inhabitants, that must in their nature operate against the cultivation and improvement of the country, must surely be the highest folly.

Wheat, barley, oats, rye, and pease, are cultivated, and produce good crops, the wheat is however mostly summer wheat, but winter grain is also raised, and by many preferred to the summer wheat, and will probably become more general: both kinds are heavy, weighing from sixty to sixty-four pounds per bushel; the produce is various, depending much on the industry, skill, and management of the farmer, I will not say, that we get as many

bushels per acre as in England, but I firmly believe, that were the cultivation equal the average produce per acre, would not fall much short of that. Barley and oats both yield fine crops, and are readily bought up on the Continent, at from sixpence to a shilling per bushel more than their own produce, I will venture to assert, that no person acquainted with this Island will contradict me when I say, that it is the first country in North America for both: I have seen the best oats sent from Mark Lane for seed, compared with the produce of what had been sown two years on the Island, which upon being weighed turned out to be full as heavy as the English oats: people who have seen American oats upon the Continent, can say how contemptible in comparison to this they are generally met with, nor do I think either barley or oats under proper care and management liable to depreciate by time, though no doubt here, as every where else, a judicious change of seed will be found beneficial.

Rye produces good crops, and is a very weighty grain, particularly the winter rye; it is a very sure crop, and hardly ever subject to any accident.

Pease thrive very well though they are not so much cultivated as might be expected: beans, except the kinds for the table, are not cultivated, though it is known they do very well.

Hops grow remarkably well, and as far as I can judge, do not seem liable to fail so frequently as in England, though as yet they are only cultivated by a few who are beginning to brew malt liquor for domestic use.

Potatoes are raised in great abundance, and in no other country better, I have had, three hundred bushels an acre with cultivation, very short of what is generally given them in England, they grow very well in the forest lands, when first cleared, and though not so

large a crop, they are in such situations, more delicate, and much finer flavoured than any I ever saw elsewhere. Land that has been manured for a crop of potatoes, is next year sown with spring wheat, sometimes red clover is sown with the wheat, which will keep the ground two or three years; though no grass seed is sown, if any thing like common justice has been done to the land, it will throw up an abundant crop of natural white clover of itself the year after the wheat, an advantage that makes people less solicitous about red clover, which, though more productive, is not so much esteemed for hay.

Turnips are universally raised as winter food for cattle and sheep, though not to such an extent as might be expected; the seed is sown from the twentieth of July to the tenth of August, and by the latter end of October, they are a fine crop though never hoed; this circumstance alone will shew how little the agriculture of the Island is calculated to do

justice to the soil : as the manure made in the winter (under our present defective system of management) is expended in the spring, the practice is to cow-pen and fold sheep upon the lands intended for turnips ; the effects of even a slight dressing of this kind are very great, tolerably done it communicates a fertility, that is very evident for several years, under what in England would justly be thought the most abominable management, as three crops of grain, each with a single ploughing, are often taken without rest. The turnips are taken up in November, and are housed or laid in heaps in the fields, and covered over with such a quantity of earth, as to exclude the frosts of winter, and afterwards removed into the house as they are wanted, taking a mild day for that purpose. The Swedish turnips are found to answer very well, even when sowed as late as the common turnip, and in situations where they are covered all winter with snow, stand out that season with very little loss, and, under a more perfect system of

management, I have no doubt will be found to afford a most valuable supply of food for sheep in the spring, when it is of most consequence.

Many people raise some Indian corn or maize, which generally grows very well; it is of the short or Canadian kind, and though not so productive perhaps as in the United States, it is of a much richer nature than the southern corn, which is flinty and harsh in comparison; it is certainly a valuable grain, and the cultivation of it for domestic use, may be very proper, but it can never come into competition with wheat, for which the climate and soil of the Island are much better suited in every respect.

All kinds of garden vegetables that are common in England, grow here with very slight cultivation, but from the length of the winter, are of course later in their season: asparagus from the middle of May to the middle of

June according to the age of the beds, green pease are not in plenty until the middle of July, cabbages and savoys about the middle of August, and new potatoes about the same time.

English gooseberries, black, red, and white currants, grow remarkably well, are large and well flavoured, and the bushes produce in greater abundance than I ever saw any where else.

Apples, cherries, and plumbs also grow well, it is probable that the winter is too severe for the finer kinds of stone fruit, but as yet no trials have been made, on which a judgment can be formed, A great many old apple trees left by the French, are still alive and bearing, and though it might be seen by them, what the climate was capable of producing, it was long after the commencement of the settlement, before any attention was paid to this branch of husbandry : it is chiefly to our late

worthy Lieutenant-Governor General Fanning, that we are indebted for spreading, by his example, a taste for fruit trees, which, though not so general as could be wished, is increasing, and enough has been done to shew, that perfect reliance can be placed upon our climate, for producing abundance of valuable fruit, when I state that some of our fruit, the natural produce of ungrafted trees is superior to the produce of any trees we have yet imported ; fruit gardeners will be able to judge what may be expected from our climate, under a well-directed system of management. †

Horses, black cattle, sheep, and swine, are in great abundance considering our long winters, which render the procuring so much dry food necessary : the horses are in general small, but strong, active, and hardy, and being seldom subject to any complaints, live to a great age ; it is a common thing to take them off the grass, and ride them thirty or

† Mr. Beers of Cherry Valley, is said to have already five hundred bearing trees.

forty miles, during which they have to swim three or four times perhaps, across broad creeks or arms of the sea, and after performing such a journey with great spirit without being once fed on the way they are turned out to grass at the end of it, and probably perform such another journey the next day equally well, and without appearing to be hurt by such hard usage: before the commencement of the late war, they were commonly sold for eight and ten guineas a head, but during His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent's residence at Halifax in Nova Scotia, he purchased several of them, and was pleased to approve so much of them, that they are now in request in that country, which has raised the price of them to twelve and sixteen guineas: but unless some other market is found out, they must soon fall again as the increase is much greater than the demand for them. In some parts of the island they are allowed to run out all winter, when they are not used, and maintain themselves by scraping away the snow with their hoofs till they come to the grass, on

which they live, and keep in tolerable order till spring.

Many of the farmers have large stocks of cattle, and, indeed, it is too common to see them keeping more than they can winter well, it must be acknowledged, however, that the want of an adequate market is often the occasion of this apparent bad management; oxen are used in agriculture and for drawing timber out of the woods more than horses, and when the mode of working them in harness is introduced, they will be found still more beneficial; though the cattle are in general small in comparison with English cattle; oxen have been known to rise to one thousand weight, seven and eight hundred weight, independent of the hide and tallow is common enough. Our cattle will no doubt improve in size, when the farmers are more generally enabled to keep their stock in proper inclosures as owing to the necessity they are now under of letting them run at large, the heifers

commonly produce calves at two years old, a circumstance which must evidently hurt the size of the cattle. The quantity of butter and cheese made in the Island bears but a small proportion to the number of cattle, from this practice of permitting them to run in the woods, by which means, it often happens that a great part of the milk is lost, as they cannot always be found to be regularly milked, this is an evil which time will gradually overcome, by enabling the settlers to get enough of cleared lands within their fences, to maintain their cattle, without being under the necessity of allowing them to roam at large, as is too much the case at present. The butter is in general very good, but there is very little good cheese made in the Island, not from any natural defect in the climate or soil, but truly because there are very few in the Island, that know how to make a cheese properly, the greatest part of the inhabitants having originally come from countries where the art of making cheese is not understood.

The mutton and lamb are allowed to be very well flavoured, the sheep very commonly produce two lambs and are never subject to the rot nor to any other disorder; they are in general small seldom rising above sixteen pounds a quarter, yet there are people who by care and a superior mode of management raise them to a much larger size. I have seen the four quarters and kidney fat of a weather not quite two years old, weigh one hundred and seventeen pounds, and the four quarters and tallow of a lamb six months old weigh sixty-seven pounds, and these were the common breed of the Island: that so many of them are small will not surprise any body when it is known that the ewe lambs are allowed to run with the flock, and that they generally become mothers by the time they are a year old: The wool is soft and fine but short, the fleeces weigh from three to six pounds; stockings made of our native wool are universally preferred to any imported, and the coarse cloths the produce of our domestic manufacture in point of warmth and durability,

exceed any thing of the same appearance I ever saw, though they are not properly dressed or even dyed of a good colour. The proper management of sheep has hitherto been little understood, the general practice has been to house them in the winter which not only hurts the quality of the wool, but renders the animal delicate and less healthy: feeding them in sheltered places out of doors has been lately introduced and is found to answer much better: Though nothing like the large flocks of sheep kept in England will be found here, the number of sheep on the Island is very considerable, I believe greater in proportion than will be found in any other part of America, many farmers have ten times the number that Mr. Parkinson states General Washington's flock at, upon his celebrated farm at Mount Vernon.

Swine are in great plenty on the Island and thrive well, particularly the Chinese breed which has been lately introduced; they run at

large in summer feeding on grass and fern roots, in the autumn they go into the woods where they feed on the beech mast, which in some years is so plentiful as to make them completely fat without any other aid, but pork thus fed is not reckoned good, being soft and oily; the beech mast is however of great use in bringing forward the store pigs that are to be kept over the winter, as it makes them grow very fast and they are easily wintered after a good run in the woods. Pigs are seldom kept more than two winters and many kill them at a year and a half old, and where the winters are so long, it is perhaps the most profitable practice: when put up to fatten they are first fed with boiled potatoes and finished with broken barley, oats, and pease: for many years past pork has been sold at, from three-pence to four-pence per lb. being about the general price of beef and mutton.

Domestic Poultry of all kinds is raised in great plenty and perfection, and sold at a reasonable rate.

Cutting down the woods and putting the land into cultivation is differently performed, some cut down all the wood, pile and burn it, others prefer grubbing up the smaller trees and bushes, and kill all the large trees by girdling them in the beginning of the summer, which prevents their vegetating the following year, this last is the easiest method but as far as my experience goes I prefer the first, as the labour of removing the branches and trunks of the dead trees as they fall is more tedious and expensive in the end than getting rid of all the timber at once. A good axe man will cut down an acre in eight days, pile all the brush, and cut the trunks into ten feet lengths: these must afterwards be rolled together and such of them as are not taken away for other purposes burnt; when the timber is heavy this part of the business will be but slowly performed by one man alone. The months of June and July is the best time for clearing land in this way as the leaves are full grown and the stumps of trees cut at this season decay soon and are not

so apt to throw out suckers as those cut at other periods: the leaves will not drop from the timber cut down now but remain on all winter, and greatly assist in burning the timber the following year, which is generally done in May: if there has been a considerable proportion of evergreens mixed with the other timber their tops and branches will now be in such a state as to insure the burning of the whole, the larger the piles the better chance there is for getting what is called a good burn; where there has been few or no evergreens mixed with the timber about to be burned, greater attention will be required in heaping the piles of brush close and rolling the logs together. If the weather has been dry for some time before this operation, care must be taken to prevent the fires running into the forest among the growing wood which it will often do at this time of year, and kill the timber for many miles; many people will be apt to suppose that this may be an advantage and aid in clearing the country, but that is by no means the case, as in general

it only scorches the trees or burns them so little that by far the greatest part of them is left standing, and become so hard as to make it more difficult and laborious to cut them down than if they were still growing; and if the land is good and not brought into cultivation soon, a growth of young timber will spring up in a few years among the dead trees that will soon render such land more difficult to clear, than that whereon the original growth is still intire: the first year after fire has run over a piece of land and killed the timber, if it is not cultivated, a very large annual weed called fire weed, springs up spontaneously; this plant has a large succulent stalk, and long jagged leaves, it grows the height of four, five, and six feet according to the strength of the soil, it bears a white stinking flower and disappears after the second year which is very lucky, as it is a great exhauster and injures land much. Besides increasing the difficulties of clearing and bringing the land into cultivation, these fires often destroy a great deal of valuable timber which,

if left growing would soon come into demand for exportation, and the want of which even for domestic purposes may become a serious loss, for though the trees will stand many years after they are killed, all except the pines soon become unfit for use, upon the whole I am persuaded that no man who understands the proper management of wood lands will ever wish to see the timber on them killed by fire until he has a prospect, of being able to bring them into cultivation.

After the operation of burning a piece of new land is completed, expert cultivators manage to plough among the stumps, this is done with a short one-handled plough, with the share and coulter strongly locked together, and drawn by a pair of stout oxen ; they dont pretend to make a straight furrow, the object is to stir as much of the surface as possible, they are often stopped by the roots, some of which the plough will break, others they are obliged to cut with an axe, which must always be at hand on these occasions ; an expert workman will con-

trive, in this way, to turn up more ground than could be believed by those unacquainted with the business ; in some lands this method of ploughing at first is impracticable, from the roots of the trees running so much along the surface : such land must be stirred with hoes, first sowing the seed on the burnt surface ; in other places after what is called a good burn, the surface will sometimes become so soft and mellow, that the seed may be covered by means of triangular harrows with wooden tines, taking care to stir such places as the harrow does not touch with hand rakes. If potatoes are to be planted in new land, round holes are made in the surface ten or twelve inches in diameter, and three inches deep, the holes should be two feet apart, three or four sets are planted in each hole, and the surface mould returned upon them, they require being twice well hoed in the course of the season, and will produce a fine crop, and leave the land in good order for a crop of wheat the ensuing year.

People unacquainted with clearing woodlands, are apt to be frightened with the apparent difficulty, and an idea has been propagated, that Europeans who are mostly unused to the axe in their native country, seldom make good axe-men, and no doubt but some continue long aukward, and so they would at any other employment to which they were not early accustomed ; but so far from that being generally the case, that I have seen many young men from Scotland on this Island, who would lay wagers before the end of the first winter with the most expert axe-men in their neighbourhood, and before they were two years on the Island, would earn as much money at clearing woodland, as any American in the country. It is this terror of encountering with the supposed difficulties of clearing woodland that induces so many people from Great Britain and Ireland, to prefer the American States to our own colonies in America, expecting from the more advanced state of improvement and settlement in the former that they will be able to get into lands already

cleared and cultivated: but for such lands they will pay very high, and will often find them worn out, and not worth the occupying; so perfectly is this understood among them, that it is generally accounted more profitable for a young farmer settling in life to go upon new, than to remain upon old cultivated lands, and this change they are frequently enabled to make to great advantage, by the avidity of Europeans for old cultivated in preference to forest lands; Volney in his view of the states which has been already quoted, puts this traffic in a very clear light.

Very little use is made of any manure except stable and cow dung, penning cattle and folding sheep: on the north side of the Island most of the inhabitants are so situated as to have a great abundance of sea ware in their power, which is driven ashore in great bodies all along the coast in the autumn, and considerable use is made of it with great advantage; but not a 20th part of what comes on shore is ever used, indeed the settlements along the coast are too far apart for that. Dung is seldom suffered to re-

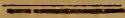
main in a heap over the summer to ferment and destroy the seeds of weeds, but is taken every spring from the cow-houses and stables, and either spread on the ground and ploughed in, or put into the drills for potatoes, the consequence of such wretched management is an abundance of couch grass in a few years, which few have the resolution to attempt getting rid of in any other way than letting the land out to pasture, which in five or six years will destroy this powerful obstacle to cultivation. Compost heaps are seldom formed, though many districts abound in valuable materials for that purpose. Besides the immense beds of shell fish that many of our harbours contain presenting a most valuable manure to the adjoining lands, the flats in all our rivers are composed of a deep black stinking mud, consisting of decayed animal and vegetable substances, which have been accumulating for ages, the quantity of it is inexhaustible and easily obtained, and though very little use has yet been made of it, enough is known to ascertain that it makes a valuable manure.

Flax and hemp, particularly the former thrive well, and every farmer raises a patch of it yearly, which is manufactured into linen for domestic use ; hemp is also raised in small quantities, the inhabitants in general cloath themselves in their ordinary and working cloaths, most families making between woollen and linen from two to three hundred yards of cloth a year.

It is much to be regretted, that so few of the inhabitants came from countries where agriculture is understood, an intelligent cultivator will at every step have occasion to remark how much more might have been done by the same number of people had they been acquainted with husbandry as it is practiced in England ; when I state that not one farmer in twenty, ever thinks of either raising or purchasing grass seed of any kind, my readers will be able to conceive how little our soil is indebted to our system of management ; at present I firmly believe that the simple alteration of every farmer in the Island seeding

properly such land as he lets out for grass, would have the effect in a very few years of doubling the quantity of agricultural produce of every kind. Indeed the conduct of our rural affairs in most respects is extremely defective, there are few cultivators among us who theorize, and still fewer who read ; yet agriculture is, and must long continue to be the chief pursuit of the inhabitants of this Island, if they attend to their true interest : every tree which is cut down in the forest opens to the sun a new spot of earth, which, with cultivation, will produce food for man and beast : as the country becomes more and more clear, pasture for cattle will increase, and the manure of our stocks will enable us to enrich our lands, and extend our cultivation. It is impossible to conceive what quantities may be produced of beef, pork, mutton, butter, poultry, wheat, barley, oats, and pease, articles which, from our maritime situation and the wants of our neighbours, will always find a ready and profitable market.

DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT.



This Island was first discovered by the English Navigator, Cabot, in 1497, June 24, from which circumstance it took the name of St. John; from the abstract of his voyage published in Lediard's Naval Chronicle, it appears to have been the first land he met with after leaving Newfoundland, it was probably foggy weather when he entered the Gulph of St. Lawrence, or he must have seen the Island of Cape Breton, the north cape of which is high land, and only eighteen leagues distant from Cape Ray in Newfoundland. No claim to the Island in consequence of the discovery seems to have been made by the English Government of that day; upon the establishment of the French in Canada,

it was claimed by them as within the limits of New France. In 1663 it appears to have been granted in fee by the Company of New France, together with the Magdalen, Bird, and Brion Islands to the Sieur Doublet, a captain in the French Navy, to be held in vassalage of the Company of Miscou. The Sieur's associates were two companies of fishing adventurers from the towns of Granville and St. Maloes, and never made any permanent settlement on the Island, or any improvements beyond the necessary establishments for their fishing posts, which were very trifling, and confined to two or three harbours. From the best information it does not appear that any settlements with a view to cultivation, were made by the French on the Island, till after the peace of Utrecht; and it is said their government never encouraged the settlement, and refused after the Sieur Doublet's patent was vacated, to give grants in perpetuity, to the people who had settled upon the Island, with a view to force the settlement of Cape Breton, and to

draw as many people as they could round the the different fortified posts they held on the Continent.

It is said that there were near ten thousand people on the Island in 1758, but it is evident from the appearance of the remains of their improvements, that the greater part of them could have been but a few years settled, many of them were probably driven from the Continent on the loss of the French fortified posts in Nova Scotia in 1755, and 1756, and retired to the Island as a place of security, from which they could fit out privateers to cruize upon the English commerce. At this time it appears that the garrison of Louisbourg drew a great part of their subsistence from this Island, besides an officer who was called the Governor, the French had two commissaries on the Island for collecting cattle and vegetables for Louisbourg, which the people were obliged to deliver at whatever price these gentlemen were pleased to fix, eight and ten dollars was the

value generally allowed for a fat ox. The French had never erected any fortifications on the Island, and had only a few guns mounted in an open battery at the mouth of the harbour of Charlotte Town, which by them was called *Port le Joie*, from its safety and beautiful appearance; they had also a trifling breast-work on the north side of the Hillsburgh River, nine miles above Charlotte Town, where the channel of the river is much contracted by an Island; this situation commanded the access by water to their principal settlements, which lay round the head of this river; and at St. Peter's eight miles distant on the north side of the Island; there being at that time no road from the harbour better than an Indian path, which led along the south side of the Hillsburgh through the forest. The French settlements round Hillsburgh Bay on what now forms the townships, N^o. 49, 50, 57, and 58, were also considerable and extended from the mouth of the harbour to Point Prim, both sides of which being a very fine piece of land, and also part

of lot 60 appear to have been occupied ; the quantity of cleared land in this district was very considerable, though a great part of it is now again grown up with wood ; from the remains of their improvements it must have been a beautiful settlement, and the people are said to have been in good circumstances, and had a great many vessels : from the number of creeks and small harbours in the district, almost every settler would be enabled to have one at his own door. The other principal settlements were in the district which now comprehends Townships 25, 26, 27, and 28, between the two first lies the fine harbour of Bedeque or Dunk River, on the two last there are considerable tracts of marsh land along several beautiful creeks that run into their fronts ; the lands in all these Townships are remarkably good and well timbered. Townships 13 and 14 had also on their fronts a large tract of cleared and cultivated land, which was the only considerable settlement to the westward of Richmond Bay. The north fronts of Townships 34 and 35 seem to have been well settled, par-

ticularly near the entrance of Bedford Bay, where there was a handsome settlement, the soil and situation being both very good. In general the oldest and most considerable of the French settlements will be found in the neighbourhood of extensive tracts of marsh grounds, where they could easily procure food for their cattle; the fine harbour of George Town, seems to have been overlooked by them from the circumstance of there being very little marsh ground in its vicinity: their only settlement on it was on the point between Brudnell and Montague Rivers, which is said to have been made at the expence of their government, upon some scheme which was afterwards abandoned, the situation a fine peninsula of sound land lying between two navigable rivers, with deep water in both, and the ground very commanding, on this there seems to have been about 200 acres of cleared land.

In 1758 the Island was surrendered to Great Britain by the capitulation of Louisbourg, and

a detachment under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Rollo, was sent by General Amherst to take possession thereof, on which occasion, it is said, that a considerable number of English scalps were found hung up in the French Governor's house; the Island having been for two preceding years, the head-quarters of the Meekmak Indians, and it is not denied by the old Accadian French still resident on the Island, that they were very partial to this savage practice of their Indian neighbours, with whom indeed they were very much assimilated in manners and customs. It having been found after fifty years experience, that no dependance could be placed in the Accadians ever becoming good subjects to Great-Britain; they were by order of Government, removed from this Island, and also from Nova Scotia; some were permitted to go to Canada, part were sent to the southern Colonies, and a good many were sent to France, where they were very ill received, and much blamed for their obstinate hostility to the British

Government. This measure was not executed so strictly as was intended, and a good many families by concealing themselves in the forest escaped this transportation, and were afterwards allowed to remain undisturbed in the Country, in confidence that their diminished numbers would oblige them to desist from all future hostility, and the conquest of Canada soon after removed all apprehension on the subject.

At the conclusion of the Peace in 1763, upon the arrangement of the conquests made from France, this Island and Cape Breton were annexed to the Government of Nova Scotia, but no plan for the settlement of either was immediately adopted; In 1764 a general survey of the British Empire in North America was begun by order of Government, and an annual estimate to defray the expence thereof was granted by Parliament, which was continued until the commencement of the American War stopped the further progress thereof. The

immense extent of Country, which this survey was intended to embrace, made it necessary to divide it into two districts, the Northern including Canada, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Island, St. John, the New England, Provinces, New York, the Jerseys, and Pennsylvania, were allotted to Captain Holland, the Surveyor General of Canada, and his Assistants, who arriving in America early in the Summer of this Year, commenced their operations by order of Government, with the survey of this Island, which was completed in 1766. In the mean time various schemes were proposed for the cultivation and settlement of the Island, among others the late Earl of Egmont, then first Lord of the Admiralty, proposed settling it on a feudal plan, his Lordship to be Lord Paramount of the Island, which was to be divided into a certain number of Baronies to be held of him, every Baron to erect a strong Hold or Castle, to maintain so many Men in arms, and with their under-tenants to perform suit and service, according to the custom of the

ancient feudal tenants in Europe ; it seems hardly necessary to say that his Lordship's plan could not have answered his expectations ; the time for reviving feudal establishments was even then gone by, and whoever will advert to the state of the neighbouring continent at the time, will find in it circumstances that must have rendered success in such a plan almost impossible ; and it appears to me a very fortunate thing for his Lordship's family, that he did not obtain a grant to have enabled him to try the experiment, which could not fail being attended with an enormous expence, unless his Lordship should, like the greater part of those to whom it was finally granted, forget after he got his patent, that it was necessary to perform the terms and conditions on which it was to be held.

Upon the rejection of Lord Egmont's scheme, it was determined to grant the Island to individuals upon a plan recommended by the Board of Trade and Plantations, and there

being a great many applications, it was thought proper that the different Townships should be drawn for by way of Lottery, which took place before that Board; some obtained a whole township, to others half a township was given, and in some instances a Township was allotted among three, but the whole, with two exceptions, were drawn for by way of lottery; † many of the grantees were officers of the army and navy who had served in the preceding war.

The terms and conditions of settlement under which the lands were to be held, are expressed in the following resolutions of the Board of Trade and Plantations, which have been introduced into the respective patents by which the different Townships were granted.
 “ Resolved, that a quit-rent of six shillings

† The two Townships not drawn for, were 40 and 59, which were then partly occupied by a fishing company, who had sat down upon them with the consent of Government.

“ per hundred acres be reserved to His Majesty
 “ his Heirs and Successors, on townships
 “ Nos. 5, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25,
 “ 26, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40, 54, 55, 56,
 “ 57, 58, 59, 63, and 64.

“ That a quit-rent of four shillings per hun-
 “ dred acres be reserved on townships 6, 8,
 “ 9, 10, 11, 12, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 31,
 “ 36, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48,
 “ 49, 50, 53, 61, 62, and 65.

“ That a quit-rent of two shillings per
 “ hundred acres be reserved on townships
 “ Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 20, 30, 51, 52, 60,
 “ and 67.

“ That the several foregoing quit rents be
 “ payable on the feast of St. Michael or within
 “ fifteen days after in every year, to commence
 “ and become payable upon one half the lands
 “ on the said feast of St. Michael, which shall
 “ first happen after the expiration of five years

“ from the date of the grant, and to be pay-
 “ able on every ensuing feast of St. Michael,
 “ or within fourteen days after, and the whole
 “ quantity to be subject in like manner to the
 “ like quit-rent at the expiration of ten years.

“ That there be a reservation to His Majesty
 “ his Heirs, and Successors, of all such parts of
 “ each township respectively as have already
 “ been set apart, or shall hereafter be thought
 “ necessary to be set apart, for erecting for-
 “ tifications, building wharfs, inclosing naval
 “ yards, or laying out highways for the con-
 “ venience of communication from one part
 “ of the Island to another.

“ That there be also a reservation in a proper
 “ part of each township of one hundred acres
 “ for the scite of a church, and as a glebe for
 “ a Minister of the Gospel; and thirty acres
 “ for a school-master.

“ That in order to promote and encourage

“ the Fishery for which many parts are con-
 “ veniently situated there be a clause in the
 “ grant of each township that abuts upon
 “ the sea-shore, containing a reservation of
 “ liberty to all His Majesty’s subjects in general
 “ of carrying on a free Fishery on the coasts
 “ the said township, and of erecting stages and
 “ other necessary buildings for the said fishery
 “ within the distance of 500 feet from high-
 “ water mark.

“ That there be a reservation to His Ma-
 “ jesty, His Heirs, and Successors, of all
 “ mines of gold, silver, and coals.

“ That the Grantees of each Township do
 “ settle the same within ten years from the
 “ date of the Grant, in the proportion of one
 “ person for every two hundred acres.

“ That if one-third of the land is not set-
 “ tled in the above-mentioned proportion,
 “ within four years from the date of the grant,

“ the whole to be forfeited to His Majesty,
 “ His Heirs, and Successors.

“ That the settlers so to be introduced,
 “ be Protestants from such parts of Europe
 “ as are not within His Majesty’s dominions,
 “ or such persons as have resided in His
 “ Majesty’s dominions in America for two
 “ years antecedent to the date of the Grant.”

The Island being at this time annexed to the Province of Nova Scotia, a mandamus for each township under His Majesty’s manual and signet was issued to the individuals by whom the same had been drawn, which were directed to the governor of that province, commanding him to pass grants of the respective townships to them, their heirs, and assigns, on the above-recited terms and conditions. These mandamus’s generally bear date August 1767.

Thus was the whole Island, excepting the small reservations for the three intended county

towns given away in one day, and great expectations were formed of the effect of this plan for its settlement, the reports of the Surveyor General, Captain Holland, concurring with all the previous information given by the Military and Naval Officers who had been on service there, respecting its natural advantages, little less than the immediate and complete settlement of the Island to the great benefit of the adventurers was looked for. It soon appeared however, that nothing was farther from the intention of many of those from whom the necessary exertions for that purpose were expected, than to venture either their time or their money on the subject, some had not the means, and very few of them any inclination to embark in such an undertaking, they had made use of their interest to obtain what was expected to be a saleable commodity, and accordingly we find, that in a very short time many of the mandamus's were sold, without even taking out the grants which were necessary to secure a complete title to the property, which was the sub-

ject of the transaction ; at first some of the townships sold for a thousand pounds a piece, but so many of them came into the market that they soon fell to less than half that amount, the greatest number of those that were sold, fell into the hands of a few individuals who appear to have purchased them on speculation, without any intention of fulfilling the terms and conditions of settlement on which they were held, trusting to the general forbearance of government on that subject, there being no instance of any very rigid enforcement of such in any of the colonies. In 1768 a great majority of the Proprietors presented a Petition to the King, praying that the Island might be erected into a separate Government from Nova Scotia, and proposing that in order to defray the expence of the establishment they were desirous to commence paying the one-half of their quit rent from the 1st of May 1769, which by the terms of settlement, were only to become payable on Michaelmas next, after five years from the date of their respective Grants, and as

to the other half it was proposed to postpone the payment thereof for twenty years.

This proposal of the proprietors appearing to Government to be well calculated to accelerate the settlement of the Island, was accepted, and the prayer of their petition in every respect complied with; the offices on the new establishment were soon after filled up, and accepted on the faith of having their salaries regularly paid out of the quit rents, according to the proposal and undertaking of the proprietors, at whose instance the establishment had been created. In 1770 the governor and the other officers arrived on the Island, at which time there were not above 150 families thereon, and only five proprietors, and it soon appeared, that having succeeded in procuring the establishment of the separate government many of the proprietors relied on the operation of that measure for the settlement of the colony, as few of them made any attempt to comply with the

terms of settlement on which their lands were held; and the payment of the quit rents was as little thought of, for in five years after the arrival of the officers on the Island, the receipts of the Receiver General amounted to little more than would discharge two years salary to the establishment, which as may be easily conceived brought the officers into great distress and materially retarded the progress of the settlement.

What were the reasons that induced so many of the proprietors to abandon their engagements it is not easy to determine, unless it were that having received their lands from the favour of the Crown, their plan was either to sell them as soon as possible, or relying on the usual indulgence of Government with respect to the terms of settlement they expected to hold them until the exertions of the few proprietors and others who had or might settle in the Island, should render the country of more value of which they would benefit with-

out expence, risk, or exertion; be this as it may, it is certain that a great majority of them have never made any attempt to comply with the terms of settlement. in the mean time many of the townships in a totally unsettled state have been repeatedly sold, and have passed through various hands, most of whom have equally neglected the terms on which they are held, and the same system of speculating on the exertions, and future prospects of the colony has been too generally continued. By looking back at the terms of settlement it will be seen that the lands were to be settled in the proportion of one person to two hundred acres within ten years from the date of the Grant, and that if one-third of them was not settled in that proportion within four years from the date of the Grant, the whole was to become forfeited to His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors. The following statement will shew what was done by the proprietors from 1769 to 1779 in compliance with the terms of settlement: I take the townships numerically.

Lot 1	.....	Nothing
2	.....	ditto
3	.....	ditto
4	.....	ditto
5	.....	ditto
6	.....	ditto
7	.....	ditto
8	.....	ditto
9	.....	ditto
10	.....	ditto
11	.....	ditto
12	.....	ditto
13	.....	ditto
14	.....	ditto
15	.....	ditto
16	.....	ditto

On No. 17, Governor Patterson as agent for the proprietors, settled a number of Accadian French who were before living on an adjoining township, and were part of the inhabitants who were on the Island at the conquest ; how far this was complying with the terms of settlement, I shall not pretend to say.

No. 18, two of the proprietors of this township came to the Island in 1770, and another in that and the following year sent near three hundred people from Scotland to the Island.

Lot 19, on this township the proprietor settled a number of French Accadian Families in 1773, who had before been settled on a different part of the Island.

Lot 20, nothing done.

Lot 21, on this township a handsome settlement was begun in 1773, and carried on for several years at a considerable expence.

Lot 22, nothing done.

Lot 23, the settlement of this township was begun in 1773.

Lots 24, 25, 26, and 27, nothing done.

Lot 28, on this township a handsome settlement was begun by the proprietor, immediately after the same was granted.

Lots 29 and 30, nothing done.

Lot 31, on this township eight or ten families were settled by the proprietor in 1773.

Lots 32 and 33, nothing done.

Lot 34, on this township a handsome settlement was begun in 1770, and a considerable number of people sent out from Scotland by the proprietor.

Lot 35, on this township nothing done.

Lot 36, on this township between 1770 and 1772, about three hundred people were settled by the proprietor.

Lot 37, two families only were settled on this lot, by the proprietor in this period.

Lots 38 and 39, these townships belonged to the same person at this period, they were both considerably improved by the French, and at the first settlement of the Island, offered several advantages over most others, the proprietor early settled on the last, and acquired a number of settlers from other parts of the Island, particularly from among those brought to the Island by the proprietors of Townships Nos. 18 and 36.

Lot 40, this township like the two preceding, having been much improved by the French, the settlement of it was early begun but very few people was ever brought to the Island by its proprietors.

Lots 41 and 42, nothing done.

Lot 43, on this township a number of Acadian French were settled before the date of the Grant, and were permitted by the proprietor to remain, but nothing else towards its settlement was done during this period.

Lots 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51, nothing done.

Lot 52, the proprietors of this township sent out a considerable number of valuable settlers from Scotland in 1775, but unfortunately confided the management of their affairs to a person by whom they were either neglected, or so badly managed, that the settlement broke up in a year, and most of the people left the colony.

Lots 53, 54, 55, and 56, nothing done.

Lots 57 and 58, the proprietors of these townships sent nearly as many people to them in 1775, as would have settled them according to the terms of settlement, but like the proprietors of Lot 52, they confided the management to a person totally unqualified for such an undertaking, and the people were obliged to abandon the settlement; part of

them left the Island, and the rest settled on other lands.

Lot 59, two-thirds of this township, the property of the late Sir James Montgomery, Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer in Scotland, was early settled, and large sums of money advanced for that purpose.

Lots 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, and 67, nothing done.

Thus it appears that in the first ten years after the commencement of the settlement only nineteen of the 67 Townships were attempted to be settled, and of these only the proprietors of lots 18, 21, 28, 31, 34, 36, 52, 57, 58, and, 59, ever brought any considerable number of people to the Island.

The people settled on Townships No. 17, 19, 24, and 43, were French Accadians previously on the Island.

The proprietors of 23, 38, 39, and 40, brought but very few people to the Island.

One of the proprietors of lot 37 brought two families from New England, the other never did any thing; the greater part of the people settled on this township were brought to the Island by the proprietor of Township No. 36.

Of the 48 townships which were neglected during this period by their respective proprietors, the Lots 13, 14, and 35, were partly occupied by the people brought to the Island by the proprietors of Lots 18 and 36.

It may easily be conceived, that so many of the proprietors neglecting their lands was very injurious to the Island, and extremely discouraging to the few who had commenced the settlement on the faith of the whole taking their just proportion of the burthen thereof, and, in fact, the active proprietors were all great sufferers, though at this day, I believe there is

no person acquainted with the Island, but what will readily admit, that if the whole of the proprietors had been equally active, all must have been great gainers by the colony, which by this time would have been a populous, well-settled country: it has been alledged in excuse for this general failure on the part of the proprietors in performing their terms of settlement, that they were prevented by the American war, from engaging in the settlement of the Island; on which I have to observe, that by these terms one-third of of the required population was to be settled in five years from the date of the Grants, the mandamus for which, were issued in 1767, and all the Grants were or might have been taken out in that and the following year, it will not then be unreasonable to say, that active exertions might have been expected from all the proprietors immediately after they had procured the Island to be erected into a separate government, at all events the American war did not commence till April 1775,

and it surely was not more difficult for the whole to make a beginning before that period, than for the few who actually commenced the settlement, and who were by no means, with one or two exceptions, of the wealthiest class of the proprietors, at the same time a great majority of those who failed in performing their terms of settlement, were people of large fortune who were well able, had they been inclined to disburse the necessary sums required for that purpose.

This very extensive defalcation on the part of so many of the proprietors in performing the terms of settlement, was very distressing and severely felt by most of those who had engaged therein, they had to begin mostly on new lands, and to import a great part of their daily subsistence from other countries, they were scattered in small settlements at a great distance from each other, in a country tóally without roads, and

many of the first settlers either from their own ignorance, or that of those by whom they were sent to the Island, were lauded without provisions or any means of support, and many on that account were obliged to abandon the settlement, which brought much unjust odium on the colony, for as too often happens, men were willing to attribute their failure to any thing but their own misconduct or imprudence. Though a good many people were thus lost to the Island, industry and perseverance enabled those who remained gradually to surmount their difficulties, and as they acquired experience of the climate and soil, they became more firmly attached to the country.

His Majesty having been graciously pleased by His Royal Commission to the Governor, under the Great Seal of Great-Britain, to grant a complete Constitution to the Colony, and the Royal Instructions having directed the Governor to put the same in operation, by calling a General Assembly as soon as he should

judge the Island to be in such a state of settlement as to admit thereof: His Majesty's gracious intentions were carried into effect in 1773, by the meeting of the first legislature of the Island, since which it has met regularly as in the other colonies. Various laws suited to the situation and circumstances of the colony have been passed, and a foundation laid for raising a permanent revenue for the support of Government. One of the first objects which engaged the attention of the legislature was the failure of the proprietors in paying their quit rents for the support of the officers on the civil establishment, to remedy which, an act was passed to regulate and enforce the future payment of the quit rents, which soon after received His Majesty's Royal Assent: but the Governor unwilling at that time to disoblige the proprietors, many of whom were people of high rank and consequence, did not venture for some time to execute this law: and soon after returning to England himself, meetings of the proprietors were held in Lon-

don, at which it was determined to apply to Government to place the civil establishment of the Island on the same footing as the other new colonies. Accordingly in 1776, at a time when most of them had failed in paying their quit rents, and the officers were suffering much for want of their salaries, the proprietors presented a memorial to Lord George Germain, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, stating therein, that they had paid their quit rents, but that some of the proprietors had failed in such payment, whereby the distress of the officers had happened, and proposing that in future the civil establishment of the Island should be put on the same footing as the other colonies, and provided for by an annual grant of parliament, and what seems very extraordinary, *the said memorial was signed indiscriminately, as well by those who had not, as those who had paid their quit rents.* It having become evident, that the establishment could not be supported on so precarious a fund as that arising from the quit

rents, Government was pleased to approve of this proposal, and the establishment of the Island has ever since been provided for by parliament upon an annual estimate. At this time, however, large arrears of salary were due to the officers on the establishment who had been reduced to such distress, that the Governor was obliged to make use of the sum of three thousand pounds granted by Parliament in 1772 for the erection of public buildings in the Colony, for the support of himself, and the other officers : that this sum might be replaced, and applied to the purposes for which it was granted, and provision made for paying off the arrears due to the officers on the civil establishment. The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury were pleased to direct by a minute dated August 7th, 1776,

*“ That the arrears of the quit rent now due,
 “ and the growing quit rents until the first
 “ of May 1779, to which term His Majesty has
 “ relinquished the same for the benefit of the
 “ Island, should be applied in the first place,*

“ to the payment of the Officers of the Civil
 “ Establishment of the Island up to the first of
 “ January next, † and if after discharging the
 “ same, there shall be any surplus, their Lord-
 “ ships order the same to be applied to the
 “ making of roads, and other public works
 “ within the Island, and My Lords direct the
 “ former, as well as the present Receiver-
 “ General of the Island, to apply all such
 “ sums of money as shall be in their hands to
 “ the above purposes, and to take all proper
 “ means to enforce the payment of the arrears, and
 “ the accruing quit rents, and recover the same.
 “ And My Lords direct, that such of the Civil
 “ Officers as shall have received any money out
 “ of the sum of three thousand pounds, granted
 “ by Parliament for the benefit of the Island,
 “ after receipt of their arrears do refund the
 “ same, in order that the whole of that money
 “ may be applied to the purposes for which the
 “ same was granted.” A copy of this minute

† On which day the estimate voted by Parliament commenced.

was delivered to the Governor for his information and guidance, but having so recently succeeded in getting the establishment provided for in the manner mentioned, chiefly through the interest of some of the proprietors, he did not think proper immediately to enforce the measures directed by this minute, nor was there any receiver of the quit rents then on the Island to carry the directions thereof into effect, so that nothing was attempted to be done under the authority of this minute till four years afterwards; of the transactions which then took place, an account shall be given in its proper place.

Upon Governor Patterson's return to England in 1775, the government of the Island devolved upon the late Mr. Attorney General Callbeck as Senior Member of His Majesty's Council, the Lieutenant-Governor being also absent. Towards the close of the year, two occurrences happened, which were at the time very distressing to individuals, and in-

jurious to the progress of the settlement. In the beginning of November a ship valuably loaded from London, with a number of settlers on board, suffered shipwreck on the north side of the Island; the people were saved, but their effects and the cargo were almost totally lost; the small part that was recovered, having been long under water, turned out of very little value, the effects of this disaster were for a long time severely felt. Soon after two American armed vessels which had been sent by Congress to cruize in the Gulph of St. Lawrence for the purpose of intercepting some ordnance store ships then supposed to be on their voyage for Quebec, having failed in that object, thought fit to visit Charlotte Town the Capital of the Island, which was at this time totally unprotected; they landed before the hostile nature of their visit was known or even suspected, and immediately made prisoners of Mr. Callbeck, the President, and the other officers of Government, and proceeded to plunder the place, taking every thing that was

of any value, they also carried off Mr. Callbeck and Mr. Wright a Member of the Council, and Surveyor-General of the Island : upon the arrival of these gentlemen at the headquarters of the American army then at Cambridge in New England, it appeared that the rebel officers had acted in this manner totally without any orders from their superiors ; they were immediately dismissed from their commands, and told by General Washington, in their own style, “ That they had done those things which they ought not to have done, and left undone those things which it was their duty to have done ;” their prisoners were immediately discharged with many polite expressions of regret for their sufferings, and the plundered property was all honourably restored.

From this descent, and our lying so near the tract to Quebec, it became evident, that without protection, the colony would become liable to many such visits, to guard us against

which the admiral commanding in America was directed by government early in the ensuing year, to station an armed vessel at Charlotte Town, for the protection of the Island, and in May the Diligent armed brig, commanded by Lieutenant, now Admiral Dodd, arrived for that purpose. In the month of November Mr. Dodd was relieved by the Hunter sloop of war, Captain Boyle, who wintered with us, and remained on the station till November 1777. This ship arrived at a very critical period for our protection, as our neighbours in the county of Cumberland in Nova Scotia, encouraged by the arrival among them of about thirty rebels in two whale boats, from Machaias in Massachusetts, broke out into open rebellion and laid siege to Fort Cumberland, then garrisoned by a newly-raised provincial corps under the command of Colonel, afterwards Major-General Goreham, at that time in a very incomplete state. By these rascals a second plundering expedition to Charlotte Town was intended, but having no craft to carry off a number of

dismounted cannon then lying about the ruins of Fort Amherst, which was one of their objects, they first paid a visit to the Harbour of Pictou in our neighbourhood, where several of the inhabitants joining them they got possession of a valuable armed merchant ship, then loading at that port for Scotland, but not knowing exactly in what state of defence the Island might be in, they stood up into the Bay of Verte, in order to receive from their associates, then engaged in the siege of Fort Cumberland, a reinforcement of men; just at this period the Hunter arrived, and in her way to Charlotte Town having retaken a sloop which had become one of their prizes at Pictou, she was immediately fitted out by Captain Boyle, and sent after the ship under the command of Lieutenant, now Admiral George Keppel, who coming up with the ship next day in the Bay of Verte, found that in consequence of the defeat of the rebels at Fort Cumberland by the arrival of reinforcements from Halifax, she had been given up to the Mate; the rebels making their escape

on shore. She was then brought into Charlotte Town by Mr. Keppel, and given up to her commander, who not thinking it safe in the then state of that part of Nova Scotia to return to Pictou, she remained the winter with us.

In 1777 besides the protection afforded us by the Hunter sloop of war, Mr. Callbeck, the president, was directed by Lord George Germaine, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, to raise an independant company for the defence of the Island, but most of those who were inclined to become soldiers, had previously enlisted with different recruiting officers who had come to the Island to raise men for the two new regiments commanded by Colonels Maclean and Goreham, from which circumstance and the small number of people then in the colony, this company, which was always weak never was compleated : this deficiency was, however, amply made up to the Island in the ensuing year by the care and attention of government ; four provincial companies being sent

from New York under the command of Major Hierliky, an old officer; and at the same time the commanding engineer in Nova Scotia was directed to erect barracks for their accommodation, and also such necessary works of defence as were suitable to the situation and circumstances of the Island. From this period, excepting now and then a few sheep taken at distant parts of the Island, by the enemy's privateers men, and the robbery of some valuable property from the Harbour of George Town, the Island remained perfectly undisturbed during the remainder of the war; the frigates which annually brought out the Quebec convoys, generally spent part of the summer with us, by them and other cruising ships which were occasionally sent into the Gulph, several of the enemy's armed ships captured in our neighbourhood were brought into Charlotte Town and their crews landed, and afterwards sent over to Nova Scotia, and marched through the woods to Halifax, under the escort of detachments from our small garrison.

In the latter end of October 1779, part of the Hessian regiment of Knyphausen, on their way from New York to Quebec under convoy of the *Camilla* twenty gun ship, commanded by Captain, afterwards Sir John Collins, meeting with very hard gales of wind, in the River St. Laurence, were obliged to give up the attempt to get to Quebec, and came into the harbour of Charlotte Town, where the troops were landed, as being the nearest spot to their place of destination in which they could be accommodated; there was no barracks for them, but being a veteran corps, commanded by Colonel De Borck, an experienced officer, they soon huddled themselves in a most comfortable manner, many of them when landed were ill with intermittent fevers, and I have already had occasion to notice the rapid effect our climate had in restoring them to health.

So great an accession to our numbers not having been foreseen at head-quarters, our commissaries' stores were of course not pro-

vided for them, but the deficiency was amply made up from the produce of the Island, which was purchased by Government for their supply, a circumstance which considering the infant state of the colony, and our small numbers may be mentioned to the credit of our agriculture in that early period of the settlement. The Hessians staid with us till the month of June following : both officers and men were much pleased with the Island, and some of the latter found their way back to it many years afterwards, from the heart of Germany.

In 1780 Governor Patterson returned to the Island from England ; and there being no receiver of the quit rents on the Island, he appointed Mr. Nisbet, his brother-in-law, then Clerk of the Council, to the office of Receiver of the Quit Rents, and under colour of the Treasury Minute, dated the 7th of August, 1776, which has been already given, he directed him early in 1781, to commence proceedings

in the Supreme Court of the Island, against all the townships enumerated in the act of 1773, which were then in arrear of quit rents, and in November following brought nine whole, and five half townships to the hammer ; these sales were soon after complained of to government, and upon some enquiry into the transaction a bill for regulating the future proceedings in the recovery of the quit rents was prepared in 1783, and sent to the Island, and the Governor was directed to lay the same before the legislature to be enacted into a colonial law ; in this bill a clause was inserted, making the sales of 1781 voidable, and allowing the original proprietors to re-enter into possession of the lands then sold under the Quit-Rent Act of 1773, upon the repayment of the purchase money, interest, and charges incurred by the purchasers and a fair allowance for such improvements as might have been made on the lands since the sale thereof : the purchasers on their parts accounting with the original proprietors for the receipts, issues, and profits. In the recital

which which led to this enacting clause, the circumstances attending the sales in 1781, were stated differently from what really took place. Taking advantage of this misstatement, the Governor instead of obeying the order, and laying the bill before the Assembly, submitted the business to the consideration of the Council, who were equally implicated with himself by this recital, and it was finally resolved to transmit to the Secretary of State, a representation of all the circumstances attending the sales in 1781, and to rely on that representation as a justification for not obeying the order to lay the bill before the Assembly.

This representation when taken into consideration by the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, did not appear to justify in the opinion of the Board, the conduct of the Governor in withholding the bill from the Assembly, but no order was for some time made thereon.

In the mean time the Governor who was resolved to make every exertion to retain the lands, determined to be provided with an House of Representatives if possible, such as he could rely upon for supporting his views, in case he should be again ordered to propose to the Legislature an act for making the sales voidable; accordingly early in 1784 he dissolved the Assembly by proclamation, and in March following a general election took place, and the Legislature soon after met, when it soon appeared, that the Governor had not succeeded in his object, for the House of Representatives entered into enquiries respecting different acts of his administration, and seemed particularly disposed to condemn the management at the sale of the lands sold in 1781, although neither they, nor any other person in the Island, were then acquainted with the proceedings that had taken place in England on the subject, which had only been communicated by the Governor to the Council under their oath of secrecy; after various sharp messages and replies be-

tween the House of Representatives, and the Governor, that body resolved upon presenting a complaint to the King, and were employed in preparing the same when they were dissolved by Proclamation.

The Governor spent the remainder of 1784, in taking more effectual measures for securing at the next general election the return of a House of Representatives which should be more favourable to him than the last, besides the object of being prepared for an order which he had reason to expect from England directing him to lay before the Assembly the bill for making the sales of 1781 voidable ; he had now to provide for taking off any impression which the charges made against him by the last House of Representatives, might make at office in this country ; this he naturally thought would be most effectually done by their successors putting his conduct in an opposite light in their addresses and proceedings, and a variety of circumstances concurred

which were favourable to his views and interest : in consequence of the evacuation of New York the preceding autumn a number of the loyalists and disbanded troops came to seek a settlement on the Island, who were chiefly dependent on him in respect to the distribution of the donations allowed by the bounty of Government to enable them to commence their new settlements with advantage, he had also the direction of locating them on the lands on which they were to be placed, no inconsiderable part of which, consisted of the lands sold in 1781. From these circumstances, by far the greatest part of these new settlers became interested in his support, he also found means to divide his opponents, and to buy some of them off, and in March 1785, he again ventured to try the success of a general election, on which occasion he succeeded in securing the return of a House of Representatives which was perfectly to his mind, and ready to support all his measures, this was not accomplished however without a severe struggle,

much illegal conduct, and an enormous expence, considering our small numbers and the infant state of the colony †.

The Legislature met in a few days after the election, but no farther directions respecting the lands sold in 1781 having been yet received from England, the subject was not mentioned during the session, which was chiefly spent in adopting such measures as were deemed necessary to do away any impression the proceedings of the last House of Representatives might make against the Governor, who was represented in their addresses and proceedings as the best of men, while all that opposed him were stigmatized as factious and unprincipled. At the next session which commenced in March 1786, the Governor being still without any orders from England relative to the sales of 1781, and being now secure of

† It will no doubt surprise my English readers to be told that this election cost the Governor and his friends near two thousand pounds sterling.

the unanimous support of the Legislature, determined on a measure which he expected would secure against all future attempts, the purchasers at these sales ; for this purpose a bill was brought into the Lower House and soon after passed into a law, entitled, “ *An Act to render good and valid in law, all and every of the Proceedings in the years one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, which in any respect related to, or concerned the suing, seizing, condemning, or selling of the Lots or Townships herein-after mentioned, or any part thereof.*” This audacious attempt immediately decided Government with respect to Mr. Patterson, who was soon after superceded ; His Majesty’s disallowance of the act being at the same time signified, and the bill for making the sales voidable also returned, with directions to lay it before the Assembly. Before the arrival of Lieutenant-Governor Fanning, who was appointed to succeed Mr. Patterson, the latter met the Assembly, and

laid the bill before them which they immediately rejected ; it was not indeed to be expected, that the same men who had only six months before passed an act to confirm these sales should so soon adopt a directly contrary measure which would have deprived them of all pretence to propriety or consistency of conduct. It appears however, that Mr. Patterson was at last seriously alarmed, and determined to make an effort to satisfy the proprietors of the sold lands, and if possible to conciliate government, for which purpose a private bill was brought forward, stated to be at the request of the purchasers in 1781, and passed into a law for restoring the lands then sold, to their original proprietors : but this mode of proceeding was entirely disapproved of, and the act disallowed ; besides the objections to the manner in which the measure was brought forward, the provisions of this act left it much in the power of the purchasers at the sales in 1781, to load the property to be restored with such an accu-

mulation of expence as might perhaps equal its full value : and it also confirmed all alienations of any parts of the lands while in the hands of the purchasers, whether the same had been made for a valuable consideration or otherwise.

Thus disappointed the proprietors preferred a criminating complaint to His Majesty against Lieutenant Governor Patterson and others therein named, being members of His Majesty's council in the Island, in respect to their conduct with regard to these sales and their resistance to the measures directed by Government for the relief of the complainants, and in 1789 an investigation of the said complaint took place before the Right Hon. Committee of the Privy Council for trade, plantations, when it was determined by the committee, that the reasons alledged in behalf of the respondents, did not justify their conduct in the transactions complained of: in consequence of this decision the members of the Colonial Council implicated

in the complaint were dismissed from their seats at that board, and the Attorney General of the Island from his office; Mr. Patterson having been previously dismissed, and the object of the complaint in regard to him obtained, no farther notice was taken of his conduct. It was expected that this proceeding would have been followed by a final determination respecting the fate of the lands which were the object of so much controversy, yet neither on this occasion nor at any time since, has any directions been given by Government on the subject, and the proprietors on their parts have been equally silent thereon.

But in 1792, when the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade and Plantations, were engaged in investigating certain other complaints from the Island which I shall have occasion to notice hereafter, an attempt was made to charge the then Colonial Government, with being confederated with their predecessors in opposition to the restoration of the lands sold

in 1781, and it required some exertion to repel the charge, though the same was perfectly groundless. It appearing on this occasion to be still the opinion of that Board, that these lands should be restored to the original proprietors or their representatives: at the next meeting of the Colonial Legislature, an act was passed for rescinding, annulling, and making void the sales in 1781, and permitting the original proprietors or their representatives to re-enter into possession; but as this measure was adopted without any directions from office on the subject, merely in consequence of what passed on the above occasion, it was thought necessary to annex to the act a clause suspending its operation in every respect, until His Majesty's Royal Assent thereto should be signified, in the usual form.

When this proceeding was known in this country, a petition was presented on the part of some of the purchasers under the sales in 1781, praying to be heard by their counsel against the pas-

sing of this law, which petition with the act being referred to the consideration of the Committee of His Majesty's most honorable Privy Council for trade and foreign plantations, *Doctor Lawrence* was heard before the Committee on behalf of the late Mr. Richard Burke, junior, who had become a purchaser under the sales in 1781, on this occasion the opinion of the Right Hon. Committee seemed to be much changed with respect to these sales from what it had formerly been, and the result has been that the act passed by the legislature of the Island in 1792 never received His Majesty's royal assent, and has been entirely laid aside; nor has any other proceedings been adopted on the subject either on the part of Government or the original proprietors, of course the lands which were the object of this measure have ever since remained in the quiet and peaceable possession of those claiming under the sales in 1781; some of them have passed through various hands and are parcelled out among a number of purchasers, and they have in some

instances become securities for debts, and in others the objects of testamentary and family settlements, in perfect confidence that the claims of the original proprietors, whatever may be their grounds, cannot now after the lapse of so many years, be again brought forward with any effect †.

‡ It appears by the different proceedings before the Privy Council to have been always the intention of Government, that in the event of these lands being restored to the original proprietors by any legislative proceeding in the Island, that they or their representatives should on such restoration pay to the purchasers under the sales in 1781, the amount for which these lands were then sold, a measure which necessarily grew out of the circumstance of their having been sold for the arrears of quit then due on them. This many of the original proprietors or those acting for them, do not seem at any time willing to have complied with, and it would appear that since the rejection of the act passed in 1792 for their relief, they have given up all ideas of any farther proceedings on the subject, not thinking the property worth their acceptance on the proposed terms. Of the lands sold in 1781, the half Township, No. 18, was confirmed to the purchaser at these sales for a valuable consideration. The half Township, No. 26, has been restored to the representative of the original proprietor on the terms of the bill sent out in 1783, for making the sales voidable. The Township, No. 32 has been restored to the representative of the original grantee, by a compromise with the person into whose hands it fell since the sale of 1781. The Township, No. 35, has also been restored to the original proprietor by a private agreement. The half Township, No. 48,

As these sales, with the different proceedings to which they have given rise agitated the colony for some years, and were much talked of in this country among those connected with the Island, and having also become an object of inquiry before the Privy Council, I thought that this account of the proceedings to which they have given rise, would be acceptable to people interested in the colony.

Having already stated what was done towards complying with the terms of settlement from the commencement thereof, until 1779, inclusive, I shall now proceed to state what attempts were made during the next twenty years, for complying with these terms as the

not having been improved by the purchaser, the original proprietor finding no person in possession re-entered without opposition. The Township, No. 49 was recovered by the original proprietor by a suit at law. The half Township, No. 65, has been confirmed to the possessor under the sale in 1781 by a private agreement with the representative of the original grantee. And the half Townships, Nos. 17 and 25, and the Townships, No. 24, 31, 33, 57, and No. 67 remain in the hands of proprietors deriving their titles under the sales of 1781,

surest criterion on which a judgment can be formed how far the progress of the settlement has answered the exertions that have been made ; this seems to me the more necessary, as on one hand the proprietors are said to have done nothing towards settling the colony, and on the other some of them have claimed much credit for expenditure and exertions, of which nothing has ever been known in the Island, but which have been clamorously stated to Government as a ground of farther indulgence with respect to the payment of their quit rents.

It has been already shewn, that of the sixty-seven Townships into which the Island is divided, that on ten only, were the terms of settlement in respect to population complied with in the first ten years from the commencement of the settlement, and that forty-eight Townships were totally neglected during this period by their respective proprietors. During the period now under consideration, I may be per-

mitted to say without offence, that the exertions of the proprietors were feeble in proportion to their obligations, and the length of time the period embraces, and the opportunities it afforded as the following summary will shew.

Townships Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, nothing done.

Township No. 5. The proprietor of this township, in 1783, resigned one fourth thereof for the accommodation of such American loyalists and disbanded troops as might claim the same; in consequence of which a few people under that description, had lands laid out to them thereon, but it being at that time at a great distance from any inhabitants they never settled upon them. In 1786 a fishery was established on this Township, and in the course of a few years several vessels were built, a saw-mill was erected and a considerable quantity of timber exported, but little or nothing was done towards peopling or cultivating the soil, which should certainly have had precedence of every

other consideration if compliance with the terms on which it is granted was intended.

Township No. 6. This township has been claimed by the same proprietor as the preceding for many years past, but only three families were settled on it during this period.

Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, nothing done.

No. 13, On this lot it has been already observed that a few people brought to the Island by other proprietors settled early, but nothing was done during this period by the proprietors in compliance with the terms of settlement.

No. 14, On this lot like the preceding nothing was done by the proprietor during this period, but some people settled on it of their own accord.

No. 15, Nothing done.

No. 16, The proprietor of this township in 1783, resigned one fourth part thereof for the accommodation of such American loyalists and disbanded troops as might chuse to settle thereon, and some people of that description took up part of these resigned lands, but that and the acquisition of a few settlers from other parts of the Island, has been all that the proprietor ever did for its cultivation.

No. 17, Some loyalists were settled on this township in 1785, which, together with the French people we before-mentioned as settled on it has fully compleated the required amount of population.

Lot 18, The proprietors of this township having early in the settlement sent three hundred people to the Island, its cultivation and improvement has ever since been making gradual advances, in which respect however it has

been much injured by the temptation which the neglected state of the neighbouring townships have offered to its settlers, many of whom have removed and settled on such lands, with the hope of acquiring a right to their possessions by time, or the default of the proprietors in performing their terms of settlement.

Lot 19, In 1783 one-fourth of this township was resigned for the benefit of the loyalists and disbanded troops, several of whom took up grants thereon.

Lot 20, On this township a considerable number of people were settled during this period, but they were such as came to the colony of themselves without any encouragement from, or connection with, the proprietors.

Lot 21, The settlement of this township was commenced early in our first period as we have already seen, and though from a concurrence of unfortunate circumstances it has

not advanced in proportion latterly, it is still going on.

Lot 22, Nothing done.

Lot 23, Though the settlement of this township began early it has yet made no great progress in comparison with many others.

Lot 24, This township is one of those which were sold for non-payment of quit-rents in 1781, and though the uncertainty with respect to the ultimate fate of these sales, for some time operated as a discouragement to those into whose hands it fell; considerable exertions have been made for its settlement and it is now one of the most populous on the Island.

Lot 25, The settlement of this township was begun in 1785, and it has since been making gradual advances. Its improvement has been much retarded by a dispute relative to

the property of one half of the township which is not yet settled.

Lot 26, On this township a settlement was begun in 1785, and one of the proprietors || has advanced large sums for its improvement, the settlers on it have rendered themselves conspicuous by raising more wheat in proportion to their numbers than any other people on the Island. They are chiefly composed of American loyalists and their success proves, what might have been expected from that description of people, had any considerable numbers of them been brought to the Island, instead of being encouraged, and in some measure compelled, by the overbearing influence of a few individuals, to settle themselves on the barren foggy shores of the southern coast of Nova Scotia.

Lot 27, This township was long neglected by its proprietors ; but in 1790 a settlement on one half of it was begun, and it has now pro-

|| Robert Gordon, Esq. of the Island of St. Vincent.

bably the required amount of population on it; the other moiety has been entirely neglected.

Lot 28, The settlement of this township early begun as has already been mentioned, has been making a steady progress in improvement and population.

Lot 29, On this township nothing done during this period.

Lot 30, On this township a settlement was begun in 1785, but has made very little progress, a circumstance chiefly to be attributed to its local situation, and the neglected state of the adjoining townships; its proprietor the late Lord Chief Baron of Scotland, having made great efforts for the settlement of his property in the Island, and advanced his money liberally for that purpose.

Lots 31 and 32, On the first of these town-

ships, it has been seen that a settlement was early commenced, and it soon after spread to the other, but as they were both included in the sales of 1781, the uncertainty in which the property stood pending the proceedings consequent to that transaction, the improvement of them during this period was much retarded.

Lot 33, On this township nothing was done during this period more than permitting some families from the adjoining township, No. 34, to settle thereon.

Lot 34, The settlement of this township early begun at a considerable expence, has been steadily advancing ever since.

Lots 35 and 36, The first of these townships was one of those sold in 1781, and in 1794 restored to its original proprietor in consequence of a private agreement between the parties, it was early occupied as has been already mentioned by people brought to the Island by the pro-

prietor of Lot 36, whose property it now is, both townships are considerably improved.

Lot 37, This township has been many years in an advancing state of improvement, though neither of its original proprietors ever contributed any thing farther to its population than the two families which one of them brought to the Island in an early stage of the settlement as I have already noticed.

Lots 38 and 39, These townships with one third of the adjacent Lot, No. 40, were at the commencement of the settlement the property of the same person (the late Captain George Burns) the most fortunate adventurer that has hitherto speculated in lands on the Island, for owing to the circumstance of a great part of the front of these townships having been cleared by the French previous to the conquest of the Island, they soon became in request, and for many years have been gradually selling off

in small tracts for which large prices have been given.

Lot 40, This like the two preceding having been early settled, has been gradually advancing in improvement.

Lots 41 and 42, The settlement of these townships did not commence till 1793, but they have since been advancing rapidly in population.

Lot 43, This Township as has been mentioned in the summary of the first ten years having been occupied early by the original French inhabitants, is now in a considerably advanced state of improvement and population.

Lot 44, The settlement of this Township only commenced in 1797.

Lot, 45 and 46, Nothing done on these townships during this period.

Lot 47, The settlement of this township was begun in 1784, and for many years it made little progress, but has since advanced rapidly.

Lot 48, The settlement of this township commenced in 1784 and has been gradually advancing.

Lot 49, The settlement of this Township commenced only in 1792, but having been sold off in small lots, it has made a very rapid progress.

Lot 50, The settlement of this township commenced in 1784, and is now in a very forward state.

Lot 51, On this township nothing done.

Lot 52, Since the ill-managed attempt that has been already noticed to settle this township, nothing has been done.

Lot 53, Nothing done on this township during this period.

Lot 54, The settlement of this township commenced in 1788.

Lot 55, Nothing was ever done by the proprietor toward the settlement of this township ; but in 1793, a considerable number of people sat down on it of their own accord without any agreement with the proprietor.

Lot 56, The settlement of this township commenced in 1784 by the proprietor giving up a fourth thereof to the American Loyalists and disbanded troops, some of whom obtained lands thereon.

Lot 57 and 58, The unsuccessful attempt to settle these townships in our first period has been already noticed, during this period they remained entirely unoccupied.

Lot 59, The early settlement of this township and the exertions made were noticed in our first period ; in 1784 very considerable farther

advances were made by the proprietor for that purpose.

Lot 60, Nothing done.

Lot 61, On this Township a few families were settled during this period, but these were people previously on the Island, and cost the proprietor nothing.

Lot 62, Nothing done.

Lot 63 and 64, The settlement of these townships commenced in 1788, since which very considerable sums have been laid out in their improvement.

Lot 65, The settlement of this township commenced in 1784.

Lot 66, Nothing done.

Lot 67, Nothing done.

Such was the state of the different townships into which the Island is divided in regard to population at the end of the year 1799 thirty years after the commencement of the settlement, and when I add that by far the greater part of those who settled in the last twenty years, came to the Island without any expence or exertion on the part of the proprietors, some judgment may be formed of what might have been done in the improvement and cultivation of the country, had they been generally disposed to make any thing like reasonable exertions for that purpose ; that their failure in this respect was generally and severely felt by every intelligent man in the colony may easily be conceived, they had seen in this period, thousands of their fellow-subjects from Great Britain and Ireland emigrate to the United States of America, either to perish by the effects of an unhealthy climate, or to augment the numbers and strength of the enemies of their country, and were sensible that a very little exertion on the part of the proprietors

would have sent a great many of them to this Island, where their industry and prosperity would have been highly valuable to their country; and where in a maritime situation congenial to their habits, they would have preserved the happiness of being still British subjects connected with their country, protected by its power, and governed by its laws, and to which a return would be comparatively easy if they should be so disposed.*

In 1797 two years short of the period to which I have brought up this summary of the state of the lands in point of settlement, applications were made to the assembly praying for some proceeding on their part which should

* Advantages the loss of which I am confident are poorly compensated even on the fruitful banks of the Ohio, coupled with all the mortifications they have to submit to, among a people whose principal enjoyments appear to arise from insulting and abusing that country from which they derive their origin; and where a general deterioration of the morals of society is rapidly laying the foundations of new revolutions which must finally at no very distant period lay their turbulent republican liberty at the feet of some bold adventurer whose power and success may promise society a respite from the miseries of anarchy and civil war,

bring the subject under the consideration of His Majesty's ministers, that body having taken the matter up, after a strict enquiry and mature deliberation, came to the following resolutions with the hope of putting the subject in as clear and forcible a light as possible.

1st, Resolved that it appears to this house after having fully investigated with the strictest attention the state of the lands in this Island, That Lots or Townships, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 22, 29, 44, 45, 46, 51, 52, 53, 57, 58, 60, 62, 66, and 67 containing in the whole 458,580 acres, have not one settler resident thereon.

2d, Resolved that Lots or Townships, Nos. 4, 5, 6, 11, 23, 30, 31, 55, 61, 63, 64, and 65 containing together 243,000 have only between them, thirty-six families, which upon an average of six persons to a family, amount to two hundred and sixteen persons residing thereon,

and that these lots, together with those above enumerated comprehend upwards of one half of this Island.

a

3dly, Resolved, That Lots or Township, Nos. 13, 14, 20, 25, 27, and 42 comprehending one hundred and twenty thousand acres, are settled respectively as follows, viz. No. 13, nine families, No. 14, eight families, No. 20, nine families, No. 25, nine families, No. 27, seven families, and No. 42, eight families calculated at the foregoing average, to consist of three hundred persons.

4th, Resolved, That the following townships are settled agreeable to the terms of the grants, viz. Nos. || 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 32,

|| A Township is understood to be settled according to the terms of the grant, when its population amounts to one hundred souls, several of those enumerated in this resolution contained at this period two or three hundred souls each ; though some of them, I am confident, were short of the required numbers, and it is also to be observed that the state of each township in respect to population, is put down without regard to the circumstance, that the same was obtained by the voluntary resort of people in some instances to

33, 34, 35, 36, 37. 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 56, and 59.

5th, Resolved, That it appears to this house, that although the Townships No. 7, half No. 12, No. 30, and No. 51, are not settled according to the terms and conditions of the grants, the proprietor, the Right Hon. James Montgomery, Lord Chief Baron of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer in Scotland, has been ever active in his exertions, and has expended large sums of money in the settlement of other lands in this Island. Also that the following persons, Mr. Edward Lewis, and Mr. John Hill, proprietors of township, No. 5, and the late partnership of John Cambridge and company, proprietors of Townships, Nos. 63, and 64, have made different attempts to settle them, beside expending considerable sums of money thereon.

different townships, without the interference or even the knowledge of the proprietors, from which it will evidently appear that there was no intention on the part of the house to exaggerate the evil complained of.

6th, Resolved, That it appears to this house, that the failure of so many of the proprietors in performing the terms and conditions of their grants has been highly injurious to the growth and prosperity of this Island, ruinous to its inhabitants, and destructive of the just expectations and views of Government in its colonization and settlement.

7th, Resolved, That it is the opinion of this house, that the various indulgencies and long forbearance of Government towards the proprietors who have failed in performing the terms and conditions of their grants, have had no other effect than enabling them to retain their lands without exertion or expence, speculating on the industry of the colony, and the disbursements of a few active proprietors in forwarding the settlement thereof.

8th, Resolved, That it appears to this house, and seems universally admitted that this Island was it fully settled, is adequate to the main-

tenance of upwards of half a million of inhabitants ; and in which case it would be of great importance to the mother country, not only in the consumption of its manufactures, but as a nursery for seamen from a very extensive fishery which might be carried on around its coasts independent of the commerce which from its other productions would naturally arise.

9th, Resolved, That it appears to this house that the progress which has been made in the neighbouring colonies, and their flourishing state and rapid increase in population since the close of the American war, is chiefly to be attributed to the general escheat and forfeiture which has taken place of all the unsettled grants, and the regranting of such lands in small tracts to actual settlers.

10th, Resolved, That it appears to this house that the greatest part of the population and improvements in the neighbouring provinces,

are situated upon lands escheated as above-mentioned, and which had been originally granted nearly at the same time, and on similar terms and conditions with the land of this Island.

The facts set forth in these resolutions were stated to Government in the form of a petition from the Assembly, concluding with a prayer, that such measures might be taken as were necessary to compel all the Proprietors to fulfil the terms and conditions on which their lands were granted, or that the same should be escheated, and regranted in small tracts to actual settlers, on such terms and conditions as His Majesty might be graciously pleased to direct. And the Lieutenant-Governor was requested to forward the said representation and petition to England, and at the same time to represent that the Assembly had no other views than bringing the facts stated in the resolutions fairly before His Majesty's ministers, confident that all His Majesty's subjects in the Island would cheer-

fully and dutifully conform themselves to whatever determination might be made thereon.

This representation, which was addressed to his Grace the Duke of Portland, in whose department as Secretary of State, the management of colonial affairs then rested, was well received, and his Grace was pleased soon after to inform the Lieutenant-Governor had been taken into consideration by His Majesty's confidential servants, and that as soon as the state of public affairs admitted thereof, such a determination on the subject should be made as would not fail to remedy the evil complained of.

Though this proceeding was very agreeable to a great majority of the Island, and became to a certain extent a duty upon the Assembly, judging from what they had seen done in the neighbouring colonies; yet it must be confessed, that the cases were not perfectly similar, and that however faulty or inadequate the

plan adopted for the settlement of the colony had hitherto proved, it had certainly made too great a progress to be materially changed without greatly injuring the proprietors who had hitherto carried on the settlement, who on their parts were decidedly against the proposed change while any other adequate means remained in the power of Government to compel all the proprietors to comply with the terms on which their lands were held.

This state of things placed the colonial government for many years in a very disagreeable and difficult predicament, it was impossible not to feel severely the extensive injury arising from the neglect of so many of the proprietors in leaving their lands in a waste and uncultivated state, whereby the colony was subjected to all the evils and inconveniences of a feeble and unnecessarily protracted state of infancy, at the same time any proceeding whereby such lands should generally become

forfeited for non-performance of the terms of settlement, was liable to many weighty objections which could not be easily overlooked. What was to become of the interest of the proprietors who had hitherto carried on the settlement of the colony in the event of such a proceeding taking place, many of them had invested their all in its success, and it was principally by their perseverance and exertions, that it was enabled to overcome all the early difficulties incident to such undertakings, difficulties of which it is not now easy to form an adequate idea, and which nothing could have enabled them to surmount but the most enthusiastic attachment to the country, and the hopes that a steady perseverance in their object would finally be crowned with success, whereby they would be enabled to leave handsome properties to their families ; yet it is evident that they would be the first and principal sufferers by any proceeding whereby the lands on which the

terms of settlement have not been fulfilled should become forfeited ; though the greatest part of such lands it is true were the property of non-residents many of them unknown in the colony, and who on their part had generally as little intercourse or connection with the Island as with Japan or Formosa, and who would lose little more by having their lands escheated, than the uncertain prospect of being permitted to hold them without expence or exertion until they might perchance become of value : at the same time the forfeiture, and regranting of such lands in small tracts, to actual settlers as was aimed at by the Assembly, would have been immediately and severely felt by the proprietors whose lands were in a course of settlement, who must not only expect to lose a great part of the people they had already settled, and thereby the fruit of much expence and exertion, but they must also submit to the prospect of being unable either to sell or let their lands

in future,* until a great part of what was likely to come into the hands of Government by this proceeding should be regranted and occupied, and when it is considered, and that the lands liable to this process comprehended very lately one-half of the Island; their fears with respect to the effect of such a measure will appear very reasonable, and their opposition thereto perfectly justifiable.

Such a contrariety of interest and views it may easily be believed would occasionally agitate the colony, and afford the means to factious

* Because every man will naturally prefer taking up a grant of lands from the Crown, either to purchasing or renting from his fellow subjects; it has been said, indeed, that this objection might in part be got the better of by confining the grants of such lands entirely to such settlers as should come to the Island subsequent to the period in which these lands may come into the hands of Government, but this I think would be found a most invidious distinction, as it would have the appearance of putting those on whom much of the first difficulties of the settlement fell, on a worse footing than any other class of people who might now chuse to settle in the colony.

and unprincipled individuals some of whom are every where to be found to propagate discontent and divisions in the colony : poorly as it may seem our public offices are likely to remunerate any man of common talents they have been as eagerly coveted as if each produced ten times its actual income, and most of those who have held them have been attacked by every means that the common routine of colonial affairs affords to the outs against the ins, and in no dependency of the British empire perhaps have such things been carried to a greater or more unjustifiable length, yet it is but doing justice to the colony to state that such conduct has been confined to a few ambitious turbulent individuals, and that by far the greatest part of our population have firmly and decidedly supported those to whom the administration of the public affairs of the colony has been entrusted for the last twenty years, and notwithstanding the noise that a few factious discontented individuals have occasionally made, I believe I may venture to say, that for the

greatest part of the period as much good will, harmony, and unanimity, has prevailed in the colony as is generally to be met with or can be expected where the most perfect enjoyment of British liberty enables men either to indulge their caprice or prosecute their views of personal interest according to their own inclinations, and with as little restraint as is consistent with the existence of society. And where from the circumstances of the colony, the government thereof was deprived of almost every means by which such practices are usually met and restrained in other countries.

Having thus brought up my relation of the different proceedings connected with settlement of the lands from the commencement of the government till the end of the year 1799, I shall now proceed to notice such other circumstances as may throw any light on the progress and present state of the Island.

ADMINISTRATION OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FANNING.

During the last years of Governor Patterson's administration his great object was to get the sale of the lands sold in 1781, for non-payment of quit rent confirmed to the purchasers: he was always very sanguine in his expectations of the rapid settlement of the Island, and appeared to think that if he could secure himself in the lands acquired at these sales, the influence arising from such an extensive and valuable property would give him more consequence in the colony than any Governor could acquire with the small salary and patronage annexed to the office, and that he would in effect continue to direct the affairs of the Island, though the government thereof should be nominally transferred to another. He had, as we have already seen, procured the return of a House of Representatives that were compleatly

devoted to his interests, and he soon after contrived to get rid of such of the members of the council as were not equally so. In this situation upon the arrival of Lieutenant Governor Fanning from Nova Scotia, with the King's commission in the usual form appointing him Lieutenant Governor of the Island, in the room of Mr. Patterson, the latter affected to think that his immediate removal from the administration of the government was not intended, that the appointment of Lieutenant Governor Fanning was only a temporary measure to provide for carrying on the public service during his absence in England, to which he was directed to repair, that he might personally satisfy His Majesty's Ministers with respect to his conduct relative to the lands sold in 1781; this he affected to consider as an object which he was certain of accomplishing, and that in the mean time he had a right to retain the command until it was convenient for him to set off on his voyage to England which, owing to the advanced state of the winter, could not take

place till the next spring. On these pretences, to the surprise of every thinking man in the Island, Mr. Patterson refused to give up the government, and the council (then composed of members, all of whom had been nominated by himself) though they saw the madness of such conduct, and individually did every thing in their power to persuade him to desist therefrom, yet as a body they had the weakness to countenance this criminal insult upon the authority of their sovereign, by meeting him in council, and acting with him in all respects as if he had been still His Majesty's legal representative. Under these circumstances Lieutenant Governor Fanning remained for some months as a private person, confident that this audacious conduct as soon as known, must produce such orders as would leave Mr. Patterson without the shadow of an excuse, and that in the mean time the peace of the colony would be preserved, and all appearance of farther disobedience avoided. Mr. Patterson had met the Assembly a few days

before the arrival of Lieutenant Governor Fanning, and they were then sitting, he had laid the Bill before them for making the sales of the lands sold in 1781 voidable, agreeable to the orders of government, which they immediately rejected: the private Bill stated to be at the request of the purchasers was then brought forward and passed as we before mentioned; it was expected that this measure, which had the appearance of being nearly the same in effect with the Bill sent from England, would satisfy government, Mr. Patterson's friends in this country had also found means to divide the proprietors in opinion respecting his conduct, and some of them had even come forward with a strong representation in his favour; these measures were now followed up by equally strong addresses and representations in his favour from the Council and Assembly, and upon the whole he and his friends had the strongest hopes that he would be continued in the command of the Island. On the other hand representations were sent from the Island,

by which it appeared that the proceedings of these bodies by no means spoke the general sense of the colony, the management with respect to the lands sold in 1781 was clearly pointed out, and other acts of official misconduct brought forward, and above all the dangerous example of disrespect to the Royal authority in presuming to retain the administration after the arrival of Lieutenant Governor Fanning.

During the winter addresses from various parts of the Island were presented to Lieutenant Governor Fanning, requesting him to assume the command of the Island according to His Majesty's Commission, and early in April before the arrival of any intelligence from England, he published his proclamation notifying his appointment and calling upon the inhabitants to obey him as the King's representative; in this measure he was cheerfully and readily obeyed by a great majority of the Island. Mr. Patterson however next day, thought proper to

publish a counter proclamation asserting his right to the administration, calling Lieutenant Governor Fanning an usurper, and commanding the inhabitants to obey himself as the King's legal representative; no tumult or disorder however happened in consequence of this extraordinary state of things, every one saw that it could last only for a few weeks at most, perhaps only for a few days.

In a short time the spring Letters from England arrived, when it appeared that the conduct of Mr. Patterson in not surrendering up the Government to Lieutenant Governor Fanning upon his arrival, was highly disapproved of by His Majesty's ministers, and he was commanded without farther delay to give up the Great Seal, and all the public documents and official papers in his possession to his successor whose appointment in the Government was confirmed. This change was extremely agreeable to the Island in general, and would have been much more beneficial could the late

Lieutenant Governor and his friends have given up all idea of his restoration to the Government, but that was an event for which they were yet determined to struggle; and after an absence of a few months at Quebec, Mr. Patterson returned to the Island, and set up a systematical opposition to the administration of his successor; having been long in the Government, many of the first people in the Island had been under obligations to him, and he of course had a considerable influence, every effort that was possible in the infant state of the Colony was tried to render the administration of Government in the hands of Lieutenant Governor Fanning impracticable; a prudent and steadily moderate conduct, however, enabled the latter to overcome every difficulty, and Mr. Patterson after a fruitless struggle of nearly two years left the Island and came to England, where he expected to resume his old influence among the proprietors of the Island by whose interest he had originally got the government, but

here too he was disappointed, the hearing of the criminal complaints preferred against him by the proprietors of the lands sold in 1781, turned out so much against him, that he lost all influence among that body, and with that every hope of a restoration to the Government of the Island to which he never afterwards returned : and having fallen into distress, his extensive and valuable possessions were soon after sacrificed for not a fifth of their real value, under the operation of colonial laws passed during his administration. These laws it has since been found necessary to repeal, indeed they ought never to have existed, and what is very remarkable by a concurrence of fortunate circumstances very different from the views with which they were enacted, it so happened that while they were in operation very little other injury resulted from them than what fell on Mr. Patterson's property*.

* By these laws a creditor was enabled to attach his debtor's property at the time he took out his first process against him without waiting for judgment; and lands might be sold by execution in six months without any equity of redemption.

It might have been expected after the decision of the Privy Council on the complaints against Governor Patterson and his adherents in 1789, that all farther attempts to disturb the colonial government, would have been abandoned, but an unfortunate misunderstanding between the officers of the customs, and the merchants of the Island in 1791, gave that party an opportunity of making a last effort to regain their influence in the colony; by their management a complaint was preferred to government against the Lieutenant Governor, the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, and the Collector of the Customs, which these officers were obliged to answer, and the matter was heard before the Right Honourable the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade and Plantations, when after an expensive investigation they were all honourably acquitted; as this business is now so long past and many of those concerned therein have seen their error, and the parties have in general been long reconciled to each other, I shall not now enter into

the circumstances: some things have since come to light by which it has appeared that the real complainants were not entirely without cause of complaint, though by no means such as to justify the extent to which the charges were carried; it was one of those party struggles to which every society of freemen is liable at times, and in which all the factious, the discontented, and those who have any thing to expect in the scramble, eagerly join; but which on this occasion it is now well known, never would have been brought to the length it was, but for the jesuitical management of one, who was equally the enemy of the accused and the accusers, and who not being entitled to interfere in the public affairs of the colony, has for many years past, employed the whole of his time in endeavouring to render them impracticable in the hands of those to whom the management of them has been intrusted. *

* As I am certain that every child of ten years old in the Island, and every person in England, in the least acquainted with or concerned in the affairs of the colony can at once name the man, I think it unnecessary to do it here.

Our fisheries which had been gradually reviving since 1784, promised to become again considerable, and afforded the means of recommencing a trade with the West India Islands, by which we were abundantly supplied with their produce upon very moderate terms; several cargoes of fish were also annually shipped for the European market, for which British manufactures, salt and wine were brought in return; besides the cod fishery, the herring fishery was begun and promised well, and our merchants had found means to obtain a considerable share in the produce of the great salmon fisheries carried on in our neighbourhood on the continent, and upon the whole there was every appearance of extensive and valuable fisheries being established to the great benefit of the Island when the late war commenced; since which the fisheries have been almost given up; and our articles of export now consist of wheat, barley, oats, salt pork, butter, furs, seal oil, and oysters, to Nova Scotia, with live cattle and some timber to Newfoundland, and occasionally a few

cargoes of squared timber to Great Britain; a few people are also engaged in ship building which are generally sold in Newfoundland; this is a business which will probably be carried on to a great extent, should the Newfoundland fisheries revive on the restoration of peace, as the great plenty of timber in several districts, and the reasonable rate at which the necessaries of life are obtained, will enable us to build at a much cheaper rate, than they can do in Newfoundland, where the timber is now generally at such a distance from the harbours as to make it very expensive. Since 1792 the importation of any kind of provisions has totally ceased, and the export of these articles has gradually increased.

In 1794 two provincial companies were raised for the protection of the Island, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, who commanded for several years at Halifax in Nova Scotia, was pleased to pay the most marked and liberal attention to the protection and security of the co-

lony, much more so indeed than any other general officer who had ever commanded in the district ; by His Royal Highness's command our barracks were rebuilt on a more extensive scale, and new works constructed for the defence of the town and harbour of Charlotte Town ; and had circumstances permitted His Royal Highness to have visited the Island in person, there is every reason to believe that the colony would have reaped still higher advantages from his patronage and protection ; the general feeling on the subject, after His Royal Highness quitted the command in that country, was manifested in a circumstance which I shall soon have occasion to mention.

During the whole war we remained perfectly unmolested by the enemy ; besides the two companies already mentioned, and a small detachment of the royal artillery ; three troops of volunteer horse, and a light infantry company, were formed among the inhabitants, who were handsomely cloathed and mounted at their own expence ; the arms

and accoutrements were given by government: besides these every man in the Island from sixteen to sixty years of age are mustered in, and subject to the militia laws; and when the natural difficulties of the country are adverted to, the colony may be considered as having been perfectly safe against any predatory attack, which in the then and present state of the British naval power is all that we had to dread.

It having been found from the first settlement of the colony, that great inconveniencies resulted from the name of the Island being the same with many other places at no great distance, to which letters and other things intended for the Island were frequently sent by mistake, often to the great loss of individuals and the general injury of the colony; it had in consequence been frequently in contemplation to change the name of the Island, and the subject being recommended by the Lieutenant Governor to the attention of the legislature in 1799, and the measure finally determined on; an act was accordingly passed for changing the

name of the Island, from St. John, to Prince Edward Island ; which was chosen by the legislature as a mark of respect, and gratitude, for the attention His Royal Highness had shewn to the protection and security of the colony, and the interest he appeared on every occasion to take in the welfare and prosperity of its inhabitants. This act soon after received His Majesty's Royal Assent, and appears to answer the purpose for which it was resorted to ; though it will yet be many years probably before the use of the old name is entirely discontinued, in the mean time proper provision is made in the act to prevent any persons being injured from ignorantly making use of the former name in any deed, or writing, concerning property in the Island ; a mistake which may often be expected to happen in conveyances made in this country, by people unacquainted with the change of name which has taken place.*

* In 1800 much mischief was done to the colony through a Mr. Wentworth, who was sent to the Island in the office of Attorney General ; whoever recommended him has much to answer for : whatever his professional abilities might have been, either from habitual drinking or the

In 1801 the Assembly having instructed the colony's agent in this country, to make such

effects of disease, he appeared to be insane the greatest part of the few months he spent on the Island ; on the first day he made his appearance in the Supreme Court, he addressed himself to the audience, and informed them that he had been pitched upon by their Sovereign as a person of distinguished abilities, to come to the Island to regulate their affairs, and see justice done, and in a short time he told them that every thing was wrong, and that he would undertake to clear the greatest part of them from paying rent, or fulfilling any contract made with the proprietors, most of whom he said had no right to their lands ; the Court and even the Governor he treated with the greatest insolence, no body seemed to know what to do with him, at the same time it was evident that his conduct if not checked, would be productive of very serious evils ; so fascinating was his doctrine with the ignorant, that in the short space of two months he received, according to his own account, four hundred retaining fees, all this however did not satisfy him, wherever he heard of any differences existing, he contrived to set a lawsuit on foot ; never perhaps was there a more complete instance of popular delusion than this man excited for some weeks ; but happily for the colony, when the madness was at its height, letters arrived from the Secretary of State, announcing to the Governor Mr. Wentworth's being superseded ; this he was by no means willing to submit to, and his behaviour on the occasion was so extravagant, that his greatest admirers could no longer shut their eyes upon his real character, and he soon after left the Island, when his numerous clients lost their money. Fortunately for the peace of the colony, he has been succeeded by a gentleman as remarkable for discouraging litigation as Mr. Wentworth was anxious by every means to promote it ; the situation into which he threw the colony for some months, is a strong instance of how much mischief may be done in a new country, even by one

farther representations to Government, as might be necessary to obtain a decision on the subject of their petition in 1797. The signing of the preliminary articles of peace soon after gave an opportunity of bringing the subject forward; and early in 1802 the affairs of the Island were referred to the Committee of His Majesty's most honourable Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, by which Board a measure was recommended, and soon after carried into effect, which has already had a very powerful influence on the progress of the colony. At this time the arrears of quit rent due to the Crown on the lands, was £59,162. 17s. and on many of the townships amounted to more than it was supposed they would sell for, if then put up to sale by public auction, a circumstance which naturally operated as a discouragement to their respective proprietors in coming for-

imprudent appointment. He was superseded before his conduct in the Island was known in this country; to whom the colony was obliged on the subject, I never knew, but the obligation is such as will be long felt and remembered.

ward to fulfil their terms of settlement: for this heavy arrear of quit rent government determined to accept of a moderate composition, and as an encouragement and reward to the proprietors who had exerted themselves in the settlement of the colony, this composition was made lighter to them in proportion to the exertions they appeared to have made; with this view the different townships were thrown into five classes; the first comprehended all those lots which appeared to have the full number of people required by the terms of settlement upon them; from these the amount of four years quit rent only was demanded, in lieu of the full quit rent from 1769 to 1801.

In the second class were put all the townships which appeared to have one-half the required population upon them; these were charged with five years quit rent in lieu of all arrears to May 1801.

In the third class were put all the townships which had between one-fourth, and one-half the

stipulated population on them ; these were required to pay nine years quit rent in lieu of all arrears up to May, 1801.

In the fourth class were all the townships which did not appear to possess one-fourth of the required population ; these were charged the amount of twelve years quit rent in lieu of all arrears up to May, 1801.

And in the fifth class were placed the townships which appeared to be totally waste and uninhabited, these were charged with the amount of fifteen years quit rent in lieu of all arrears up to May, 1801.†

This measure by disburthening the lands of a heavy arrear of quit rent had an im-

† In this arrangement, no distinction was made between those townships which had been settled by the exertions of their respective proprietors, and those which were settled by the voluntary resort of people to them : the number of people on each was the sole criterion by which the townships were classed, a circumstance which must appear highly liberal on the part of government when the conduct of many of the proprietors is considered.

mediate effect on the progress of the settlement ; for in the short period that has since elapsed nearly one-third of the lands § in the Island have been sold, and transferred ; most of them from the hands of people who were no way disposed to make exertions for their settlement, to people who are actively engaged therein, and in this short period full one third has been added to our former number of inhabitants, with a prospect of a farther rapid increase : and it may be mentioned to the credit of the country that this sudden influx of people made no change in the price of the necessaries of life, and that it was found easy to supply all the new settlers with provisions, until they were enabled to raise them by their own industry, an object which they have in general accomplished in a shorter period I believe than ever was done before in any new country ;*

§ Townships' Numbers, 1, 10, $\frac{1}{2}$ 12, 17, 23, 24, 31, 32, 33, $\frac{1}{2}$ 37, 38, 39, $\frac{1}{2}$ 40, 41, 42, 43, $\frac{1}{2}$ 47, 1-3d of 53, 54, 57, 58, 1-3d of 59, 60, and 62, besides a great many smaller transfers.

* This is a circumstance very much to their own credit ; it has been

much of this is no doubt to be attributed to the Earl of Selkirk, by whom the principal body of them was brought to the Island, and by whose care and attention all their wants were foreseen and provided for; his lordship's settlers had also the further advantage of being set down in what is naturally the finest district of the Island, and which having been totally neglected by its former proprietors had been left waste and uncultivated, but which now promises under his lordship's management to become in a few years a populous and valuable settlement; and truth requires me to say, that I am confident these people will soon arrive at a degree of independence, and prosperity, of which they could have had no prospect in their native country; and that they will in a few years contribute more to the general prosperity of the British empire in their

observed in the Island that the new settlers from the Highlands are much more industrious and enlightened than the original highland colony who first settled in the Island, they have besides got rid of more of their ancient prejudices and customs, and appear to think more like the rest of their fellow subjects than those who emigrated thirty-five years ago.

new situation than there was any prospect of their ever doing in their former. *

* It may suit the views of particular people to represent the connection and dependence of the remaining British colonies in America on the mother country as loose and precarious, such is not by any means the light in which the subject is seen in these colonies, where I may presume to say it is as well understood as it generally is in this country; neither are the moral, nor the institutions of their republican neighbours viewed by them in the same favourable aspect, in which they are too commonly represented in this country; and as to any probability of a rupture between the two countries, whereby the security of the British possessions in America may be endangered, I trust that is an event at a great distance. Most people well acquainted with the situation of the United States are convinced that notwithstanding appearances to the contrary, their government has no serious idea of a war with this country; in the present state of their party and political distractions, such a measure could not fail having the most fatal effects on their internal state; and far from being in a situation to think of conquests, they would probably find it very difficult to defend their own sea coasts: but at all events, I consider the maritime colonies as perfectly safe in the present state of the British naval power, and whenever their real value becomes well understood in this country (a circumstance I trust at no great distance) such measures I am confident will be adopted by government as will rapidly raise them into a state of population, which in a few years will leave them nothing to fear from their republican neighbours.

And when their valuable natural resources are generally known, and the immense extent to which their fisheries may be carried is felt, whereby a great body of hardy seamen will be formed for the national defence, I think I may venture to predict that their affairs will be put on such a

In consequence of this great accession of inhabitants, the Townships Nos. 29, 44, 45, 53, 57, 58, 60, and 62, on which, a few years ago, there was not a human being, have in a short time become well settled, and many other townships have acquired a great addition to their population, the only lots that now remain totally unoccupied, I believe, are those numbered 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 51, and 52, on the greater part of which, it is probable settlements will be commenced in the course of this year.

The very liberal terms on which the composition for the arrears of quit rent up to May, 1801 was placed by government, having been disregarded by some of the proprietors, either

footing as will at no very distant day render them the most powerful foreign dependency of the British empire, *that which will yet be most cherished, and last parted with.* Though they produce neither gold or silver, nor any other delusive wealth, they enjoy a climate and soil, however diversified, which will enable them to support in a maritime situation an extensive population, whose industry and resources may be rendered of the highest consequence to the parent state.

in hopes that it would not be enforced, or that better terms might be obtained, it became necessary to proceed at law against their property in the Island, these proceedings were commenced in 1803, under an act which had been passed in the preceding year, and in 1804, judgments were obtained by the Receiver General of the quit rents, against ten townships, five half townships, and one third of a township, for arrears of quit rent due to the crown, and it is now in the power of government, either to re-annex these lands to the crown, and re-grant them in small tracts to actual settlers, or in order not to interfere with the other proprietors, they may be divided into tracts of a thousand acres, *and sold*, subject to the same rate of quit rents to which they were originally liable, by which means they will not interfere with the plan of the colony, or in any respect injure the other proprietors; this is a subject on which people will differ, and I am aware that some will say, why not instead of enforcing the payment of the quit rents as the means of com-

pelling the proprietors to attend to the settle-
 ment of their lands, proceed against them for
 non-performance of the other conditions on
 which they were granted, as has been done in
 Nova Scotia; to which I answer, that such a
 proceeding would not in any thing like an equal
 degree answer the purpose, the only condition
 in the terms of settlement which could be en-
 forced with that view, is that which requires
 a number of people equal to one person for
 every two hundred acres contained in each
 grant, that is one hundred souls on a tract of
 twenty thousand acres, or 6700 inhabitants for
 the sixty-seven townships into which the Island is
 divided, a population much inferior to what it has
 already attained under all its disadvantages, but
 which in such a country is a mere trifle, and
 less than probably each of the Townships will
 contain in half a century.* Let us look at what

* The Bermuda Islands do not contain as much cultivatable surface
 as one of our townships, and yet are said to have 20,000 inhabitants
 the climate and situation it may be alledged are very different, but acre
 for acre we can raise more of the necessaries of life than they can, and
 may therefore look forward to as high a state of population.

has happened in Nova Scotia where no quit-rent has yet been exacted, but where the terms of settlement have been enforced, and many hundred thousand acres on which these had not been fulfilled, have been escheated, and regranted, often without much public benefit resulting therefrom; most of the lands which have been escheated were the property of non-residents, and justly * escheated perhaps, because entirely neglected, so far the thing was very right, but it has unfortunately happened, that these lands were often regranted in large tracts to people, who being upon the spot, were enabled by a little personal exertion, and by sacrificing a fourth or a fifth part of what they thus acquired, to place something like the appearance of the scanty population required by the terms of settlement upon them, and when that has been once done, no farther questions

* I have heard of some very hard cases however which made the more noise, that it soon appeared that little more was effected by the proceeding than placing the lands in the hands of a resident proprietor, instead of a person living in Great-Britain or Ireland.

are asked, by these means many hundred thousand acres of the finest lands in the province are locked up in the hands of a few individuals, to the great obstruction and injury of the settlement, but had the quit rents trifling as they are, been exacted and regularly laid out in public works through the Country, such speculations would never have been thought of, and I am convinced the population and improvements of the Colony would long ere this have far exceeded any thing it can now boast of. I believe I shall run no risk of misstatement, when I say that not one twentieth of the lands which have been granted in this Province thirty years ago are yet cleared or cultivated, and the evil would have gone to a much greater length, had it not been for the general instruction issued in 1790, prohibiting further grants without His Majesty's permission, That I am well founded in this assertion will be believed, when it is known that notwithstanding the difficulties which this instruction opposed to such practices,

there is one man in the Province (if I am well informed) who has contrived to procure grants to the extent of one hundred thousand acres, during the administration of Sir John Wentworth, without being possessed of a capital which could have enabled him to bring one thousand acres into cultivation.*

It seems at first difficult to comprehend how taking money out of the pockets of the proprietors of a waste and uncultivated country, can contribute to the benefit of that country, as it has the appearance of diminishing the fund from which its improvements are to be carried on; that is the first view of the matter which will naturally present itself, and those unacquainted with

* I am sensible that what I have said on this subject, will not be pleasing to the great landholders in that country, nor to those who have large grants in view, when the restraining instruction of 1790 is recalled, the exaction of the quit rents would be a serious cut upon their prospects; to a man who holds from twenty to forty thousand acres, and upwards, on spe-

the subject may be inclined to require explanation before they can give credit to the contrary. The thing is easily explained, the lands were originally granted on terms of being settled and improved, whereby alone they can become of any real value either to the proprietors or the public. It now appears after upwards of thirty years trial, that a great majority of those to whom the Island was granted, have never made any exertions towards improving the country, and that notwithstanding such failure they have been enabled to retain their lands, and to speculate on the future prospects of

cultivation, (which in the mean-time yields nothing) and many such there are, a quit rent of even a farthing an acre regularly exacted, becomes an object; but to the man who holds only from five hundred to a thousand acres, and who has a hundred acres in cultivation, such a quit rent is a mere trifle which would be readily paid when it was felt that the consequence would be, effectually to cut up the large grants, which more than any other circumstance have injured and prevented the settlement and cultivation of the country. If it is expected that the colonies in North America are ever to enable the West India Islands to become independent of the United States in the very necessary articles of provisions, fish and lumber; that can only be accomplished by an attention to their affairs very different from what they have hitherto met with.

the colony without either expence, or exertion, in consequence of the indulgence of Government in not exacting the regular payment of the quit rent; whereas it may easily be conceived, that if the quit rents had been regularly exacted, that the proprietors in general, would either have made such exertions as were necessary to put the lands in a way of exonerating them from this yearly expence, or that they would have gradually sold them off, either in small tracts to actual settlers, or in large tracts on speculation to men of fortune, who might be inclined to adventure their money in the settlement; what has happened since the composition for the arrears of quit rent up to May 1801 was adopted, is a complete proof of this, and I am convinced had that measure been adopted in 1792, when it was first proposed, that the consequence would have been, that we should before this, have had fifty thousand people in the Island, and that every acre in the colony would now have been worth at least five guineas, that is, provided

the growing quit rent had been regularly exacted in the mean-time, and faithfully laid out on the improvement of the country.

In April 1805, several of the principal proprietors resident in this country, presented a representation to Lord Camden, then Secretary of State for the colonial department, stating such matters as appeared to them to require the attention and interposition of Government; this representation has not yet been taken into consideration, but there is every reason to expect that when more important affairs will permit the great statesman now at the head of that department, to enter upon the affairs of the Island, such a determination will be made thereon, as cannot fail being highly beneficial, and thereby place the future progress and prospects of the colony on a certain and permanent footing.

In the beginning of July, Lieutenant-General Fanning who had been near nineteen

years Lieutenant-Governor of the Island, was superseded by Lieutenant-Governor Desbarres, who has the advantage of commencing his administration with the colony in perfect peace and harmony, and in a rapid state of improvement; far from meeting with opposition of any kind, he has been received with all the attention and respect due to his office; and I am confident will meet with the most liberal support from his predecessor and his numerous friends, in every measure calculated to promote the general prosperity of the colony. Upon giving up the government, General Fanning received every mark of respect and attention that could be shewn him by the people, whose interests had so long been committed to his care; all were sensible of his good intentions, and the difficulties he had to struggle with as governor, where from the circumstances of the country, and the property thereof being locked up in the hands of non-residents, he was deprived of all the means by which governors are usually

enabled to contribute to the prosperity and progress of a new colony.

His conduct during the time he administered the government, had met with the uniform approbation of His Majesty's Ministers, and a provision equal to the amount of his salary was made for him on his being superceded.

CONSTITUTION, LAWS AND RELIGION.

This Island, as a part of the dominions of the crown of Great-Britain, is independent of any jurisdiction in America,* the government and

* By His Majesty's royal proclamation in 1763, regulating the division and boundaries of the different countries conquered from France in the preceding war, the Island was annexed to the province of Nova Scotia; this circumstance has never been forgotten, nor has the subsequent separation ever been forgiven by a certain set of people in that province, in consequence of which, I am sorry to say, that the Island has been subjected to much obloquy and misrepresentation, the object of which appears to be to prevent the settlement thereof as a separate colony, that it may be again re-united to Nova Scotia, whereby the large unsettled grants would be brought under the operation of their escheat laws, and would speedily change hands, that is, instead of being owned in Great Britain and Ireland, they would pass into the hands of people of influence in and about the capital of that province. This project has been constantly in view ever since the settlement of the Island commenced, to which it has opposed very considerable obstructions in various ways, and is now more openly pursued than ever, the attorney general of that province being at present, I am informed, in England,

legislature thereof being vested in a Governor; or Lieutenant Governor and Council, appointed by the King, and a house of representatives elected by the people, who meet in general assembly, being called together, prorogued, and dissolved by the governor's proclamation. The commission or patent under the great seal of Great-Britain granted to our first governor,

avowedly for the purpose of bringing it about; whether such a measure will be attempted without the consent of the Island, after its having for so many years enjoyed a complete constitution, remains to be seen; in the meantime, I will venture to say that hardly any thing short of the conquest and subjugation of the colony by a foreign power could be more generally disagreeable to its inhabitants. It will be said by the advocates for this measure, that I misrepresent their views, which they will say are directed by very different motives than what I attribute them to, and it will be pretended that far from having any wish to have the lands regranting in the manner I have alledged, that their object is to put the Island in a way of being speedily settled and cultivated, and thereby becoming of that consequence and value to the public which its many natural advantages in point of soil and situation enable it to attain, and that the speculation I have attributed their views to, may be prevented by an instruction limiting future grants of land in the Island to one or two hundred acres; in that case the following table of fees taken in Nova Scotia will do something towards setting the very disinterested views of these people in a clear light.

when the Island was erected into a separate government, forms the constitution of the Island, and the instructions received therewith, are explanatory of the patent and regulate the governor's conduct in almost all the common routine of public business incident to his situation. The instructions are pretty voluminous, they are changeable at the king's pleasure, and ad-

The expence or fees of a court of escheats and forfeiture on an inquest of office are as follows,

	<i>£. s. d.</i>
The Secretary of the Province, who is Commissioner, has these three Fees.	The Commissioner of Escheats and Forfeitures - - - - - 3 10 0
	Register - - - - - 1 3 4
	Two Inquisitions - - - - - 2 0 0
	The Attorney General - - - - - 3 10 0
	The Solicitor General - - - - - 2 6 8
	The Jury, 12 at 2s. 6d. each - - - 1 10 0
	The Clerk - - - - - 2 11 8
	The Sheriff - - - - - 1 3 4
	The Surveyor General of Lands - - 1 3 4
	The Cryer of the Court - - - - - 0 5 0
	Advertisements in the Newspapers, } giving notice of the proceedings, } 20 0 0 said to cost generally about - }
	<u>£ 38 3 4</u>

ditional instructions are sent, as circumstances may require. The council, when full, consists of nine members appointed by the king's mandamus, or more frequently by the governor or lieutenant governor for the time being, subject to His Majesty's approbation: all their privileges and powers are defined in the instructions; they are a privy council to the governor, lieutenant-governor, or commander in chief in the administration of government, and he is bound by the royal instructions to ask their advice on almost every act of public concern, the stile of all proclamations and acts of government being

These Fees are to be paid by any person who proceeds to escheat a grant of land whereon the terms and conditions of settlement have not been fulfilled, in order that he may get the whole, or a part thereof regranted to himself. Supposing one of our townships escheated by this proceeding, and that it is to be regranted in tracts of one hundred acres; the fees of office in Nova Scotia on a grant of a hundred acres, are about eighteen pounds currency, besides the expence of surveying, so that the regranteeing a single township in that manner, would produce to the officers of government in that province no less a sum than *three thousand six hundred pounds*. Having some knowledge of the subject, I presume to say, that it will not be difficult to bring half the lands in the Island within the gripe of the Court of Escheats, if it is re-united to Nova Scotia, and from what has been said, my readers will see that the speculation is worth some exertion.

“By and with the advice and consent of His Majesty’s Council.” They are convened by the governor, who is always present when they sit as a privy council, or upon writs of error, or appeals from the supreme court: a counsellor’s title is The Honourable, and they serve without any salaries. Upon the death or absence of the governor or lieutenant-governor for the time being, the senior member of the board succeeds to the government of the Island, which he is entitled to administer, with the title of President of the Council, and Commander in chief, until His Majesty shall have provided otherwise.

When the legislature meets in general assembly, the council forms the upper house, representing the lords in parliament, they then meet without the governor, the chief justice for the time being is *ex officio* president or speaker; they cannot vote by proxy, but enter their dissent, and their reasons therefore at large on the minutes; the council never publish

their legislative minutes, but the house of representatives always print their own journals; both are transmitted to the office of the secretary of state for the colonies, with authenticated copies of such laws as pass during the session of the colonial legislature.

The house of representatives consists of eighteen members, elected by the people under the authority of a writ issued by the governor, lieutenant-governor or commander in chief for the time being; four members for each of the counties, and two for each of the towns:* They meet in general assembly, are prorogued and dissolved by the governor's proclamation; they chuse their speaker, subject to the governor's approbation, which is generally a matter of course: No personal privilege or advantage is claimed

* All housekeepers, lessees of land in possession, and proprietors of land, being Protestants, are qualified to vote for the members of their respective counties; and for the towns all housekeepers and proprietors of a town or pasture lot within the town and royalty, being Protestants, are entitled to a vote: and any person qualified to be an elector, may become a candidate without farther qualification.

by the members, nor do they at present receive any allowance for their attendance. In all their proceedings when met in general assembly, they take the British house of commons for their model, the rules and regulations of which they have adopted as far as the same are yet applicable to the circumstances in which they are placed.

The colonies are understood to take the common law, and all the Statute Law of England antecedent to their establishment,* which may be applicable to their situation and circumstances, but this must be understood with many, and very considerable restrictions, many of the artificial refinements and distinctions introduced into the laws of this country cannot be applicable to them : the laws of police, and revenue, the mode of maintaining the established clergy, the poor laws, and the jurisdiction of the spiritual courts, and a multitude of other provisions are neither necessary nor

* 1 Black. Com. 107.

convenient for them nor are they in force; what is admissible, and what shall be rejected, has hitherto been left to the discretion of their respective courts, and on this head it may easily be believed opinions will differ much; it is therefore to be wished, that a more certain mode of determining the length to which it is to be carried may be devised.

The legislature of the Island are invested with full power and authority* to make, constitute, and ordain laws, statutes, and ordinances, for the public peace, welfare, and good government thereof, such laws, statutes, and ordinances, are not to be repugnant to, but as nearly as may be, agreeable to the laws of Great-Britain, and the governor is directed by the royal instructions, not to assent to the passing of any law of a new or extraordinary nature, without the same has a clause suspending the operation thereof, until His Majesty's pleasure therein is known.

* By His Majesty's Royal Patent, under the Great Seal of Great Britain.

The innovations which have hitherto been made on the English laws are not many, though some of them are important; I shall endeavour to give an idea of them, taking the subjects up as they stand on our statute book.

By an act of the 13th of George the 3^d, Cap. V. the damages on protested foreign bills of exchange are fixed at ten per cent. and the interest at six per cent over and above all charges of protest, &c.

By the 20th of George the 3^d. Cap. VIII. For the prevention of clandestine and uncertain sales of houses, lands, and tenements, within the Island, and to the intent that it may be better known what right or title persons really and truly have in or to such estates as they offer for sale. It is enacted that all deeds, conveyances or mortgages of houses, lands, or tenements within the Island, shall be recorded at full length in the register's office within forty days next after their respective dates, if executed on

the Island between the first day of May, and the first day of November; and within eighty days if there executed between the first day of November and the first day of May: and if executed in Great Britain or Ireland, then the said original deeds, or duly attested copies thereof, shall or may be recorded as aforesaid, within the space of two years from their respective dates. After the expiration of the said forty days, eighty days, or two years: all such deeds, &c. if not recorded as above directed, shall be of no force against any bona fide purchaser who shall comply with this act, or against any other person whatsoever except the grantor, or grantors, his or their heirs.

By the 25th George 3^d. Cap. I. the operation of this act is extended to all leases being of a longer duration than twenty years, and the term of two years allowed for the registering of deeds executed in Great Britain or Ireland is extended to all deeds, &c. executed in all other of His

Majesty's dominions distant from the Island. Proof of the execution of all deeds, &c. is required before they can be recorded. By this act an option is given to the parties concerned, either to register all deeds, &c. at full length, or by a memorial thereof; and for want of such registering, all such deeds of sale, conveyances, mortgages, deeds of settlement, or conveyances of what nature or kind soever, deeds-poll, leases, or agreements of longer duration than ten years, of or concerning any lands, tenements, or hereditaments in this Island shall be adjudged fraudulent, and of no force or effect. This act not to bar the title of minors *femme couvert*, or persons *non compos mentis*, imprisoned, or absent from the Island, who are respectively entitled to sue and recover within two years after such impediment shall have been removed.

By an act of the 20th of George the 3^d. Cap. IX. Creditors are enabled to attach the effects and estates of absent or absconding debtors, which are thereby rendered liable in law to the

judgment to be recovered on such process, and subject to be taken in execution for satisfaction thereof, in whoever's hands the same may be: absent debtors against whom such judgments are recovered, are entitled to a re-hearing at any time within three years, and the plaintiff in such actions before any execution shall issue on such judgments, to give security to the satisfaction of the court, for the repayment of all monies levied by the said execution, in case the said judgment be reversed on such re-hearing. By an act of the 25th of George 3^d. Cap. II. the operation of the above act is so far altered as to restrict creditors from proceeding against debtors who have never been resident on the Island, and security in double the amount is required before any execution is awarded against an absent debtor, conditioned to make restitution, in case the said judgment shall be reversed on a re-hearing; but the time allowed to absent debtors to appear either by themselves or attorney, and move to have the judgment by default taken off, is curtailed and limited to a

year and a day from the time of entering judgment against such absent debtor.

By the 21st of George 3^d. Cap. II. the estates of intestates, after paying all just debts and funeral expenses, are directed to be distributed by the judge of probates, one-third of the personal estate to the widow of the intestate, besides her dower in the houses and lands during her life ; and out of all the residue of such real and personal estate, two shares, or a double portion to the eldest son or his representatives, and the remainder of such residue, to and among the other children of the intestate, or their representatives ; widows' dower to be divided in like manner after her death.

By the 21st of George the 3^d. Cap. III. lands and tenements are made liable to the payment of debts in case no personal effects can be found to satisfy the same ; this act allowed an equity of redemption within two years after levying such execution, but was repealed by the act of

the 26th George the 3^d. Cap. IX. which made lands and tenements liable to be sold in six months after they were taken in execution, without any equity of redemption; the operation of this last act was found to be so severe, that an act was passed in the 35th of George 3^d. Cap. VIII. by which it is enacted that no lands or tenements hereafter to be taken in execution, shall be sold in less than two years after they shall have been so taken.

By the 21st. of George the 3^d. Cap. XVII. It is enacted, that all actions or suits, either in law or equity, to be sued or brought, of or for any lands, tenements, or hereditaments within the Island, shall be sued and taken within twenty years, next after the title or cause of action first descended, and at no other time after the said twenty years; and that no entry shall be made upon lands, &c. but within twenty years next after such title shall have accrued, after which such persons, not entering, are utterly excluded; with the usual saving.

clause to *infants, femme covert, persons non compos mentis, imprisoned, or beyond seas*. The great and general neglect of so many of the proprietors having involved many people in great uncertainty with respect to the titles of lands, whereon very considerable exertions and expence had been laid out, the legislature were induced in 1795 to pass a law 35th Geo. 3^d Cap. II. intituled an act for confirming titles and quieting possessions, by which it is enacted, that all purchasers or lessees of land, who have been in the quiet and peaceable possession of such lands for the space of seven years, and all persons claiming by, from, or under them, are confirmed in such possession according to the right, title, or interest intended to be conveyed in and by such leases or conveyances. And all deeds of sale made by the Sheriff, Coroner, &c. under writs of execution are confirmed, any want of legal form in such deeds notwithstanding.

The lands sold in 1781, for non-payment of quit rent, are excepted from the operation of

this act, and it is also provided that no error which may have taken place in settling the township boundaries shall be thereby confirmed.

By the 25th of George 3^d. Cap. VI. It is enacted, that no greater interest than six per cent per annum shall be taken.

The severity of the criminal laws of Great Britain being unnecessary in a new country where few crimes are committed, by the 33^d of George the 3^d Cap. I. a new criminal code more suitable to the situation and circumstances of the country is established. By the 36th of George the 3^d Cap. III. It is enacted that all grants, deeds, and conveyances heretofore made and executed by any married woman jointly with her husband, of any lands, houses and tenement within this Island, whereof such married woman is dowable, shall be as good and valid in law, as if the same had been made by a *femme sole*, or as if such woman had joined in levying a fine, according to the law and practice of

England in that case made and provided; and it is further enacted, that all grants and conveyances which shall hereafter be made by any married woman jointly with her husband, of lands, houses, and tenements whereof she is dowable by law, or in or to which she may have any present or future interest, either in her own right, or in or by any other ways or means whatsoever, shall be as good and valid in law, and of the same force and effect, as if the same had been made by a *femme sole*, or as if such married woman had joined in levying a fine in manner herein-before mentioned; provided such deed or deeds, &c. shall be acknowledged by such married woman in the presence of a judge of the supreme court of the Island, or any justice of the peace thereof, by such married woman, as her free and voluntary act and deed, and to have been executed for the purposes in the said deed or deeds mentioned, and that the same was done without any force or compulsion from her husband and a certificate of such acknowledgment, the form whereof is engrossed in the

act, is directed to be underwritten or indorsed on every such grant, deed, or conveyance.

The revenue laws hitherto adopted, are but two, a licence duty on retailers of wines, and spiritous liquors; and an impost or excise duty of ten pence per gallon, payable on the importation of all wines and spirits; and two pence per gallon on the importation of all porter, ale, or strong beer; these are the only taxes yet payable in the Island, and the produce of them has constituted the sole revenue by which the contingent expences of government, and the high roads and bridges have been carried on. Taxes are a subject on which the House of Representatives have hitherto been particularly tenacious, and they have yet to learn, that it is possible to err on the popular side of the question; called to the duty of legislating for their fellow subjects, without much experience or knowledge of public business, they have not observed that by giving way too much to the prejudices

common on the subject, a considerable revenue, which might have been raised and applied to the public service, greatly to the advantage of the Island, has been suffered to go into the pockets of a few individuals, who have hitherto had the trade of the Island in their hands: This is an error naturally to be expected in a new country, but experience will teach us better, and all will soon be convinced, that a respectable revenue adequate to the wants of the public service, is absolutely necessary to the prosperity of the Island.

The only common law court yet established in the Island, is the Supreme Court of Judicature, which is a Court of King's Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer; the Chief Justice is appointed by warrant under His Majesty's manual and signet, under the authority of which, letters patent are made out in the Island, tested by the governor or commander in chief for the time being, and under the Great Seal of the Colony, and a salary of five hundred

pounds a year is now annexed to the office : there are two assistant justices, who are appointed by the governor, and who at present serve without any salary. The departments of counsel and attorney are still united, and the number of practitioners is yet only four : the proceedings in civil actions are conducted as near as circumstances will permit, agreeable to the practice in the Court of Common Pleas in Westminster Hall. An appeal in the nature of a writ of error is allowed from the supreme court to the governor or commander in chief in council, when the debt or value appealed for exceeds the sum of three hundred pounds sterling : and an appeal from the judgment or sentence of the governor or commander in chief in council, to His Majesty in Council, is allowed when the debt or value so appealed for, exceeds the sum of five hundred pounds sterling.

The church of England is the religion of the Island, established by law, but the free exercise of every religion is allowed : and all dissenters

of whatsoever denomination they are, have free liberty of conscience ; and may erect meeting houses for public worship ; and may chuse and elect ministers or pastors according to their several opinions. And all contracts made between such dissenting ministers and their congregations are declared valid, and shall have their full force and effect ; and all dissenters are exempted, and excused from the payment of any rates or taxes to be made or levied, for the support of the Church of England in the colony.

There is yet only one clergyman of the Church of England on the Island, who was appointed by the King, Rector of the Parish of Charlotte on the first formation of the government, and has a salary of seventy pounds a year on the annual estimate, voted by parliament for the civil establishment of the colony, for which he does duty for the whole Island, making occasional tours to the different settlements to perform divine service, and baptize

the children: several applications have been made to the incorporated society for propagating the gospel in foreign parts, on behalf of the Island, praying for the appointment of missionaries, on the same footing as they are granted to all the other colonies in North America, and though it is understood that these applications were recommended to the consideration of the society by the *Bishop of Nova Scotia* in the first place, and subsequently by the *Earl of Buckinghamshire*, when secretary of state for the colonial department, it has not thought proper to grant the favour requested; if I am well informed, the reasons on which the refusal was grounded, are, that a number of individuals of fortune in this country, who are proprietors of land in the Island, contribute nothing to the funds of the society, and that government allow the salary of military chaplain on the garrison staff of the Island, to be held as a sinecure by a person who never was in the colony, instead of conferring it on a resident clergyman: after what has been said in the preceding pages of the

neglect of the proprietors in other matters, it appears hard that the conduct imputed to them on this subject, should also be injurious to the colony. The people of the Island have not been able to discover in these reasons, much concern for their spiritual welfare, or any great consistency with the professed objects of that reverend and very respectable society, and they have to lament, that without any fault on their part, they are excluded from participating in the important benefits of an institution, that has been liberally extended to the neighbouring colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and to all their fellow subjects in similar circumstances: the disappointment is the more to be regretted, that, as on the one hand, the Island is yet free of the contagion of that *wisdom* which affects to reject christianity, so on the other, has it escaped the visitation of that wild fanaticism which has overrun many parts of the continent, greatly to the injury and discredit of true religion, morality, and industry. And the minds of the protestant part of the in-

habitants in general are in that state wherein a little aid and exertion on the subject, would go a great way towards uniting the greatest part of them in the communion of the church of England. Most of the Highlanders who settled in the Island previous to 1803, and the Acadian French, are Roman Catholics, and have two or three priests of that religion, whose reputed zeal for making proselytes has occasionally created some differences; I believe however their success in that respect has not been great, though the want of Protestant clergymen has given them advantages over weak minds.

The greatest part of the Highlanders who have recently settled in the Island, are of the church of Scotland, but have yet no clergyman of their own persuasion, though there is reason to hope that the same disinterested care and attention which induced so many of their opulent countrymen to join in bringing forward the late act for regulating emigration, will induce them also to afford some aid on this more

important subject, and they are the more sanguine in their expectations, because it is known that the funds at the disposal of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland applicable to such purposes, are in a very flourishing state, and it cannot be believed, that any little jealousy with respect to emigration will be allowed to interfere against them. The sum wanted in addition to what they can do themselves, will be but trifling, nor will it be long wanted, a few years will enable them amply to provide for a Clergyman, and also to establish a seminary of education, in the mean time, however, some assistance on both subjects would be very desirable.

FISHERIES.



Having several times in the preceding pages mentioned the Fisheries of the Island, I shall now attempt to give my readers some idea of their nature, and the extent to which they may be carried.

The herring fishery is the first that commences in the spring; the bays and harbours, particularly on the north side of the Island, are no sooner clear of ice, than they are filled with immense shoals of these fish, which may be taken in any quantity; though they appear to be more plentiful some years than others, they never fail coming in great abundance. They are not so fat, though generally much larger than the herrings taken on the west coast of

Scotland, and on the coast of Ireland ; they are more like the Swedish herring, and properly cured, answer very well for the West India market ; they are taken at much less expence than on the coast of Scotland or Ireland, as the whole business is carried on in the harbours, and no craft above the size of common boats is necessary ; such a train of nets as is commonly used in a herring buss of 70 or 80 tons on the coast of Scotland, would with ease take ten thousand barrels in a week or ten days ; in general, however, large seines for dragging them on shore, will be found a better kind of net. They come into the harbours generally as soon as the ice is gone, the first shoals are always the best, and the whole business does not last above a fortnight, and if shipped off immediately for the West Indies, from the shortness of the voyage, and the nature of the fish, being a large full fish without oil, they will arrive there in a better state for that market, than any other herrings that can be carried to that climate. Besides what may be exported salt,

great quantities might be smoaked, or cured red, for which there is a great demand in the United States; the wood necessary for smoaking herrings will cost little more than the trouble of cutting it down and carrying it to the curing houses, in this country it constitutes the greatest part of the expence of the business. In the months of October and November, large shoals of herrings of a much superior character, such as would be fit for the European market, come upon the coast, but do not come into the harbours in such large bodies as in the spring, but they might be as easily taken by buss fishing as they are on the coast of Scotland.

Ale Wives, or Gasperaus (*Clupea serrata*) are taken in many parts of the Island, and in the adjacent harbours on the continent, in very considerable numbers, and though not so plentiful as the common herring, there is no doubt but many thousand barrels of them might be exported from the Gulph every year, they

generally sell at a dollar a barrel higher in the West Indies than the common herring, which is a considerable object; they are taken in the months of May and June, in rivers and brooks where very short nets only are required.

Eels of a very superior kind have long been known to be taken on the Island, they are too valuable for the West India market, but have occasionally been sent to the Italian market, where they are sold by the barrel for double the price of salmon, and the demand for them is much greater than can be supplied; some judgment of the value of them may be formed from the circumstance of their selling, in so plentiful a country as Canada, at sixteen dollars a barrel: the only method at present in use for taking them, is by spearing for them in the muddy flats in our harbours, and even in that way very considerable quantities are taken; there are many situations in the Island in which the method of taking them by placing eel pots in the rivers may be practised, and the only at-

tempt that has hitherto been made in that way was very successful.

Mackerel are in great abundance on the coast and in the harbours, from the middle of June till November; taking them with nets has never yet been much practised in our own harbours; the gut of Canso which divides the Island of Cape Breton from Nova Scotia, and the adjacent harbours, are the places where this fishery has been chiefly carried on, the distance being only from twelve to twenty leagues from the Island; the quantity taken at these harbours is some years very great; it has been known that at the harbour of Port Hood, on the coast of Cape Breton, after thirty vessels had been loaded in a week, a heap of fish, supposed to contain at least a thousand barrels, have been left on the beach to rot, for want of salt to cure them. Many American vessels from the New England states load annually in these harbours with mackerel.

Cod are caught in great plenty in almost every part of the Gulph of St. Lawrence, but more particularly on the coast of the Island, the Bay of Chaleur, and the Straits of Belleisle; our principal fishing ground extends all along the north coast of the Island, from the east point to the Orphan Bank, which stretches considerably to the northward of the North Cape, and the fishing vessels have seldom to go above three or four leagues from the shore, where there is only from ten to fifteen fathoms water; from several parts of the Island an advantageous boat fishery may be carried on part of the season, as great abundance of fish may often be had at little more than a mile from the shore, and sometimes at a less distance; two men will at times load a boat twice in a day.

The fishery carried on from the American States in the Gulph of St. Lawrence for some years past is very extensive, and is known to be one of the greatest sources of the wealth of the eastern states, from which about two

thousand schooners of from seventy to one hundred tons, are annually sent into the Gulph; of these about fourteen hundred make their fish in the Straits of Belleisle, and on the Labrador shore, from whence, what is intended for the European market, is shipped off, without being sent to their own ports: about six hundred American schooners make their fares on the north side of the Island, and often make two trips in a season, returning to their own ports with full cargoes, where their fish are dried; the number of men employed in this fishery is estimated at between fifteen and twenty thousand, and the profits on it are known to be very great. To see such a source of wealth and naval power on our own coasts, and in our very harbours, abandoned to the Americans, is much to be regretted and would be distressing were it not that the means of re-occupying the whole with such advantages as must soon preclude all competition, is afforded in the cultivation and settlement of Prince Edward Island.

The principal advantage the Americans have hitherto had over the British fisheries on this Coast, arises from the cheapness of the necessaries of life among them, whereby they are enabled to build, fit out and provision their fishing craft at a small expence in comparison to what can be done from the ports of Great Britain and Ireland, which enables them to undersell us in every market; I believe there is no person acquainted with the soil and climate of Prince Edward Island, but will admit that it is as fit for producing provisions of all kinds in abundance, as the eastern states, and has even some advantages over them in that respect, as it is well known that from the nature of their climate, they do not produce wheat enough to supply themselves with bread corn, which they are obliged to import from their southern neighbours. Not only Prince Edward Island, but a great part of the country round the Gulph of St. Lawrence will produce wheat, and every necessary of life in great abundance, and from their extent, situation, and natural

resources, are calculated to support as numerous, and as powerful a population as the New England States ; into whose hands in the natural course of things this fishery (being on their coasts and harbours) must fall, to the exclusion I trust at no very distant day of our republican neighbours ; and to the great benefit of the trade and naval resources of Great-Britain and Ireland.

Besides the fisheries which have been mentioned, great quantities of salmon are taken in different rivers which run into the Gulph, particularly the Restigush which runs into the head of the Bay of Chaleur, and the River Miramichee in the Province of New Brunswick, from the former, four thousand tierces of three hundred pounds each, has often been exported in a year|| ; the salmon fisheries in the rivers on the Coast of Labrador and the Straits of Bellisle,

|| I think I may venture to say that ten thousand tierces have frequently been exported from the Gulph in a year.

are at present chiefly in the hands of the Americans, as is also a considerable share of the Indian trade on that coast, both without any other right than sufferance.

If the Americans at such a distance, find the fishery on this coast so profitable, what must it be if carried on from Prince Edward Island, so much nearer, and where every thing necessary can be produced in as great perfection as in New England ; there is nothing in the American system of management if superior to our own, of which the knowledge is not easily obtained,† and situated as we are, with so many fine harbours close to the fishing ground, and with a country in which the population, and almost every thing necessary for the business can be produced and supported, it must be manifest that the greatest part of the fisheries in the Gulph and Straits of Bellisle, must fall to the people of the Island as soon as their

† And thousands of their fishermen if it should be thought proper to encourage them.

numbers, and the cultivation of the country, will enable them to attend to the business, and to reap the benefit of their local situation and circumstances.

The principal fishing posts in Lower Canada are at Gaspé, Percée, and Bonaventure Island, and labour under the disadvantage of being situated in a part of the country incapable of producing the necessaries of life they consume, and in which, after the fishing season is over, there is no employment for the people, who are mostly obliged in consequence to go to Quebec, in the autumn; there they scatter over the country to seek for employment till the return of the next fishing season; they are then to be collected and sent a distance of four hundred miles down the River St. Lawrence, and from the prevalence of the easterly winds in the spring, they are often three weeks and a month on wages and provisions before they ever wet a line for their employers, and sometimes lose the first part of the season entirely, which

is always the best: the Nova Scotia Fisheries are also under the same disadvantage of depending on the importation of provisions for their daily consumption, these are chiefly brought from the United States, at an expence which has become much too heavy latterly, in consequence of which, the fisheries on this coast are now become very inconsiderable to what they have been: and the greatest part of their produce, instead of being directly exported to the market where it is consumed, is sent to the American States to pay for provisions, from thence it is exported to the West Indies.

These are circumstances of an unchangeable nature; which point out Prince Edward Island, the adjacent coasts of the Continent, and the west coast of Cape Breton, both in point of situation, and all the necessary natural advantages, as furnishing the only means by which the entire occupancy of the fisheries in the Gulph and the Straits of Bellisle, can be restored to Great-Britain. †

† The Magdalen Islands in point of situation, are also extremely valuable,

I have been informed that if the southern whale fishery was attempted from the harbour of George Town or Three Rivers on an extensive scale, that a great many people from Nantucket and other ports in New England, accustomed to that business, if encouraged, would readily settle there, to which, it is said, they would be induced, from the consideration that they would be enabled to employ the working part of their families that do not go to sea, in the cultivation of small farms, to have cattle and gardens, whereby they could maintain their families at a much less expence than when settled in a situation where every thing necessary for their consumption is to be purchased. It is said that the want of the benefits of such a situation was the chief reason which induced the people who had been settled at Halifax in Nova Scotia, in the southern whale fishery, to abandon that place, where there was no means of employing their families, and where every thing they consumed was to be purchased.

I do not know whether they will produce wheat, but they will maintain a great many cattle, and have in other respects great advantages.

If the information which the author has humbly attempted to bring forward in the preceding pages, has the effect of attracting the attention of those to the affairs of the Island, on whose judgment its future progress depends, his object will be completely attained: and should the prospects of advantage to be derived from settling the country, which he has pointed at, be so far attended to, as to induce some person whose abilities are more equal to the subject, to enter thereon, and to put it in that light which its importance to the public requires, he will not doubt of seeing in a short time a considerable portion of that capital, and still more valuable spirit and industry, which is now attracted by the United States, directed to the improvement of a British possession whose settlement and cultivation, he is confident will not only amply reward those who may adventure therein but materially contribute to increase the Naval power and resources of the British Empire.

THE END.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 017 460 032 6

