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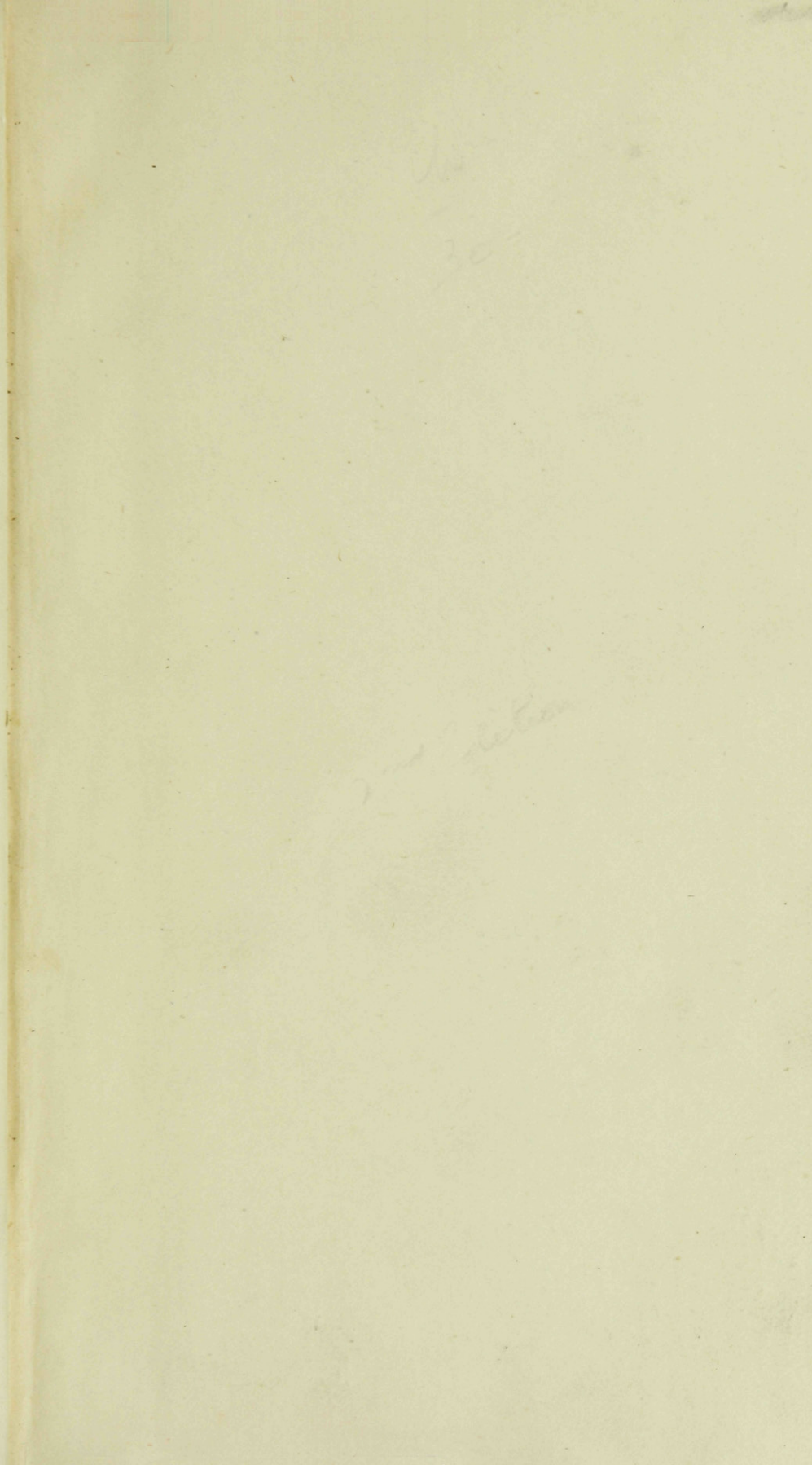
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Canada  
Nova Scotia  
Present State











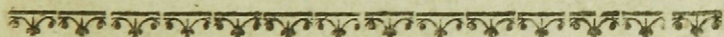








THE  
PRESENT STATE  
OF  
*NOVA SCOTIA:*  
WITH A BRIEF  
ACCOUNT OF CANADA.



THE HISTORY OF THE

THE

RESISTANCE

TO

MONARCHY

WITH A

ACCOUNT OF CANADA

AND THE



THE  
PRESENT STATE  
OF  
NOVA SCOTIA:  
WITH A BRIEF  
ACCOUNT OF CANADA,  
AND THE  
BRITISH ISLANDS  
ON THE COAST OF  
NORTH AMERICA.

---

The SECOND EDITION, corrected and enlarged.  
Illustrated with a Map.

---

*Sunt ingeniorum monumenta, quae saeculis probantur.* LIVY.

C'est le nombre du peuple, et l'abondance des alimens, qui forme la  
vraie force, et la vraie richesse d'un royaume. FENELON.

EDINBURGH:

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M, DCC, LXXVII.





TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE,  
JOHN, LORD SHEFFIELD,

MY LORD,

THE favourable reception with which the former edition of this work has been distinguished in England, emboldens the Author to hope for the continuance of that protection which you so generously bestowed on the first impression.

THE whole of the descriptive parts were written amidst those rude and magnificent scenes, which are so frequently met with in the yet uncultivated regions of the New World.

I AM

I AM convinced of the necessity that this country is under, of strictly enforcing the navigation laws in their fullest extent ; and it is natural to expect, from your Lordship's intimate acquaintance with the subject, that a Treatise which tends to illustrate it should derive the greatest advantage from your Lordship's approbation.

I HAVE the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

And very humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.



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*This Country was conquered by the Six Nations 1650, and is still held by them.*



S. Hollingsworth Fecit. D. Lizars Sculp. Edin.

Scale of English Miles.  
10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120

Degrees of Longitude West from London.







arose ; whether from a mistaken and delusive system, pursued by the government at home ; from the clamours of factious and designing men, as well in England as America ; from that enthusiasm, which so often seizes on whole nations as well as individuals, heightened and inflamed by the envy of foreign states, aiming to crush for ever the power and the commerce of Great Britain, by accomplishing the disunion and separation of the parent state and her colonies ; the interference and attacks of those nations, united in a confederacy, as numerous as it was powerful ; or whether, indeed, it did not arise from all these causes, acting to one unfortunate end.

Happily for England, that national spirit, which has so often distinguished her amongst the nations, as well when convulsed by intestine disorders, as when surrounded by superior forces, exerted itself with its usual effect. The world saw with astonishment the efforts that were made ; even her  
defeats

defeats added to her glory ; Europe, Asia, and the West Indies, beheld the standards of Britain crowned with victory, or repelling with success their hostile foes, who, awed by that unbroken resolution which appeared in the exertions of her fleets and armies, frequently neglected to gather the fruits of those advantages that had been gained at the expence of their blood and treasure.

In America alone, as far as relates to final success, the sad reverse appears in almost every thing ; there, though possessed of an army, numerous, brave, and active, and of a fleet well manned and appointed ; yet repeated victories led but to repeated defeats ; and misfortune constantly followed in the footsteps of prosperity. Those events are too recent to stand in need of being enlarged upon ; and, were they still more distant, a repetition of them must awaken many painful sensations : Fortunately for this country, though she lost  
much,



#### 4 INTRODUCTION.

much, she was not entirely stripped of all her ancient possessions in America ; Canada, and Nova Scotia, however miserably curtailed, by the terms of the provisional treaty, are still left.

Great nations, as well as private families, are subject to revolutions, misfortunes, and decay ; from which it is necessary to learn wisdom, and, by a prudent conduct, avoid falling again upon those rocks, on which their hopes and happiness have been already wrecked ; and, by pursuing a contrary line of direction, prevent the renewal of the like evils in future.

It must awaken the attention, and call forth every feeling of humanity, to consider this Province as the last and only refuge of a body of people, less respectable for their numbers, though great, than for their loyalty and sufferings, in consequence of a firm and unshaken adherence to the British constitution ; disdaining to live beneath

neath the shadow of those motely and disjointed fabrics of government, which have been raked out of the ashes of the heathen republics of Greece and Rome; they have quitted their native soil, where ease and affluence, the happy effects of their own and their ancestors industry, awaited them; and, sacrificing every thing to those principles, have fled to its desarts as a protection from the violence of their countrymen; and sought amidst its forests the means of procuring the bare necessaries of life, which can only be obtained by a hard and laborious employment, constantly struggling with the rigours of an inclement sky, and a rough and uncultivated soil; in all things the reverse of those mild climates and fruitful fields, their former happy possession.

But, in a national point of view, it is of still greater consequence to England to be possessed of it, as entirely commanding the fisheries; which, while properly encouraged, may not only be considered as an inexhaustible



## 6 INTRODUCTION.

exhaustible mine of wealth to the empire at large, and one of the chief sinews of its power, but as having the most evident tendency to increase the trade and population of that Province, and render it not only happy in itself, but also useful to Great Britain, as well in point of commerce, as by affording protection to the fisheries upon its own coasts, and those carried on upon the banks of Newfoundland.

In short, its situation is advantageous, viewed in every light. Its shipping and seamen are rapidly increasing, as well as its produce, which affords the pleasing prospect of being able to supply itself with all the necessaries of life. The number of persons who, since the commencement of the late war, have abandoned their habitations in the more southern provinces, and settled either there or in Canada, cannot be estimated, by the most moderate calculation, at less than eighty thousand; of these, full two thirds have adopted emigration, as

a matter of necessity, and given to the world the most unequivocal proof of their attachment to the constitution of Great Britain, that of sacrificing their property to the resentment of their enemies.

The territories of the United States have not only suffered from this, but other causes. An expensive and long continued war, in which every expedient was devised to keep their armies in the field, had sapped the foundations of public credit, and accumulated a load of debt, both foreign and domestic, which many of those provinces are ill able to subsist with. If, indeed, the whole of those, comprised within the federal union, were united under one supreme head, capable of acting with vigour, forming good laws, and of dictating to each member composing the republic, there is no doubt but that the foundation of a mighty empire is laid in America, that might in time be able to make a respectable figure on the great theatre of human events,



vents, and probably give laws to all the western world.

Much stress is laid upon extent of territory, among the generality of mankind, as constituting one of the things necessary to improvement, and the real greatness of a people. Thus, this mistaken notion has always had its advocates, who, though the most numerous, were not always the best informed. Athens was more powerful before she planted colonies, than in any subsequent period, while that illustrious commonwealth subsisted. Nor were the plain but noble manners of Lacedemon corrupted, until her virtuous citizens became flushed with the madness of foreign conquests. Every nation seems to carry within its own bowels the seeds of its decay, and sometimes of its dissolution. Thus Spain, in the fifteenth century, arose suddenly to the most conspicuous height of greatness that any European kingdom had ever attained, and which, far from enabling her

her



her to forge chains for the neighbouring states, barely enabled her to plant and preserve colonies in America, whose treasures, instead of centering in one place, were gradually spread over the earth, and put it in the power of her enemies to trample under foot that haughtiness, which but a few years before had been their terror. Great Britain has expended, in the founding, defending, or endeavouring to subdue, her revolted colonies, the enormous sum of L. 300,000,000 Sterling, besides the loss of many thousands of her best soldiers and seamen, who fell upon the hostile plains of America, or were buried in the depths of the ocean. The support of their civil establishments in time of peace; the immense bounties granted by the munificence of many successive parliaments; the market which was opened for the sale of their New England built shipping, then esteemed as British bottoms; the monopoly they had secured to themselves in all the West India  
B islands,



islands, which enabled them to undersell the produce of our native fisheries; all these solid advantages have entirely disappeared, and left scarce any thing behind them but the baseless fabric of a nominal independence.

That passion for extensive domain which has so often proved a fatal snare to the nations of the old world, produced its usual effect on the minds of the American legislators, and prompted them to obtain, by the provisional treaty, the whole of that country, that must ever be considered as the frontier of Canada, including in its limits the lakes George and Champlain, together with Niagara, Crownpoint, Ticonderago, St John's, at the head of Richlieu river, where it joins lake Champlain, and the fort of Chambli, a few miles lower down; thereby leaving Canada entirely without defence, and securing to the United States an opportunity of not only surrounding Montreal at pleasure, but of transporting,  
by



by means of Sorel river \*, their armies to the walls of Quebeck. This grasp at territory was not without its object. It secured, in a subsequent period, a large field for exercising that spirit of enterprize which has frequently distinguished infant empires; seeing that Canada had now no other frontier than the bravery of the British armies that were kept in the province for its preservation. It was securing forever to America the good behaviour of all the Indian tribes, if not their affection, and causing the whole of that trade which is now carried on by the great river St Lawrence and the lakes, to bestow its various benefits upon their own subjects. Canada has no other barrier towards the revolted provinces than the lakes, which Nature hath bestowed to defend the country, and which not only answer that purpose, but convey the manufactures of Great Britain to far distant regions,

\* This river, and that called Richelieu, are the same, and called indifferently by both names.



regions, where the traders disperse them sometimes to the distance of a thousand miles from the capital. It is not only the unjust claims, and the incroachments made upon Canada, that have excited the complaints of the King's subjects in America. On the sea-coast, few or no settlements, besides some scattered families, had ever settled to the eastward of Casco Bay and Kennebec river, which was always supposed the eastmost boundary of New Hampshire, yet the provisional treaty has given up to the States the whole province of Main, abounding with the best masts for ships of any country in the world, and a sea-coast of near two hundred miles, extending to the river St Croix, at the entrance into the bay of Fundy, which must have been owing not altogether to necessity, as it is an acknowledged fact, that America had not the smallest pretensions to any part of this country. By giving up this tract, the American fishermen are brought almost to the doors of the fisheries, and thereby enabled



abled to vie with the exertions that are making by the King's subjects in Nova Scotia.

The cod-fishing is carried on by the Americans from Boston, Salem, Cape Ann, Marblehead, and some other places, in small schooners of from ten to twenty tons burthen, carrying from five to ten men each, in proportion to their size, whose employment is taking the cod with hand-lines, of which about a dozen are always down on the weather side of the vessel, as she is commonly left to drive under the foresail, and the helm lashed a-lee. Each man attends three or more lines, and, as soon as a fish is hauled in, it is gutted and washed, the head taken off, and the body thrown into the hold, where the whole of the fish is salted in bulk, and generally remains in that state to the end of the voyage, which is sometimes five or six weeks, as few of them choose to dry their fish on shore, since hardly any of the bays or creeks on the south



south side of the peninsula are entirely destitute of inhabitants.

The distance from the coasts of New Hampshire, and Massachusetts's bay, gives to the King's subjects an evident advantage over those who have to come so far, before they arrive on the fishing ground, which, with a foul wind, sometimes takes them ten or twelve days before they get the length of the Seal islands, while the former can run out of their numberless harbours, and find fish every where, within four or five leagues of the land. The cod-fish are found as far south as the bar of New York harbour; but this is in small numbers, and only at certain seasons of the year; so that, to the westward of Nantucket, there is no fishing for them that can be depended upon.

The mention of Nantucket\* must naturally

\* This island, which lies at no great distance from the Continent, is nothing more than a great bank of land,



rally remind the Americans of the great loss they have sustained in one of their most favourite branches of traffic, by the dissolution of their union with Great Britain.

This island, at the commencement of the late war, employed a considerable number of vessels in the southern whale fishery, which, by the large bounties given on the oil in England, they carried to a great extent. The bounties are now withdrawn; the poverty of the neighbouring states, far from being able to cherish the commerce of their islands, is insufficient, notwithstanding their great extent of territory, to find them employment, or even prevent a spirit of emigration from prevailing, which, when carried to excess, is one of those

land, and does not raise food sufficient for 100 persons. Before the late war, it had upwards of 5000 inhabitants, chiefly Quakers, who subsisted by the whale fishery. Their trade is now intirely ruined, and many of them gone to settle in Nova Scotia.



those evils that a nation has most to dread.

The fisheries of America are not the only things that will suffer a diminution from the unfriendly views of the European states. They have much more to fear from domestic dissensions, than to deprecate from foreign evils. Scarce any one state in the Union but has its rival at its door.

Massachuset's Bay cultivates the same branches of commerce with the province of New Hampshire ; and, instead of securing the friendship of Great Britain, is wantonly oppressing the loyalists, with all the heat of political enthusiasm, or prosecuting a ridiculous claim to uncultivated wilds in the heart of Canada.

Rhode Island, though not so big as an English county, and possessed of a soil that has as little to boast of as the Highlands of Scotland, is as much elated with the idea  
of



of independence, as if all her circulating money was in specie, and her harbour, which is the best in the United States, was crowded with shipping.

Connecticut, New York, and the Jerseys, are naturally rivals to each other, though, in point of situation, that of New York has evidently the preference. The great North or Hudson's river, which washes its walls, is navigable to Albany, one hundred and forty miles from the sea, for sloops, and a great part of the way for ships of any burthen.

The Jerseys have an excellent harbour, that of Perth Amboy, some miles nearer to the sea than New York, which has awakened all the jealousy and attention of their legislators, to set it up as a rival to that beautiful and once flourishing city, from whence not less than 40,000 persons embarked in 1782, in order to settle in other places, exclusive of the army.



The southern states, viz. those of Virginia, Maryland, the two Carolina's, and Georgia, have never possessed any shipping of their own, but generally contented themselves with transporting their produce in the ships of Great Britain, and consequently are but little affected by the navigation laws of this country. The ships built in New England were commonly sold to British merchants; and, though workmen's wages are much higher in America than in England, yet the cheapness of the materials enabled the builders to sell a ship for L. 1200, whilst one of the same size could not be built in the river Thames, and many other parts of the kingdom, for less than L. 3000.

The whole of the trade between the American Continent and the West Indies, was carried on in New England bottoms, which, with those purchased by the merchants at home, bid fair to put an end to the building merchant vessels in this country,



try, and deprive the island of one of its best manufactures, as well as of a body of useful men, the ship-wrights, whom to retain and encourage, it should be the constant aim of government.

The war deprived the old colonies of this gainful branch of traffic, which has once more returned to the mother country, where it is at this moment giving bread to thousands, who would not only have never been employed as ship-wrights, except the revolution in America had taken place, but who stand ready to come forth in conjunction with their brethren the seamen, and send out upon the ocean a fleet so powerful, as will give the world the most convincing proofs, that, when Great Britain lost her colonies, her political sun was eclipsed but for a moment, to emerge from the clouds with greater glory.

The prospect is melancholy to the States, on whatever side they turn themselves.

Though



Though possessed of an ample sea-coast, and harbours innumerable, if they look to the ocean, every European nation has barred its ports against them, and in some degree restrained them from being the carriers of their own produce. If they look toward their western frontier, numberless savage nations are in readiness to attack and to destroy every settler who shall approach their hunting lands, which they are sensible they enjoy from God and from nature. If they attempt to purchase these lands, they will be answered by the Indians, as the French once were : ‘ *Our fathers lie buried here, shall we say to the bones of our fathers, Arise and go with us into a foreign land ?*

In the same direction lie those great fresh water seas, the lakes of Canada, together with all the frontiers of that province that were ceded to the United States. An armed force, with all Canada at their back, and a strong fleet, are ready to assert the rights of humanity, and to repel invasion, if those  
posts



posts are attacked, until the estates of the loyalists, that have been confiscated since the war, are restored, their persons secured from insult, and provision made in the different states for the legal payment of all British debts.

If they look to the southward, they see Spain possessed of East Florida, and endeavouring to strengthen it as a bulwark between the States and their invaluable islands, and the still richer territories of the southern hemisphere; viewing their actions with a jealous eye, and ready to go any length to crush the importance they may acquire in the scale of nations. On the opposite side of the great Gulf Stream is a strong colony of inveterate enemies, making rapid advances to improvement on the fertile islands of the Bahamas \*, and ready  
to

\* The Bahama islands, including that of New Providence, are very numerous, lying between the 26th and 28th degree of north latitude, and the 77th and 80th



to seize the first opportunity of revenging those oppressions which drove them from the Southern States upon the Continent.

If they attempt to force a trade with corn, flour, fish, &c. to the Mediterranean sea, they behold a nation, whose existence is a disgrace to the Christian world, plundering their merchants with impunity, and dragging their countrymen into a slavery more horrible than death itself. At home ! a load of foreign and domestic debt, public and  
private

80th degree of longitude, west from London. The largest among them is Abaco, which is of a triangular figure, and near 100 miles in length. Next to that is the Grand Bahama, 65 miles long, and 12 broad, both exceedingly fertile, and having the sea round them stored with excellent fish. They lie directly in the way of the trade between the Spanish West Indies and Europe, the Gulph of Florida being not above 18 leagues wide, and they are within a few hours sail of the Havannah, and also of St Augustin, the chief town of East Florida. Most of the loyalists who have settled there were driven into banishment from Georgia and the two Carolina's.



private discontents, more than one-half of their foreign trade already annihilated ; new states, and factions without number, starting up in the bowels of the old provinces, and eager for a share in the legislation of a country, whose government is already become too complex to be managed without difficulty ; their specie continually gliding away to foreign countries, for their manufactures, in a tenfold proportion to that which is brought in. A rage for paper money, which will prove certain ruin to some of the provinces ; and destruction brought upon their ship-building for ages to come, by the operation of the new navigation act, passed by the British parliament in their last session. Americans ! you have lost much : Where are your gains ?

The islands and territories upon the western continent, still left to Great Britain, if we except the higher or more southern parts of Canada, can neither boast their extensive dimensions, the beneficence of the  
skies,



skies, nor the grateful temper of the soil. To compensate for their rocky shores, they are blessed with innumerable harbours ; and the wise Author of nature has commanded the ocean to pour out a profusion of food and riches, to repay the ingratitude of the earth. They every where abound with woods as extensive as the country itself, which must in a short time secure them the monopoly of the British islands for lumber, which the old colonies, now become a foreign nation, have lost. The same holds good of their shipping, which are all British bottoms. They are free citizens, and denizens in all British ports, and among all foreign nations. The effects of their rivalry are beginning to appear ; ship-building, and the southern whale-fishery, are establishing in Nova Scotia and Canada, at least as much of the former as is consistent with the interest of Great Britain to allow, or to carry the produce of the Continent to the West Indies. The honour of the nation is carried to a height almost unequalled,

by



by dealing out bread, with a liberal hand; to 100,000 banished men, who have fled to the wilderness to enjoy its protection. The wisdom of parliament has continued the bounties on their produce, and the executive powers of government, in securing to them the legal administration of justice, has added a fresh spur to their industry. They stand in no need of emigrations from this country, as such emigrants would only prove a burthen, rather than a benefit, while those who arrive from the other colonies are not only seasoned to the country, but generally transport their effects with them, and thus become at once useful members of the community.

The island of Cape Briton is one of the keys of the fisheries, and is once more rising out of the darkness that has so long covered it, to become again the Dunkirk of North America. Its importance is incontestible. While in the possession of France, England beheld it with jealousy,

D

and



and the colonies with terror, as it was a perpetual thorn in their side, whenever a war broke out between the two nations. The exertions of its governor, who is better acquainted with the country than any man in America, bid fair to restore its long long lost respectability. Whatever remains now of the colonies are united with each other by the strongest ties ; nor can they, with propriety, look up to this country for those supplies of men which were formerly permitted to emigrate continually to the old colonies. It is the interest of Great Britain to discourage such attempts, by rendering her commerce as boundless as the sea with which she is surrounded ; and, while her fostering care is extended to increase the happiness of her distant colonies and islands, the increase of her manufactures, and the establishment of her home fisheries, should be the grand and principal objects of her attention. It is these alone, and commanding a vast body of seamen, that can hereafter enable her great marine



to act with vigour and effect, to spread terror, or afford protection, to every habitable part of the globe, secure her commerce in every line of direction, and crown her subjects with never fading glory.

T H E







T H E  
SITUATION, EXTENT,

A N D

A P P E A R A N C E.

**N**OVA SCOTIA is, without doubt, the most convenient, in point of situation, of any province in America, for a maritime power to be possessed of ; from the excellent opportunities which it affords of watering, wooding, and re-victualling their fleets, that may be bound to or from the West Indies, either in time of peace or war ; as is apparent, from inspecting the map of the two continents of Europe and the New World ; in which its comparative vicinity to Europe is particularly striking ; lying considerably to the northward and eastward of all the old colonies, and having



## 30 SITUATION, EXTENT,

a great part detached from the main land of America, so as to be almost entirely surrounded by the waters of the ocean, and affording shelter and protection on every side, by means of its numerous harbours, of which it can boast a greater number, than almost any other country of the same extent in the world.

This province, when possessed by France, was called Acadia; and supposed to comprehend only the great triangular peninsula which forms the southern part of the colony, exclusive of that large tract of country, separated from it by the Bay of Fundy, and extending north to the River St Laurence, having, for its boundary on the west, Passamaquoddy Bay, and the River St Croix, and, on the east, the Gut of Canso and Gulf of St Laurence, the Atlantic Ocean being the southern boundary of the whole Province; whose dimensions extend from Cape Sable, Lat.  $44^{\circ} 10'$  to the 47<sup>th</sup> degree of north  
Lat.



Lat. being 130 leagues in breadth, from north to south, and about 100 in length from east to west, namely, from Cape Sable to Cape Canso, which is its eastermost extremity ; and having in the very center the Bay of Fundy, a navigation that may justly be considered as of the highest importance to its future wealth and prosperity.

The face of the country, when viewed at a distance, presents a pleasingly variegated appearance of hills and valleys, with scarcely any thing like mountains to interrupt the prospect, especially near the sea. A nearer approach discovers those sublime and beautiful scenes, which are so far superior to the gaudy imbellishments of art. Immense forests, formed of the tallest trees, the growth of ages, and reaching almost to the clouds, every where incumber and adorn the land : Their leaves falling in autumn add continually to that crust of moss, vegetables, and decaying wood, that has for many centuries been accumulating ;  
whilst



## 32 SITUATION, EXTENT,

whilst the rays of the sun, unable to pierce the thick shade, which every where covers the ground, leaves it in a perpetual state of damp and rottenness; a circumstance which contributes, in no small degree, to increase the sharpness of the air in winter.

The clouds, flying over the higher grounds, which are covered in every direction with one vast forest, and arrested by the attraction of the woods, fill the country with water. Every rock has a spring, and every spring causes a swamp, or morass, of greater or less extent, in proportion to its cause; hence it is, that travelling becomes almost impracticable in summer, and is seldom attempted, but in the fall of the year, when winter begins to set in, and the ground is already frozen.

The land, throughout the peninsula, is in no part mountainous, but frequently rises into hills of gradual ascent, every where cloathed with wood. From these arise innumerable



numerable springs and rivulets, which not only fertilize and adorn the country, but have formed, in the midst of it, a large lake, or piece of fresh water, which is of various depths, and of which, however, little more is known, than that it has upon its borders very large tracts of meadow-land highly improveable. That part of the province which is beyond the Bay of Fundy, and extends to the River St Laurence, rises also gradually, as we advance from the sea, quite to Canada, but is, however, hardly any where mountainous. Its lands are mostly very good, particularly at a distance from the sea; and its woods are generally hard, lofty, and extremely useful.

It is remarkable that, in these savage deserts, all the animals fly with terror and precipitation from every place marked with the footsteps of man, who commonly carries devastation with him, and impresses fear on every other creature. Happy, indeed, had it been for the human race, if

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the



### 34 SITUATION, EXTENT, &c.

the malignant passions, which distinguish and disgrace the lord of the creation, had been employed in the pursuits of the chase, and the destruction of beasts of prey, rather than in wars more criminal, and far less useful.

CLIMATE



## CLIMATE AND SEASONS.

**T**HOUGH this country, like Canada, is subject to long and severe winters, succeeded by sudden and violent heats, often much greater than what are felt in the same latitudes in Europe; yet it cannot be accounted an unhealthy climate. The air, in general, in winter, is very sharp, frosty, and dry; the sky serene and unclouded, by which every kind of exercise adapted to the season is rendered pleasant and agreeable.

The fogs are frequent near the sea, but seldom spread themselves to any distance in  
land.



land. They are observed to rise only from those places that are contiguous to the fishing-banks which lie upon the coast, and are remarkable for not producing the same disagreeable effects upon the human body, as is observable of fresh water fogs; the influence of the latter often producing the most dangerous diseases, even upon persons that are otherwise healthy, and, to the consumptive or asthmatic, present death. The reason of this difference is, no doubt, to be accounted for, from their different origin; and a particular investigation of the matter is foreign to our purpose.

The winter commonly breaks up with heavy rains, and the inhabitants experience hardly any of the delights of the spring, which in England is accounted the most agreeable season of the year. From a lifeless and dreary appearance, and the gloomy scenes of winter wrapped around the vegetable world, the country throws off its disgusting attire, and, in a few days, exhibits



a grand and pleasant prospect ; the vegetation being inconceivably rapid, nature passes suddenly from one extreme to another, in a manner utterly unknown to countries accustomed to a gradual progression of seasons. And, strange as it may appear, it is an acknowledged fact, a fact which furnishes a certain proof of the purity of the air, that these sudden changes seldom, if ever, affect the health of strangers or Europeans.

Many conjectures, some of them improbable enough, have been made by persons unacquainted with North America, but from hearsay, to account for the length of the winter, and the peculiar severity of the air. Its real causes are, the great height of the land, every where between the north pole and the British colonies lying upon the Atlantic Ocean, consisting of unknown and almost boundless regions, formed of vast ranges of prodigious mountains covered with eternal snow ; the immense lakes,

or



or rather seas of fresh water, frozen up, and entirely covered with ice, one half of the year ; and, what is equal, if not superior to these, is the extreme humidity of the soil. As the north-west winds prevail, and continue to blow near nine months in the year, and must, in their passage, necessarily pass over a great extent of cold and barren deserts, as well as of mountains covered with snow, and large tracts of fresh water : It may be easily conceived from hence, with what innumerable particles of cold they must be charged, by the time they arrive near the sea-coast. To follow, therefore, the subject further, would be only to perplex what is sufficiently obvious ; and the causes, as above stated, are fully adequate for determining the question, why, in Nova Scotia, the winter is longer, and the cold more severe, than in European countries which are situated in much higher latitudes ?

The



The coldness, however, of this province, with that of New England, will scarcely bear a comparison, the latter being generally much greater, which is plain from this circumstance, that their harbours are frequently frozen, a thing which is seldom or ever known to happen in the former.

## N A T U R A L



## NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

**A**LL the different kinds of wood, which grow in the neighbouring provinces of New England, grow here. Unfortunately, however, very little white oak can be obtained, but what grows at such a distance from the sea, as renders it incapable of becoming an article of commerce, with any prospect of profit; a circumstance the more to be lamented, as no species of wood is more valuable to America, on account of the great demand there is for it in the West India islands.



The pine forests, which may be supposed to occupy four fifths of all the lands in the province, are not only valuable for furnishing masts, spars, lumber for the sugar plantations, and timber for building, but for yielding tar, pitch, and turpentine, commodities which are all procured from this useful tree, and with which the mother country may in a few years easily be supplied, if such encouragements are held out, as a wise administration know how to bestow upon an industrious and useful colony. The process for obtaining these valuable articles is so simple, that every man possessed of land has it in his power to make more or less of them.

This matter merits the serious attention of the legislature; as the United States, whilst they continued the subjects of England, furnished our shipping with tar, pitch, and turpentine; but have since become, in every respect, a foreign nation. It is surely no longer good policy to take from them

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those



those things which, with proper encouragement, our own colonies are found to produce ; and, although the quantity made by them will never, perhaps, be equal to the demand, yet it affords a pleasing prospect of greatly reducing the loss that must otherwise accrue to us in this branch of trade, which is acknowledged on all hands to be considerably against Great Britain.

All the various species of birch, beech, and maple, and several sorts of spruce, are found in all parts in great abundance ; as also numerous herbs and plants, either not common to, or not known in England. Amongst these none is more plentiful than sarsaparilla, and a plant whose root resembles rhubarb in colour, taste, and effects ; likewise the Indian or mountain tea, and maiden-hair, an herb much in repute for the same purpose, with shrubs producing strawberries, raspberries, and many other pleasant fruits, with which the woods in summer are well strewed : Of these wild productions,



productions, the cherries are best, though smaller than ours, and growing in bunches somewhat resembling grapes. The sassafras tree grows plentifully in common with others; but, amongst them, none is more useful to the inhabitants, than a species of maple, distinguished by the name of the sugar-tree, as affording a considerable quantity of that valuable ingredient; to obtain which, it is necessary, early in the spring, when the sap in vegetables is observed to begin to rise, to make an incision at some distance from the ground, about two inches deep in the trunk of the tree, and a spout being fixed therein, the juice flows fast into a vessel placed below to receive it, and decreases in quantity as the sun declines toward evening. This liquor, which, in its natural state, is of a sweetish watery taste, and requires no other preparation than to be evaporated over a slow fire, whereby its aqueous parts are disunited from the sugar, and the latter is cooled in the moulds made of earth, or bark of trees. Sixteen pounds

of



of sap are requisite for making one of sugar; and care is taken not to drain the trees too much. Twenty gallons is deemed sufficient from the largest. Nor can the operation be repeated twice in the same year, without endangering the life of the tree; a precaution not always attended to in this country.

The sugar, when cold, is of a reddish brown colour, somewhat transparent, and very pleasant to the taste. It can only, however, be considered as of use to the inhabitants within the province; and they have not failed to ascribe to it several virtues, either real or imaginary, as a medicine.

Amongst the natural productions of Nova Scotia, it is necessary to enumerate their iron-ore, which is supposed equally good with that found in any part of America; the wants and necessities of the refugees will not permit such trials to be made, at least



least for some time to come, as are necessary for ascertaining its goodness: The attention which is requisite in promoting the arts of husbandry, and extending the fisheries, so as to ensure a present subsistence, must occupy so much of their thoughts, as to leave them no room for speculation on future improvements, or advantages that are at any considerable distance. There can, however, remain but little doubt, that the iron made here may become a useful article of trade in the course of a few years.

Lime-stone is found in many places; it is extremely good, and is now much used for building; independent of which, it gives the farmers and landholders a great advantage for improving the ground, as it is found by experience to be one of the most approved things in the world for that purpose.

## ANIMALS,



## ANIMALS, TREES, AND PLANTS,

THAT HAVE BEEN IMPORTED.

**T**HE animals that have been imported do not degenerate. The black cattle are in general very large, and the sheep greatly preferable to those of New England; the flesh, both of them, and of their hogs, is excellent; and some very good horses are now bred in the country. Their dogs are exceeded by none in the world for strength or utility, being constantly put to every kind of drudgery, such as fetching home the provisions that are necessary for the family, the wood for their firing, &c.

Several



Several of the useful and most common European fruits have been planted in many places; so that the Province now produces, particularly at Annapolis Royal, and in the country between Halifax and the Basin of Mines, great quantities of apples, some pears, and a few plumbs, which are all good of their kind, especially the former.

The smaller fruits, such as currants, gooseberries, &c. grow to as great perfection as in Europe; and the same may be said of all the common and useful kinds of garden plants. Among these their potatoes have the preference, as being the most serviceable in a country abounding with fish; and indeed they are not to be exceeded in goodness by any in the world.

The maize, or Indian corn, is a native of much warmer climates, and, though planted here, never arrives at more than two thirds of its natural bigness; a defect which arises as well from the shortness of the summer,



mer, as the gravelly nature of the soil. Its vast utility, both to man and beast, will always, however, render it an object of cultivation, as no kind of grain is more easily raised, after the lands are once cleared, or is capable of yielding a greater produce, which is generally from seven hundred to a thousand grains, and sometimes twelve hundred, for one that has been sowed; and, besides this large increase, it is remarkable for the excellent food which its stems and leaves afford to every kind of cattle in winter, who will eat it in preference to any other vegetable.

As the remaining branches of the king's dominions in America will be better known hereafter, and, it is hoped, so governed as to render them flourishing and happy in themselves, and useful to the parent state; the attention of the legislature will, no doubt, be directed to adopt such measures as may encourage the growth of hemp and flax; articles which are perfectly fitted to  
the



the soil and climate of the country ; and, if considered as forming an essential part of the stores consumed, not only by the royal navy, but by all the mercantile vessels of Great Britain, must always be an object of national importance, and, if properly supported, will keep at home a great part, if not all, of those immense sums which have hitherto been sent abroad and expended with foreign nations, for purchasing hemp, canvas, and linens.

Tobacco, a plant of which the uses and effects are well known, may be cultivated with ease in Nova Scotia, as it is already every where in Canada, from Lake Champlain to the Isle of Orleans, for the purpose of internal consumption. Considered in no other light than as keeping a sum of money in the Province, the culture of this article is an object of some concern ; but, whether its quality will ever render it a commodity fit for exportation, time alone can discover.



## DANGERS UPON THE COAST.

**T**HIS country, as has been already observed, may be justly esteemed the first in the American world, with respect to that situation, whether in peace or war, which a great maritime power, possessed also of settlements in the West Indies, would wish to retain and improve.

All the southern coast of the Peninsula is one continued chain of inlets, bays, roads, and sheltering places for shipping; the approaches to which are rendered easy, by the regularity of the soundings; so that the goodness of its harbours add to its importance, and increase the local advantages for  
which,



which, in respect of situation, it stands indebted to nature.

The principal dangers to which those who intend to make the land are exposed, are, first, from Brown's Bank, or George's Bank, a very large shoal, lying a great way off at sea, south-west of Cape Sable; it is asserted to have been seen dry in some places, which is not improbable, as there are credible persons who have sounded upon it in three fathoms water\*. It is one of the worst places in the world to fall in with at night, especially in bad weather, though fortunately the soundings are gradual.

The second danger upon the coast arises from the Seal Islands, which lie off Cape Sable, the south westernmost extremity of the province. They are still more hurtful  
from

\* This shoal part is nearer to Cape Cod, at the entrance to Boston Bay, than to any other place; it bears from it east about 50 miles.



from the constant fogs and currents that prevail thereabout, and many vessels are every year wrecked upon them.

A third, and that equal to either of the former, is the Isle of Sable, lying about thirty leagues S. E. of Halifax. It is a great bank of sand, very low, being almost even with the water, and scarcely discernible, even in clear weather, at any considerable distance; narrow, but of considerable length, and surrounded, particularly at the N. E. and N. W. ends, with terrible shoals, bars, and hills of sand. In the middle of it there is a large pond of salt water, communicating with the sea, abounding with oysters and other shell-fish, which afford a scanty subsistence to the wretches who are so unhappy as to be wrecked upon this desolate island. A near approach to it discovers only naked sand-hills, producing a few low shrubs, and inhabited by horses, and some few black cattle, that have long since run wild.

Very



Very little danger is to be apprehended when well in with the main land, except from what is visible and above water, and even these dangers are daily lessened by experience, and by the great improvements made in the nautic art ; amongst which, that of determining the longitude of places by celestial observation, deservedly holds the first rank, and has greatly facilitated the construction of the best sea charts that any age or nation can boast of having possessed. The tides in the Bay of Fundy, though regular, yet, as running very strong in many places, and causing a great rise and fall of water, have impressed the minds of many persons, unacquainted with the coast, with an unjust idea of the peril and difficulty of the navigation, especially during the winter, which has not been a little heightened by the fogs that are prevalent at this season of the year. It will therefore be necessary to have light-houses erected in several places for ensuring, not only the safety of the commercial interests of the province,



vince, but likewise the King's ships, which are equally exposed, in performing the duties of their station, with the merchant vessels employed in these seas. Happily the situations fit for such erections are so placed by nature, as to be obvious to the most inexperienced observer. One of them must be built upon a conspicuous part of Grand Manan, or the S. W. point of Long Island, which form the entrance to the bay of Fundy; and this, not only for the guidance of ships bound in from sea, but likewise for those that come down from the settlements at the head of the bay, from St John's River, Annapolis Royal, and other places.

The second should be upon Patridge Island, at the entrance into St John's River; a situation not less adapted for such a purpose than for that of raising works to secure the navigation of the river, protect the harbour, and prevent the landing of an enemy.

Another



Another is wanted upon the Seal Islands, and is that which will be the most useful; the advantages naturally arising from it being of the most extensive kind, and equally diffused to ships of all nations, whom either choice, misfortune, or ignorance, has brought into the American seas.

Annapolis Royal, and Port Roseway\*, harbours upon which such considerable settlements are formed, as bid fair to rival the commercial glory of some cities in the old colonies, would be much benefited by similar erections, which, though unable to complete themselves at present, might be kept, if already built, without any kind of expence to government.

As a considerable settlement is forming at Chedabucto Bay, in the eastermost extremity of the Province, it is absolutely necessary that a light-house should be built  
upon,

\* There is one now building at this place.



upon, or near to Cape Canso ; not merely because there is a town forming in its neighbourhood, but because it is surrounded by many shoals and rocks, which are little known, and, above all, because it will tend to facilitate the navigation from Nova Scotia to St John's Island, the gulph and river of St Laurence, and Canada, by means of the streights or gut of Canso, a narrow channel or arm of the sea, which divides the island of Cape Breton from the country of which we are speaking.

## FISHERIES.



## F I S H E R I E S.

**U**PON every part of the coast, and at different distances from the land, there are fishing banks, of greater or smaller extent, and in various depths of water, generally from thirty to sixty fathoms; upon all of these, the cod fish is found in all seasons, and in every month of the year, notwithstanding what has been sometimes advanced to the contrary. There is, indeed, some variation as to the quantity taken, and the depth of water to which the fish retire, at certain seasons; they, however, never entirely forsake the coast. The common, and, indeed, the almost only method

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practised here, is that which is called the stationary fishery, carried on by the inhabitants in small craft. In these they go off to sea in summer, and remain out from one or two days to seven or eight, salting the fish whilst out, and on their return drying it upon hurdles, placed horizontally, at some distance from the ground, and taking care, whenever it rains, to turn the skin or back of the fish to the weather, to prevent its being spoiled. When dried sufficiently, it is piled up in stacks, and afterwards either exported, as an article of trade, or reserved as food in winter. That which is only salted, and thrown immediately into the holds of the vessels employed in fishing, without any farther preparation, is called green cod. Very little of this is preserved for sale, and none exported.

The fresh fish was never considered as an article of commerce, but is extremely useful to the inhabitants as food, of which it constitutes a principal part, and likewise



wife to the persons concerned in the fishery.

The almost infinite number of cod that is taken every year in these seas, though it may excite astonishment at first, will cease to do so, when we consider the immense multitudes which most of the aquatic tribes are formed to bring forth. In this respect, the creative wisdom of divine Providence is not a little magnified, by a comparative view of the beneficial and harmless fish we are speaking of; and that enemy to man and every other living creature, the voracious and devouring shark, who, though so large, brings forth her young ones alive, which are sometimes not above five or six in number, and seldom exceed twenty; on the contrary, the roe or spawn of the cod, having been actually counted by an able naturalist \*, was found to contain more than nine millions of eggs, each one capable

\* M. Leewenhoek.



pable of reproducing the species, in the same extent and perfection.

This vast profusion of nature, so observable in the seas of North America, might teach us to consider the ocean, and its various productions, as a property common to the whole earth ; and, upon this principle, the obvious and natural rights of mankind would incline us to think, that the fisheries in particular should be open to all nations. But maritime states, (by which is to be understood, those not only possessed of naval power, but also of colonies settled at their expence, and nourished by their care and protection,) knowing their importance, have, from motives of sound policy, prohibited, and almost totally excluded foreigners from a share of the benefits : Thus, Spain, Portugal, and Italy, which, from the great number of monks, and the general superstition of their people, might at least claim the necessity, if not the right, of fishing, are, among the rest,



rest, entirely debarred from it. The British government wisely avails itself of superior power and situation, in order to realize to its subjects the profits and advantages arising from a branch of commerce, which, whilst it gives bread to thousands, enriches the state, and contributes in a very great degree to render the kingdom flourishing at home, and abroad both powerful and respectable.

From the middle of April, when the rains which break up the frost commonly prevail, and put an end to the winter season, a constant succession of all kinds of fish common to the country takes place in the harbours and inlets. Of these, the herrings are generally the first, and in a little time becoming gradually intermixed with the shad, are succeeded by them; these are accounted almost equally good with salmon for drying and salting; both the one and the other run in prodigious shoals towards the heads of the creeks and rivers,  
in



in order to deposit their spawn at the falls or rapids, which stop them from proceeding farther, and where they may be taken with baskets in any quantity. Salmon soon succeed, and continue a considerable time in season, and are generally taken in a set net, which must be watched in order to observe when they entangle themselves. Their number is so great, that many fisheries may be established for curing and exporting them; one of these is already begun on the Bason of Mines.

Mackarel, and another kind of fish, either not known in England, or not common there, which grows very large, come into the harbours during the fall of the year, in such numbers as is inconceivable, for the purpose of preying upon the young fish, that are the offspring of other kinds which take to the shoal water, until their size and strength may enable them to go further off in quest of subsistence.

The



The havock committed upon them is truly astonishing. From a dissection of one of their pursuers, the stomach was found to contain more than five hundred of the small fish. A proof of one of the many means used by Providence to prevent the seas from becoming overstocked with inhabitants! Mackarel are exported in large quantities to the West Indies; but the voracious kinds of fish above mentioned are unfit for food, unless eaten fresh.

Lobsters are found on all parts of the sea-shore in great abundance, and the catching them is chiefly confined to the Indians, who carry them to market in their small canoes. Plaice, flounders, soals, skate, and hallibut, are to be met with every where in the greatest profusion, and are only used by the fishermen and inhabitants for food.

The Americans took care to reserve to themselves, at the late treaty of peace, under



der the powerful mediation of France, a right to fish upon the coasts and banks of the colony, and to dry their fish on shore in its uninhabited bays and harbours. Of the first of these advantages they have availed themselves; many of their vessels completed their cargoes there during the last season. It is probable, however, that they will preserve their *cod green*, not only because the best harbours are already occupied by the loyalists and refugees, who have settled there from other places, but because in the others they might frequently expect to meet with the stationary fishermen, in which cases disputes would possibly arise; though it is but justice to observe of the sea-faring people, who are the subjects of the United States, that their behaviour in those parts has, on all occasions, shewn a desire to avoid giving offence, or doing any thing that might awaken the remembrance of past injuries. These, upon the contrary, they seem studious of burying



rying in oblivion ; and it is, perhaps, for this reason that they have feldom, if at all, presumed to wear their national colours in any of the harbours.

The cod fishery begins in the Bay of Fundy in the month of May, and continues there only six weeks or two months. The fish caught here are neither so good, nor in such plenty, as those which are caught out at sea, or even near the mouth of the Bay, about the islands at Passamaquoddy ; but they are extremely useful to the numerous inhabitants who are settled or settling in the different harbours.

No fatigues or hardships can exceed those of the fishermen during the season, their labours leaving them hardly any time to rest, either by night or day. Fortunately, however, from the healthiness of the climate, from the wholesomeness of their food, which consists chiefly of fish, but, above all, from their constant exercise, they  
I enjoy



enjoy, in general, an uninterrupted state of health.

In conclusion, It with truth may be asserted, that the fishery, in the last summer, employed about ten thousand men, and was the means of feeding at least thirty thousand. The whole quantity caught was upwards of an hundred and twenty thousand quintals, about forty thousand of which were exported ; these, at the lowest price, viz. thirteen shillings and sixpence each, must have amounted to L. 26,000 Sterling ; which sum may be estimated as so much money really gained to the colony, whether the fish were sold abroad for cash, or exchanged for commodities of which the inhabitants stood in need. The calculation here given, which is very low, and designedly kept within bounds, that no charge of exaggeration may be brought against it, is only intended to shew what the colony is now able to do, when in a weak  
and



and imperfect state ; and furnishes an incontestible proof, that the fisheries are an inexhaustible mine of wealth, and do, with the woods, constitute the natural riches of the country.

## INDIANS.



## I N D I A N S.

**T**HAT we may go on regularly in viewing the produce of the country, and from thence form a judgment of its value, it will be necessary to say something of the natives themselves, before we mention the grand object of their pursuit, the fur trade.

Ignorant of the arts of agriculture, as well as of commerce, except in the most confined sense, it is in the fatigues and pleasures of the chase that they have clothing, as well as food, for their object; and, whilst we thus represent their manners as  
concisely



concisely as possible, abstruse speculation, improbable conjecture, and hearsay information, will be equally avoided.

The large territory which presents itself to our view, exhibits, at first sight, a dark, thick, and almost impenetrable forest, indented on all sides with the waters of the sea, intersected with innumerable springs, as well as many extensive swamps and morasses, which, never yet cultivated, afford shelter to many savage animals, and large herds of useful ones. On a closer examination, we discover many small tribes or single families of the human species scattered about upon the coast, perpetually wandering from place to place, living in a state of war with the beasts of the field, depending upon their destruction for subsistence, and practising no sort of cultivation, or any of those other arts, which are so necessary to the ease of man in an improved state, if not to his very existence.

These



These are the remains of the ancient nations ; the inhabitants who once filled this part of the coast of North America, and who, by their passion for war, and their attachment to the French neutrals that were settled among them, rendered themselves dreadful to all who approached them. That passion, so unworthy of a rational creature, and which constantly degenerates into barbarity, when exercised amongst men in a state of nature, was rendered still more fierce, by the enthusiasm instilled into them by their priests, whose tenets, too often correspondent with the sentiments of the savages, irritated their natural ferocity to a continual thirst for the blood of men, who, to the obvious crime of being enemies, were branded as heretics also.

Happily these scenes have disappeared ; fanaticism and blood-shed vanished together ; the rage of the Indians has diminished with their numbers ; and nothing now engages their attention, but hunting and  
fishing,



fishing, which, from their peaceable behaviour, are both rendered serviceable to the colony. Some few, indeed, have been observed to be displeas'd at the great number of white persons, who, since their migration, have, of necessity, destroyed some of the best hunting lands that were in the neighbourhood of the harbours they occupy; but their weakness, added to their prudence, will certainly prevent them from making any disturbance.

Their numbers, once so formidable, are now reduced to such a degree, as to forebode the entire annihilation of the race; and it has often been observed, with strict truth, that they are continually degenerating and decreasing in all countries peopled by Europeans. This is not, however, owing to wars among themselves, or with others, nothing of that kind having happened for many years. It is chiefly to be ascribed, either to the immoderate use of spiritous liquors of the very worst kind,  
pur-



purchased of the white people, or to the introduction of the small-pox into North America, which, at different periods, has committed dreadful ravages amongst them. A small dose of liquor never satisfies them. They drink it unmixed, until they can drink no more, and then become literally mad. This, from a frequent repetition, enfeebles and besots them, deadens and benumbs the nervous system, and, whilst it irritates, weakens and destroys the organs of generation, as well as those sentiments of affection and regard which mutually attract and unite the sexes, and of which the Indians are by no means destitute, when free from a habit of intoxication. It is not, however, uncommon to see a whole family carrying in their faces the marks of this brutal vice, and every muscle fixed in the calm stupidity of inebriation.

Their features, when young, are generally very good, especially the girls, who have fine eyes, teeth, and hair. After marriage,



riage, and bearing children, they suddenly lose their youthful look, and assume an aged and emaciated appearance. This remark is not, indeed, without exceptions, as many of them arrive to a very advanced age, contrary to what might be generally expected from the wandering and exposed life they continually lead, and the hardships that must be endured as a necessary consequence.

The small-pox, that disease which, in our hemisphere, has so often proved a fatal scourge to mankind, could find but little resistance from a people who, before their intercourse with Europe, knew no distempers, but such as proceed from excessive heats and colds, and unacquainted with a medicine capable of diverting or stopping its progress; consequently, the devastation committed by it has been so great, as to impress their minds with an idea of its being the worst and most consummate of evils that can befall mankind. Thus, of all the tribes

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known



known by the general name of Abenakies, once so numerous, and even esteemed powerful, no more remain at present than eleven or twelve hundred, of all ages and descriptions, which seem to be still decreasing in the same manner as in every other part of America.

The men are stout made, and have strong bones; but their muscles are apparently smaller than those of the Europeans, and are suited to their manner of life, which requires more agility than strength. Their height is well proportioned; for it never exceeds six feet, and is seldom less than the tallest of the middle size. Their complexion, by nature of a copper colour, is rendered still darker, by going constantly exposed to the air, and neglecting to wash. The red paint, with which they formerly besmeared their faces, is now almost totally disused, except in Canada, where it is often made to express war, either begun or intended, and still oftener as an ornament to heighten the  
natural



natural beauty ; the paint most esteemed for this purpose is vermilion, as being the brightest and most durable.

The hair of the beard and eye-brows, that on the fore part of the head, and every other part of the body, is carefully plucked out by the roots when they are young. The reason assigned for this custom is, to use their own expression, that the hair left upon the back of the head may not be *starved* by the supernumerary hair which grows upon other parts of the body, though it perhaps originated amongst their ancestors, from observing the propriety of shutting up the glandular passages, and thereby rendering themselves less liable to be hurt by the colds and damps of the surrounding atmosphere, to which, as a natural consequence of their wandering and unsettled life, they are more exposed than the people of any other nation. The hair upon their heads is always long and black ;



as is also the hair and eyes of every Indian tribe in North America.

Their language sounds strong to the ear, but is attended with a soft breathing, or kind of respiration, which degenerates at times into a guttural noise for a moment, and then goes on smoothly as before. It is exceedingly expressive, and contains few words, as arising from a quick and lively sensation of visible objects, which prompts them to express, as it were in a moment, ideas that would take time and reflection in us to paint to the life; whilst their surprise, ignorance, or indignation, give birth to thoughts and expressions, warm, astonishing, and sublime; of which a thousand examples might be given, by persons conversant with their dialect.

Born and bred up in a state purely natural, they are extremely jealous of their independence. As they believe all men equal, their principal abhorrence to a civilized way  
of

of life seems to arise from what they observe among the nations that stile *them* barbarians, whose corruptions, and false ideas of things, they affect to despise; and none more than the respect that is paid to riches, which, as they justly remark, are frequently possessed by the most worthless of mankind.

No form of government can be said to subsist among them. Each little hord or tribe pays some deference to an old man, who is regarded for his wisdom and experience. He speaks upon all public occasions that concern the community, the rest meanwhile observing a profound silence; and his language is generally decent, sometimes bombastic and swelling, but always sensible, and delivered with gravity.

The Roman Catholic religion is universally professed; and they wear a small crucifix, as an emblem of their faith. This sense of religion has so far an influence upon



on them, as to bring great numbers from the most distant parts of the province to St John's River, where a priest of the Romish communion comes annually from Canada, to baptize, confess, and absolve them; for which he is generally recompensed by a small parcel of furs from the head of each family.

Their subsistence depends entirely upon hunting and fishing; employments that occupy almost the whole of their lives, to which their canoes are a necessary appendage; and, in the construction of it, the ingenuity of an Indian is chiefly displayed. The bark of a very large birch tree, smooth, and free from knots, is cut with a hatchet, perpendicularly through on one side, and then taken gradually, and with great art, off the tree. Being laid upon the ground, the two ends are neatly sewed up, as are the cracks or fissures caused by taking the bark off, with small withs made of spruce or pine. The wife is employed in cutting  
small



small hoops, half an inch thick, and three broad, to serve as ribs or timbers to strengthen it ; these are placed crosswise, at some distance, the whole length ; a gunwate, about an inch thick, is now strongly sewed to the canoe with the same materials, a nail serving as a needle, and the seams covered with melted rosin. The canoe, on being put into the water, is destined to carry the whole family, consisting sometimes of five or six persons, and likewise the guns, ammunition, and baggage ; but the last of these is seldom very cumbersome. This beautiful little work, which is only eighteen feet long, two broad, and one deep, which is destitute of keel, sail, or rudder, and weighs only eighty or ninety pounds, is used in transporting them across the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, a greater distance, and more dangerous navigation, than the Channel of England.

The canoe, with the gun, tomahawk, and some few implements for fishing, constitute



tute the whole riches of an Indian family; the furs taken in the chase being but too often exchanged for rum, the destroyer of their race, and the bane of their nation.

The children, as soon as born, are plunged into cold water, to harden them, and increase their strength. Afterwards, they are fastened to a board about two feet long, with their back against it, the arms, head, and legs, being left at liberty; and in this position they continue until able to go alone. The reason given for this strange custom, which prevails universally among the Indians, is, that it makes them grow straight and handsome; but a more obvious cause seems to be, that it is convenient for the mother to carry her offspring thus through the woods, where the eyes of an infant would be in continual danger from the boughs of trees, if born about in any other way, or the canoe might be overturned, if a child was left at liberty to move about in it. The insensibility of cold, and  
other

other hardships, observable even in children of the tenderest age, arises probably from that bluntness of the nervous system which custom and necessity, through successive generations, have at length naturalised, and rendered in some degree familiar.

In conclusion——Let not men, born under happier climates, and in the bosom of civilized nations, where learning and sciences have long been cultivated, and gradually brought to maturity, draw rash inferences from what has been said of their manners and customs, as if they were a people wholly immersed in barbarism, enemies to improvement, and incapable of instruction: On the contrary, let it be considered, that the leading characteristics, which distinguish man from the beasts of the field in so eminent a degree, even in his natural state, are in a peculiar manner stamped upon them. The most perfect notions of right and wrong, of subordination to God, as governour of the universe, and

L                      submission



submission to his will, are but a small part of that knowledge which they possess from Nature ; and, whilst we deplore the darkness in which they are still buried, let us not forget, that very few ages have elapsed since the greater part of Europe was in a similar state ; and that the same means which have been used by divine Providence, to rescue so many nations from the chains of ignorance, is perfectly adequate to the same purpose again, since neither good natural abilities, nor yet a desire to be instructed, are wanting, for bringing to perfection such a desirable event.

B E A S T S,

## B E A S T S.

**T**HE beasts of this province are common to Canada, the wolf excepted, which is seldom found in Nova Scotia. Of the wild, or hurtful animals, the first is the bear. The chase of this beast, which is far from being dangerous, is a great favourite with the Indians, as generally affording both profit and diversion. He is commonly black, and in winter somewhat shy, but not fierce. During this season, being very fat, his lodging is usually the trunk of an old tree, where, regardless of every thing,  
he



he sleeps perpetually, until forced from his retreat by a shot, or a fire which is made under him. The moment he falls, he is despatched, in order to prevent mischief; but, if undisturbed, is a perfectly harmless animal.

The wild cat, though much smaller, is more dreaded both by man and beast. This animal very much resembles the small domestic creature whose name it bears, and is of the size of a middling dog. It was called *Lynx* by the ancients, and is well known in Siberia. It is larger than the wild cat of Canada, is very strong and fierce, and endowed with great sagacity, acuteness of sight, smell, and hearing; pursuing its prey to the tops of the tallest trees, and has the courage to attack even the human species, if spurred on by hunger. The flesh is accounted good food, the skin valuable, as being scarce, and the hair long, of a fine grey colour, somewhat striped, and inclining to yellow upon the belly.

Foxes



Foxes of two sorts are here, and they retain the same mischievous and wily dispositions remarked of the race in the other countries. The most esteemed sort is that whose fur is of a beautiful silver-grey, long and full. The other is nearly the same as the English Fox; it preys upon birds, squirrels, and in short any animal it can master, as these frozen climates seldom leave the carnivorous tribes any choice in winter, but that of destroying others weaker than themselves. The black fox, the most valuable of the species, is seldom if ever seen here.

The moose is a species of deer, and perhaps the largest animal of the kind in the world, it being from fourteen to seventeen hands in height, and from eight hundred to a thousand pound weight. Its legs are very long, and something smaller than those of a horse. The male is furnished with horns proportioned to its size, being ten or twelve feet from tip to tip. When chased by the Indians, its horns are laid back upon  
its



its shoulders, and in this posture its strength and velocity are so great, as to break down and destroy small trees and branches of a considerable size. The only time for hunting them is in winter, when the snow lies deep, and so frozen on the top, as to bear the weight of men and dogs; for then the beast, from its great weight, and by reason of its small feet sinking in at every step, is soon overtaken and destroyed. The skin, as well as the flesh of these animals, is very good; and of their amazing numbers we may in some degree form an estimate, from those killed last winter, in only one settlement, they amounting to at least four thousand.

The pole-cat, whose stinking properties have become proverbial, is of two or three kinds; all of which, however, afford a beautiful, soft, and glossy fur. The disagreeable smell observable in this creature proceeds entirely from its urine, which it fears, on being close pursued, frequently  
force



force it to emit ; and on such occasions neither man nor beast can approach it ; Nature, in with-holding from it other weapons, having, as a recompense, thus furnished it with the means of providing for its safety.

The opossum is an animal shaped like our rats, but larger, and its hair is grey or silver-coloured. It is furnished with a false belly or skin, that hangs beneath the true one, and can be opened or shut at pleasure. When she is pursued, the young ones go into this bag, and escape with the parent. The animals of this class are not so numerous as the rats, which abound in the marshes, and are remarkable for the smell of musk observed in them. These creatures are larger than the rats with us, and have a strong resemblance to the beaver. The tail is flat and marked, but without hair ; their muscles are large, the feet behind webbed, and colour the same as that animal of which it seems a species, and partakes of  
several



several of its qualities. The fur, though short, is accounted very good.

The ermine is very small, but beautiful to an extreme. Its eyes are keen, and its motions quick and lively. Its skin is very valuable, being as white as snow in winter, except the tail, which is black. This creature is seldom seen, and very rarely taken; and its scarcety makes it therefore less sought after than the martin or sable, whose fur is very beautiful, commonly of a dark brown, and sometimes (but rarely) quite black. These animals being very shy, are always found in the inmost recesses of the woods; the north side of the Province, beyond the Bay of Fundy, is best stocked with them, and their fur is one of the most esteemed of any in the world.

The porcupine is found in the same part of the colony, but is too well known, and of so useles a nature, as not to need any description. Squirrels of several  
kinds

kinds abound every where, and afford excellent sport to those who are fond of shooting.

The seal, though of an amphibious nature, claims our notice as a land animal ; for it is upon land he is bred, and where he lives more than upon the water. These creatures follow the shoals of herrings through their various emigrations, devouring them in great numbers, and then retire to the shore to sleep. If cut off from their retreat to the water, (which is not very often the case, as one who is left to watch is constantly upon the look-out), they will fight, and throw stones \* with great force, to avoid being taken ; and the consequence is, they are commonly killed in the fray.

The Bay of Fundy abounds with them in the spring ; and a fishery of some extent

M

tent

\* This is done by their hinder-feet in running.



tent might be established there for the purpose of procuring their oil, which is preferable to that of the whale ; their skin also is very highly and very justly esteemed for its many good qualities, and the uses to which it is applied in several manufactures.

The beaver, whose fur is so useful for a thousand purposes, is a timid animal, but of a social nature, and possesses a degree of instinct that is amazing. His colour is of a dark brown, the hair very thick, fine, and glossy. Of all our animals, he is nearest in shape to the small quadruped called a Guiney pig. His hind-feet are webbed like those of a water-fowl ; the fore-feet are strong, and armed with sharp claws, for digging and building ; and his tail, which is flat, and without hair, is about nine inches in length, and five in breadth. He is of great strength, as is apparent from the construction of his bones and muscles ; nor ought he to pass unnoticed, in respect

to the strange life he leads in his natural state.

Before the approach of winter, these animals assemble in large troops, in order to build their houses, which are always situated by the water, for the double advantage of safety and subsistence. If a still water or lake does not present itself, they find out the shallowest part of a river, over which a large tree projects; this they quickly fell, so as to lie across the stream; to effect it, their only instruments are the four large teeth, observable in several other animals; and a number of stakes, of various sizes, being procured by the same means, and placed, sloping to the current, against the trunk of the fallen tree, they twist them together with boughs, and, lastly, fill up with earth, drawn from the shore upon their tails, and worked in amongst the stakes with great labour, by the help of their fore-feet.

The



The whole work, which is a public concern, when finished, leaves the mind lost in astonishment at viewing an immense causeway, perhaps thirty yards long, and four or five thick, raised without hands, in the midst of a river : Few people would think but that it was a work of man for some useful purpose : But what follows discovers the artizans : Their house is built upon this pile : It is formed of mud strongly cemented together, and perfectly round, containing several apartments, and is one, two, or three stories in height, in proportion to the number of inhabitants that are to occupy it. The house is impenetrable to wind or rain, but has two doors, one towards the land, through which the provisions are brought, commonly consisting of poplar and alder twigs, and the other towards the water, in order to effect an escape, if found necessary. The floor of the house is covered with grass or boughs, and kept very clean. The  
store-

store-room, or out-house, belonging to each family, is kept constantly full of twigs, placed regularly, as a reserve of food, against bad or stormy weather, when they seldom venture abroad.

No creature is fonder of its young, or receives from them a more grateful return. The beaver, when grown up, will not forsake his parents; and the old and infirm, when taken, shew evident marks of having been fed, either by their own immediate descendents, or the community at large.

This animal, whose life is so much sought after, like his destroyer, the Indian, is constantly retiring from the white settlers, and growing every day scarcer. A few ages hence he will only be known, like the solitary creature that bears his name in Europe: His love of society will center in a regard to his own preservation; and luxu-  
ry



ry must direct its endeavours to discover a new object wherewith to satiate its appetite for novelty.

The caribou, an animal smaller by one-half than the moose, has been, however, generally confounded with it. Its flesh and skin are more highly prized by the natives than those of the latter, being esteemed the best of the deer kind in America; they are very shy, and seldom seen, even by the natives. A large and extensive plain, lying north-east of St John's River, is the only place where the taking them is accounted certain; for very few are to be found in the peninsula, or near any settlement.

The otter, a creature tolerably well known in Europe, is a voracious animal, subsisting chiefly on fish, and inhabiting the banks of rivers, or pools of fresh water. He is larger than the English otter, can dive very well, and continue a long time  
under

under water. His hair is a very good fur, long and fine, and inclining to a dark brown. Its goodness makes these animals very much an object to the Indians in hunting, and they are often found in considerable numbers.

## F U R



## FUR TRADE.

**I**T was the misfortune of a neighbouring kingdom, when possessed of colonies in North America, to have ministers, who, blind from ignorance, prejudice, or avarice, to the true interests both of their country and its colonies, sacrificed the safety of the one, and the prosperity of the other, to a temporary branch of commerce, which yielded, indeed, a temporary flow of wealth and revenue, but was utterly destitute of that foundation, for its continuance, which can alone constitute the real worth of

of any kind of trade, or make it useful to a colony.

This was the fur trade, which, unhappily, engrossing all their attention, diverted them from giving due encouragement to agriculture, which, in a *new* country, is the only sure defence against either present or future evils.

The people, dreading to become the slaves of a proud and lazy nobleſſe, already poſſeſſed of exorbitant grants of land, and having before them alſo the fear of *religious*, added to *civil* oppreſſions, were but too ready to ſecond the views of the miniſter, and to follow the chaſe with eagernels, in the purſuit of furs, when they ſhould have been employed in the cultivation of their lands : Thus was a colony, which, from its ſituation and local advantages, might have ſerved as a bulwark to the French Weſt India iſlands, rendered a mere



burthen to the mother country, long before it was attacked and taken.

From the result of such mistaken policy, let other states learn wisdom. It is not the immediate profit arising from a favourite branch of commerce, that is to be considered, especially in a national point of view, but the probable and future consequences attending it. To place this matter in a still stronger point of light, let it be supposed, that all the inhabitants of Nova Scotia, instead of cutting down the woods, clearing their lands, and extending the fisheries, were to be altogether employed in hunting, in order to procure furs, It is asked, what the consequences would be? The answer is obvious: They might, for a short time, raise a considerable revenue, and the province would probably, during that time, maintain itself; but, in the end, the nation would be impoverished, in providing a support for so many idle persons, and the colony itself be entirely ruined.

This



This trade must therefore be left entirely to itself, as every attempt to increase the quantity (if such attempts are not confined to the Indians) will be attended with a proportional decrease of more useful labour. It is just, however, to consider it as the third, though least important source of commerce, which Nature has bestowed upon Nova Scotia ; but, even as such, the fur trade must never be suffered to come in competition with the fisheries, or those advantages they may expect to reap from their woods, much less to interfere with the improvements of agriculture, which, with the two last, are fully sufficient to make this one of the most useful and flourishing settlements Great Britain has ever possessed.

By means of St John's river, and the rivers which discharge themselves into the Bay of Fundy at its head, the Indians will be able to bring their furs from all parts of the country that lie between the peninsula and the river St Laurence. There the game  
abounds ;



abounds ; and, as the natives are the properest persons to be employed in this way, the advantages might be much extended, if a road was cut from the head of St John's River towards Quebec ; and if intelligent persons were also sent to view that part of the country, (as being little frequented even by the Indians), in order to find out a situation fit for a settlement, and to prevent the trade from passing to the westward, which it possibly might do, if any navigable water extended that way.

Monopolies have been at all times hurtful to industry, and still more so to commerce. Every kind of restraint that is laid upon this trade must therefore hurt it, instead of answering the intended purpose of doing it good ; and, like a plant left to its own native soil, if left to itself, it will be found to thrive the better. In fine, it is impossible the extent of the advantages can be ascertained which the province may receive from it. Thus far it may be affirmed,  
that

that it is a thing which, though capable of great improvement, has this farther to recommend it, that the perseverance of the inhabitants in giving encouragement to it, by trading upon reasonable terms with the Indians, is fully adequate to the purpose of rendering it, as much as possible, advantageous, either to Great Britain or themselves.

**N E W**



NEW SETTLEMENTS, TOWNS,  
AND HARBOURS.

**T**HE situation of this country, considered in every point of view, is far more advantageous for Great Britain to be possessed of, than any other on the whole Continent of North America, whether in respect to its connection with Canada, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, St John's Island, and the fisheries, or to its being much nearer to the mother country than any other province; and, above all, for the superior excellence and number of its harbours, creeks, and inlets; to which we may add the facility wherewith it can supply



ply our West India islands, in conjunction with Canada, with all the various kinds of lumber, live stock, fish, salt-provisions, and flour, which they formerly purchased from the revolted colonies, and that at a cheaper rate than the latter can afford them, whilst the navigation laws of this kingdom are wisely permitted to act as they have hitherto done.

Many persons unacquainted with the nature of this country, and of those above mentioned, which still belong to us, and others equally blinded by prejudice, have formed to themselves a very disadvantageous idea, and represented the whole as unworthy the attention of government, and asserted, that very little of it is capable of cultivation, or any kind of improvement. To such it may be sufficient to observe, that, although the provisional treaty, formed under the powerful intervention of France, has secured to the States of America large tracts of country, on which they never before



fore pretended to have the least claim ; yet that what remains is of such value, as to be capable, with judicious management, of rendering more essential benefit to Great Britain, than was ever yet derived by her from any of the ancient colonies. Amongst other things, it ought to be remembered, that the colonies south of Nova Scotia have very few harbours that can be compared with many possessed by the latter, if any at all, excepting that of Rhode Island, which is certainly the best in the territories of the United States : All the others have some material defect, either in point of situation, the towns upon them being commonly at too great a distance from the sea, or in being barred harbours, and incumbered with various dangers.

The province of Maine \*, as that part of the coast has generally been called, which lies

\* Perhaps no country in the world produces better timber of all kinds, for ship-building, as well as for masts and yards, which makes its loss the more regretted.



lies to the eastward of the State of New Hampshire, and joins to Nova Scotia, was given up to the Americans at the late peace, though commonly supposed to be within the limits of the latter province. It is thinly inhabited, but has some tolerably good harbours, where there are settlements, from which most of the lumber, formerly sent by the New Englanders to the West Indies, was procured, being cut by the saw-mills at Mechios, and other places, forming a principal part of the commerce of the eastern colonies.

In making observations upon, and describing the different harbours and settlements, it will be most proper to begin at the place where the boundary line commences, and proceeding from thence to the head of the Bay of Fundy, return again to the westward in a contrary direction; and, after viewing the places most conspicuous, along the south shore of the peninsula, extend



our remarks to the eastmost extremity of the province.

The line is supposed to commence upon the sea coast, in latitude  $45^{\circ} 10'$  N. longitude  $66^{\circ} 50'$  west of London, at the island of Grand Manan, which lies two leagues from the main land, on the north side, at the entrance into the Bay of Fundy, and has several small rocks or islands near it, on the south side, which form a harbour, where, at certain seasons of the year, the cod and seal fisheries may be prosecuted to advantage. The island is every where covered with good timber, but is entirely destitute of inhabitants, except some Indians who land upon it occasionally. It is about fourteen miles in length, and nine in breadth, very steep and craggy on all sides, but covered with an excellent soil, capable of amply rewarding the labours that are necessary for its cultivation; however, it is not yet known whether it is to belong to Great Britain or to America.



In sight of the above island, and ten miles distant from it, is a large and deep bay, which still retains its Indian name of Passamaquoddy, having a great number of islands at its entrance, of various dimensions, the principal of which, called Campo Bello, has several loyalists settled upon it, and some tilled land.

The harbours that lie within the Bay are equal in goodness to any in the world, and alike fitted for carrying on the lumber trade to the West Indies, the fisheries, and ship-building. The facility of constructing docks and ships, for the latter purpose, is perfectly obvious, having great store of good timber every where in the neighbourhood of the bay, as well as a very considerable rise and fall of the tide, which, though not so great as at St John's River, and other places farther up the Bay of Fundy, contributes to render the situation superior to them in a comparative view, when ship-building is considered as the principal thing



to which the attention of the loyalists in this quarter ought to be directed.

The upper end of Passamaquoddy Bay terminates in a river called St Croix, which branches out into three distinct channels; and these, making considerable angles with each other, have caused a misunderstanding between the persons appointed to settle the limits of both countries, as the line between them was to be drawn from the head of this river, and it remains undecided which of the three branches is to be called the head. The lands in general that lie round about them are not only very good, but the superior excellence of the timber makes it an object to this country to contend seriously for every foot of territory to which she is entitled.

St Andrews is a handsome town, built by the loyalists, upon the river above mentioned, consisting of 600 houses, the situation of which, though in some respects well chosen,

chosen, is certainly at too great a distance from the sea, and, besides this disadvantage, has only six feet water in its harbour upon the ebb tide. No place, as has been observed before, in the whole province, is better situated for ship building. They have the cod fishery even at their doors, and possess the singular advantage of being scarcely ever incommoded with the fogs \* which prevail on many other parts of the coast several months in the year. The inhabitants at St Andrews, and in its vicinity, amount to upwards of three thousand of all sorts; and no people on the continent are capable of being more usefully industrious in proportion to their numbers.

Beaver harbour is a small port, 3 leagues east of Passamaquoddy, settled by the refugees, about 800 in number, who have built a town upon it, the situation of which  
seems

\* The great number of islands lying in the bay break and disperse the fogs, causing them to rise in form of vapour.



seems to be well chosen for carrying on the fishery, if their harbour was not exposed to the southerly winds that sometimes prevail and blow very hard upon the coast.

From this place to St John's River, E. N. E. distant 12 leagues, the land appears moderately high and rocky, with a bold shore, entirely free from danger, but destitute of any other than one small harbour, only capable of sheltering fishing vessels against all winds. Off the mouth of St John's River, lies a small island, high, rocky, and covered with wood, near to which ships must pass, in going in or out of the river; and, as it lies at a small distance from the main land, is equally fitted to afford protection to the river against an enemy, and for the erection of a light-house, to guide ships in passing up and down the bay, being very conspicuous for several leagues.

The

The town is built upon the east side of the harbour, within two miles of Partridge island, which, lying directly opposite to the entrance of the river, breaks off the sea, and perfectly shelters it from all winds.

The river, a mile above the town, by being confined between some rocks that in-croach upon it considerably, though of a great depth, has a large fall or rapid, particularly upon the ebb tide. When the flood has risen 12 feet in the harbour below, the falls are smooth, and continue to be passable for about twenty minutes; and the river is navigable from hence upwards of 70 miles, for vessels of 80 to 100 tons burthen. In times of great freshets, when the rains fall, and the snows melt in the country, which is commonly from the middle of April to the beginning of June, the falls are absolutely impassable to vessels bound up the river \*, as the tide does not  
rise

\* At the distance of sixty miles from the sea, the  
river



rise to their level, and the strong current, which runs continually down through the harbour at that season, frequently prevents vessels that are bound in from entering, unless assisted by a fair wind.

The town consists of upwards of two thousand houses, many of which are large and spacious, and being built upon a neck of land, almost entirely surrounded by the sea, is thereby rendered exceeding pleasant. The streets have been regularly laid out, are from 50 to 60 feet in breadth, and cross each other at right angles, corresponding with the four cardinal points, every house possessing 60 feet in front by 120 in depth,

river communicates with a large piece of water, situated on its east side, and called the Grand Lake. It is of various depths, is navigable into the river, whose tide rises four feet perpendicular in it, has good lands on its borders, and is well stored with fish. Pit coal, of a quality superior to that at Cape Breton, has lately been discovered, and brought to Parrtown from thence.

makes it capable of becoming one of the best cities in the New World, as the ground whereon it is built is of a moderate height, and rises gradually from the water.

No place on the north side of the Bay of Fundy possesses equal advantages with this, for becoming a place of general trade; the river extending not only much further into the country, than any other in the province, but likewise has upon its banks large tracts of land, equal in goodness to any in America, for raising both corn and live-stock; while its woods, abounding with the best of timber, will enable it to carry on a trade for lumber with the West Indies, and to vie with New England in the ship-building business, which was one of its principal branches of commerce before the rebellion\*. When the woods on

P the

\* Since the first edition of this work was published, the author has had the satisfaction of seeing what is here foretold verified, relative to ship-building upon



the lands near the river are cut down, and a sufficient quantity cleared, a business which, in the hands of the loyalists, is making rapid advances, the quantity of cattle raised in this part of Nova Scotia will certainly be very great, both for home consumption and exportation \*.

Amongst other advantages possessed by this settlement, it ought not to be considered as the least, that a very considerable property was imported, together with a number of respectable merchants, from New York, at the evacuation of that city, whose

on the river, though, at his departure from thence, near two years ago, they had scarcely begun to construct boats, but have since built vessels of 300 tons burthen, 40 miles above the falls, and sent them to sea from Parrtown.

\* This assertion stands upon a very solid foundation. The great improvements in agriculture, which the Canadian colony, settled at Maugerville 50 miles up the river, have made in a few years, confirms it in the most ample manner.

whose unremitting industry and perseverance has embellished the town with a great many fine houses, the harbour with several fine quays and wharfs, and they already possess 60 sail of vessels, some of which are employed in carrying on trade with the West Indies, and the rest in the whale and cod fisheries. Most of the fur trade that can ever take place on this side of the province, must naturally center here, as no other navigable water extends far inland, besides St John's River. Very good masts for the royal navy are cut at the distance of 50, 60, and 70 miles from the sea, as large as to 32 \* inches diameter, which are collected by persons appointed by government, below the falls, from whence they  
are

\* It is surely bad policy to mark all the large fir-trees for the use of government, without allowing any thing in consideration of damages to the proprietor of the lands where such trees grow; as, in this case, they will not be over solicitous for the preservation of the large timber.



are shipped off for the King's dock-yards in England.

The harbour has from seven to ten fathoms water, with good holding ground, and an excellent beach for landing goods, and graving or repairing vessels of the largest size \*. Opposite to the town, on the other side of the harbour, is a small settlement, called Carleton, built and inhabited by the loyalists, amongst whom are a considerable number of ship-carpenters, whose talents have already exerted themselves in building many vessels; whilst the large quantity of fine timber, on every part of the river, equal in goodness to that of New England, and almost any other province in America, is not only a proof of their situation

\* Like almost all the other harbours of Nova Scotia, this place never freezes up; and, when the river is broken up above the falls, after being frozen during the winter, the great force of the tides dashes the ice so entirely in pieces, that it is never known to do any damage to the shipping below.



tion being very properly chosen, but a sure prognostic of the advantages which this place derives from ship-building.

To all the above recited advantages may be added the extent of population, which exceeds ten thousand persons of all denominations, among whom are several regiments disbanded at the late peace, that are not only highly respectable for their numbers and their industry, but still more so, if possible, from their forming a very strong barrier to the colony against the subjects of the United States. A small fortification, called Fort Howe, defends the town, but is too inconsiderable to withstand a regular attack; being very small, and entirely destitute of out-works. The river has in it a number of islands, which, even at this time, afford pasture for a great number of cattle; so that, when more land is cleared, a far greater portion of live-stock will be raised than the inhabitants can consume, the soil  
being



being generally very good, and capable of great improvement.

Twelve leagues further up the Bay of Fundy, E. N. E. from St John's River, is a small settlement belonging to the loyalists, called Quako. About six hundred persons are here, who have very wisely directed their attention to agriculture, their lands being generally accounted good, whilst, on the contrary, they have no place fit to shelter vessels in, especially when southerly winds prevail. The timber of all kinds is very good, and the country abounds with game.

Eleven leagues east from the last mentioned place, the Bay of Fundy, after carrying every where in its course a great depth of water, and continuing from fifteen to six leagues wide, is suddenly divided by the land into two distinct arms, the largest of which, called the Bason of Mines, takes its course nearly due east for almost eighty miles,

miles, but having the rise and fall of the tide continually increasing as it advances, so as to be equal to 70 feet perpendicular \* at its head, and receiving the waters of several rivers, which from thence penetrate considerably into the country. All these rivers have settlements upon them, the inhabitants of which amount to upwards of 4000. The lands in the environs of Mines Bason are very good, and have store of timber, particularly on the south side, and continue so almost all the way to Halifax, from which it is distant upwards of 40 miles. The other head is called Chignecto Bay †, taking

\* This great rise of the tide renders several rivers, both in this, and the north-east branch of the Bay, navigable a long way into the country. What may be thought remarkable is this, that the tides from the Gulf of St Laurence in Vert Bay, rise only eight feet, and yet it is but twenty miles distant, being divided from each other by a narrow neck of land.

† Oysters have been discovered here, and are now become an article of export to several places.



taking its course N. E. from where the separation commences, for about 50 miles, receiving the waters of several rivers which discharge themselves into it, one of them being pretty considerable, called Petudiac, where about 2000 loyalists are settled, and have the appearance of being a thriving colony. Many advantages are held out to persons that are obliged to settle in this province, whose views are not solely confined to trade, but who wish to attend to agriculture, and the raising cattle, as most of the lands round the head of the Bay are very good, having been formerly possessed and cultivated by the ancient French colonists, distinguished by the name of Neutrals\*, whose industry had been crowned with

\* This people, descended from the ancient French settlers, had increased gradually to several thousands, clearing large tracts of land, and raising numerous herds of cattle, living many years in the most perfect friendship with the native Indians, amongst whom they frequently intermarried, and became in a man-

ner



with a degree of success not always equalled, and but seldom exceeded, by the inhabitants of the southern colonies ; nor can  
it

ner one people. Unfortunately for themselves, by engaging in all the quarrels that were agitated from time to time between Great Britain and France, they became an object of resentment to the former, who having caused them to be assembled together under various pretences, caused several thousands to be shipped off, and transported to the other colonies, where most of them died of grief and vexation. This action, sufficiently cruel in itself, was rendered still more so, from having been perpetrated in consequence of positive orders from a nation commonly regarded, even by its enemies, as magnanimous. Let us attend to the event. The lands from which the Neutrals were thus violently torn, became a desert, and every attempt to re-people them was constantly rendered abortive, until a large body of men, inhabiting those very colonies to which the Neutrals had been banished, were driven, in like manner, from their own country, for a similar attachment to Great Britain, and compelled to cultivate the lands left by the former, as if it was the express intention of Providence, in this particular instance, to mark in strong colours the injustice of a great nation, as well as to teach mankind a lesson of moderation and humanity.

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it be doubted, but that the persons in whose hands they now are, will very speedily render them an object of jealousy to their New England neighbours. There is a small fort, formerly called St Laurence \*, and now Fort Cumberland, built upon the isthmus which joins the peninsula to the main land, and, though of no great account at present, may, in a more improved state, be looked upon as the key of Nova Scotia, against the invasion of a land army. Returning from hence, down the Bay of Fundy, to the westward, there is no harbour, until nearly opposite to St John's River, when we find Annapolis Royal †, which has one of the noblest

\* It was attacked at the beginning of the late troubles in America; but the party concerned in that affair met with a deserved repulse, and were entirely defeated.

† This place, when in the hands of the French, was fortified, and called Port Royal, being intended for the capital of the province. At the peace of Utrecht, it was ceded to Great Britain, and was called by its present name in honour of Queen Anne. Its fortifications, at present, are but indifferent.



blest harbours in the world, perfectly sheltered from all winds, the entrance into it being between two capes or head lands, with from 20 to 30 fathoms water. This entrance is near a mile wide, and has a strong current, both upon the ebb and flood tides; the shore, at the same time, being so steep, that a ship may run her bow-sprit against the rocks, and yet be in 10 fathoms water. Immediately within this straight, is a large piece of water, called Annapolis Bason, capable of holding a considerable number of ships, with a sufficient depth of water for vessels of any size, and at least 20 miles in circumference, entirely sheltered from all winds. On this bason, a very handsome town, called Digby, has been built by the loyalists. The situation of it is exceedingly well chosen, both for the fisheries and every other kind of trade adapted to the province. A small settlement is also forming at the mouth of Bear River, near Digby, by some Germans, formerly belonging



longing to the auxiliary troops during the war in America.

From the Bason to Annapolis Royal, it is about 12 miles, upon a deep and narrow river, in which there is a great rise and fall of the tide, both sides of it are well peopled, and in many places are highly improved. A small island, half way between the Bason and the town, may be easily made to command the navigation of the river entirely, as nothing can pass either up or down without going close in with it. Since the arrival of the loyalists, amounting to 2500, the town has increased to six times its former dimensions, the country about it clearing fast of the woods, having received an increase of population, unknown in any former period. The raising black cattle will probably be one of their principal employments; as the inhabitants, who came here prior to the war, not only raise the largest and best cattle of any in the Province, but equal to any in America, except



except Rhode Island and Connecticut \*; so that they will be able, in a little time, together with the people of St John's River, to raise all the live-stock, or nearly so, that will be wanted for the West India market. The anchorage of the town is very good, and on the side next the river; the fort which defends the harbour is of some consideration, but totally inadequate to a defence toward the land.

Passing south-west from Annapolis Royal, we come to St Mary's Bay, which is of considerable depth, and beginning to assume the form of a settlement. The lands every where about it are covered with excellent  
timber

\* The people who have lived many years on Annapolis River are confident that, when they have better opportunities of mixing the breed of their cattle with that of other countries, they shall be able to equal those of the two states here mentioned; the time, indeed, seems to be at no great distance, when the New Englanders will have sufficient cause to repent their having driven into exile some of their best farmers.



timber of various kinds ; and, as the loyalists settled here have some vessels, they have already shipped off a number of cargoes for different ports, although no colony had attempted to settle here, until after the evacuation of New York. From St Mary's Bay, the coast lies nearly north and south. Its south-westmost extremity, lying exposed to the waves of the whole western ocean, is very much broken and ragged ; while the Seal islands, whose dangerous situation has been already mentioned, lie within sight of the land, and afford a disagreeable prospect, even in moderate weather, from the many currents that are known to prevail around them \*.

A considerable number of persons were settled before the late war at this end of the peninsula, on a small river †, where  
there

\* The necessity of having a light-house erected upon them can never be too often repeated.

† Tufchet River, lat.  $43^{\circ} 44'$  N. long.  $65^{\circ} 50'$  W.



there is a town called Yarmouth. They have employed themselves successfully in farming, and had even made some progress in the cod fishery, when the capture of several of their vessels by the Americans put a stop to their exertions in that line. They have since renewed them, and, with the addition of some loyalists, are carrying on a trade with Halifax in fish, lumber, corn, and cattle, particularly sheep. The lands in the neighbourhood, which appeared at first but indifferent, being found, within these few years, to improve very rapidly; so that, in proportion to the number of settlers, few places in the province bid fairer for prosperity.

From the southern extremity of the peninsula, the coast ranges nearly E. N. E. and W. S. W. with very little variation, quite to Cape Canso, its easternmost extremity, which is near to the island of Cape Breton, and containing, in a space of about 300 miles, a number of very excellent harbours,  
at



at a small distance from each other, all along the coast. It will, however, be proper to mention only such among them as are most distinguished, either for their superior goodness, the extent of their population, or the advances they have already made in agriculture or commerce.

The first place, east of the Seal Islands, which deserves notice, is the town of Barrington, consisting of about 4000 inhabitants, mostly settled there before the war, and chiefly engaged in the fisheries and coasting trade, for which their situation seems well adapted, being the southermost settlement in the province. Their harbour, however, is but small, and, at certain times, somewhat difficult of access ; and the lands round the harbour being esteemed indifferent, has induced the loyalists that have come here not to confine their attention to farming alone ; but as yet their number is inconsiderable.



Six leagues north-east of Barrington Bay is the town of Shelburn, built upon the harbour of Port Roseway, latitude  $43^{\circ} 47'$  N. longitude  $65^{\circ} 16'$  west from London, inhabited by a numerous colony, perhaps the most so, that any nation can boast of in modern times \*. The harbour is not exceeded by any one in America for goodness, having every where six or seven fathoms water from the sea to the town, the distance not being more than eight miles, with scarcely any current either in or out; whilst a large island lying in the entrance shuts it in so entirely from danger, that no wind whatever can do the least prejudice to ships riding at anchor.

The town is, perhaps, one of the largest in the New World, containing almost 3000 houses regularly built, having 15 streets

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in

\* The population of Shelburn, and its neighbourhood, is nearly equal to 30,000; before the war, it did not exceed 50 persons.



in right lines from north to south, and 30 from east to west, crossing the former at right angles; the number of inhabitants amounting to 13,000. Opposite to Shelburn is Birch-town, peopled by the negroes from New York, about 1400 in number, whose labours have been found extremely useful to the white inhabitants, chiefly in reducing very considerably the price of work, and various materials, the produce of the country. The lands are greatly improved, and have, in several places, produced fine crops of wheat, barley, and oats, as well as of garden herbs, and dwarf fruits, as currants, &c. The good effects of their being possessed of a large capital shews itself very plainly in the great number of shipping belonging to the merchants, nearly equalling that of Halifax itself, being at least 300 sail of all sorts, several of which are employed in the whale-fishery, a still greater number to the West Indies, and the rest in the cod fishery upon the banks that are upon the coast of the Province. The pilots,



pilots, who are employed by the British fleets in North America, during the war, are settled upon the harbour half way between the sea and the town. Government, wisely considering how obnoxious these men had rendered themselves to the rebels, have allotted them half-pay during the rest of their lives; a measure equally just and necessary, most of them being formerly possessed of property in the United States. No people amongst the loyalists have exerted themselves more successfully than they, in rendering their present situation comfortable. All the country, for several miles about, is exceedingly populous, particularly upon Indian River, five miles east of Port Roseway, noted for an extraordinary salmon fishery, where large tracts of land are cleared, and produce very good wheat and barley.

The river itself is only fit for vessels of 12 feet draft of water to enter, but has three saw mills erected upon it by the New Colonists,



lonists, that are kept going night and day for the merchants at Port Roseway, who are constantly shipping off lumber to the West Indies, both from these mills, and two others, lately erected above Shelburn. From this place, a creek communicates with a large fresh water lake several miles distant, the borders of which are capable of feeding numerous herds of cattle, and are clothed with fine woods, consisting of birch, mapple, spruce, pine, and red oak ; a great many loyalists, convinced of the goodness of the lands, are employed in clearing the woods, and converting them into lumber. Two churches are built at Port Roseway, one for the people of the Presbyterian persuasion, and the other for those of the church of England. All kinds of fresh provisions are tolerably cheap ; butcher-meat being, upon an average, at fourpence per lib. and flour and bread in proportion. Many large wharfs, and convenient store-houses, are erected for landing and securing goods ; their trade, particularly to the British



tish West Indies, having increased very rapidly within the last eighteen months. Below the town, and upon the same side of the harbour, the lands quite down to the sea have been divided into 50 acre lots ; so that a vast number of vessels have been built by the proprietors, chiefly for the fishing business, and some of them as large as to 250 tons burthen ; 70 sail were upon the stocks in October last ; and it is conjectured that near 400 sail will have been finished by this time, since the evacuation of New York, at this one settlement alone.

Port Matoon, or Gambier harbour, is 7 leagues east of Jordan River, and nine distant from Shelburn. It affords but very indifferent shelter to some fishing vessels belonging to other places, having only two or three of its own, and very few inhabitants. The soil, for several miles round, is full of rocks and stones ; and the most barren of any in the province, producing a scanty



scanty vegetation, and appearing incapable of ever being cultivated. One of the regiments \*, which had served with distinguished reputation during the war in America, began a settlement here, and built a town in the autumn of the year 1783, which, unfortunately for them, being somewhat too late, and the ground consequently covered with snow, prevented their observing the nature of the soil until the following spring. Their town, at this time, consisted of upwards of 300 houses, and the number of people was something more than eight hundred ; they, seeing the sterile appearance of their lands, and all their hopes, of course, frustrated, were meditating on the best means of getting away to other places, when an accidental fire †, which

\* The British legion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton.

† The summer of 1784 had been uncommonly dry, and many large fires were seen burning in the woods  
in



which entirely consumed their town to ashes, with all their live stock, furniture, and wearing apparel, filled up the measure of their calamities, and rendered them perfectly

in various places, devouring considerable tracts, in almost every direction, occasioned either by the carelessness of the Indians, or that of the white people at their work in the woods, by neglecting to extinguish their fires; the ground, at the same time, being quite dry, and covered with moss and decaying vegetable. A poor woman at Guysburgh (the name the loyalists had given to the place) was undesignedly the cause of the misfortune; the fire, after it was once kindled, spreading so rapidly, and burning with such fury, as rendered all attempts to divert or stop its progress quite ineffectual; destroying, in a few minutes, almost every house, and driving the inhabitants before it into the water, whilst one man, more unfortunate than the rest, perished in the flames. Scarcely any, even of their domestic animals, escaped out of it. In short, a more complete destruction, from that merciless element, never befel any set of men; and, if a king's ship had not been despatched immediately from Halifax, with provisions to their relief, a famine must have ensued, from which very few could have escaped. On her arrival, she found them, without houses, without money, and without even bread.



fectly miserable. Since that time, Port Matoon has had very few inhabitants, and never can become a settlement of any extent. Those persons who suffered by the conflagration have mostly removed to Chedabucto Bay, in the eastermost extremity of the province; a situation much better suited to their deserts, and promising some consolation in the midst of their sufferings.

Liverpool is a small, but safe and convenient harbour, capable of receiving vessels from 250 to 300 tons burthen, and is not more than three leagues east of Port Matoon. It has been several years settled, and undergone considerable improvements, and has a small river above the town, which runs a good way into the country. The vessels that belong to it are mostly employed in fishing, and carrying on a trade to Halifax, Shelburn, and some other places, in cattle and provisions. The inhabitants, whose settlements extend far above the town, have had their numbers considerably  
augmented,



augmented, by some of the loyalists from Port Matoon and other places, so that their population is very little short of 1200 of all sorts, who are in every respect an industrious and thriving colony.

Lunenburg is a fine town, and respectable colony, founded by some Germans in the year 1763. It is 70 miles N. E. from Shelburn, and 36 S. W. from Halifax, which place it supplies with cord wood for fuel, having a great number of small vessels, employed in that and the cod fisheries: It also sends some lumber to the West Indies; and no place in the peninsula, notwithstanding the unpromising appearance of the lands, at their first settlement, is in so prosperous a way, excepting the two places above mentioned. Industry and perseverance have rendered it highly flourishing; while the primitive simplicity of their manners, which remain uncorrupted to the present time, have very much endeared them all to their neighbours.



The lands about Lunenburgh are greatly improved ; and their population, which was at first about 3000 persons, may be estimated at nearly three times that number at present.

Le Have is a settlement that ought to have been mentioned before Lunenburgh. It had a number of inhabitants upon its river, in detached situations, some time before the war, who have been greatly increased, and whose settlements appear to be well adapted for carrying on a trade with the British West Indies, for fish and lumber.

Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, and seat of the legislature, is in lat.  $44^{\circ} 40'$  N. long.  $63^{\circ} 30'$  W. from London, nearly in the center of the south side of the peninsula, 36 leagues N. E. of Shelburn, built upon the west side of a safe and spacious harbour, which is perfectly sheltered from all winds, at the distance of 12 miles from  
the



the sea, and where a thousand sail of ships may ride without the least danger. Upon it there are built a great number of commodious wharfs, which have from 12 to 18 feet water at all times of the tide, for the convenience of loading and unloading ships. The streets of the town are regularly laid out, and cross each other at right angles, the whole rising gradually from the water upon the side of a hill, whose top is regularly fortified, but not so as to be able to withstand a regular attack. Many considerable merchants reside at this place, and are possessed of shipping to the amount of several thousand tons, employed in a flourishing trade both with Europe and the West Indies. It was founded by the English in 1754, and, notwithstanding the poverty of the soil, has at length attained a degree of splendor that bids fair to rival the first cities in the revolted colonies; for which it has been equally indebted to the late war, to the great increase of population from the exiled loyalists, and the fostering



tering care of Great Britain; infomuch, that the number of inhabitants has been more than doubled during the last ten years.

There is a small but excellent careening yard for ships of the royal navy, that are upon this station, or that may have occasion to come in to refit, and take water, fuel, or fresh provisions, on board, in their passage to and from the West Indies. It is always kept well provided with naval stores; and ships of the line are hove down and repaired with the greatest ease and safety. Several batteries of heavy cannon command the harbour, particularly those that are placed upon George's Island, which being very steep and high, and situated in mid-channel, a little way below the town, is well calculated to annoy vessels in any direction, as they must of necessity pass very near it, before they are capable of doing any mischief.



Above the careening yard, which is at the upper end of the town, there is a large basin, or piece of water, communicating with the harbour below, near 20 miles in circumference, and capable of containing the whole navy of England, entirely sheltered from all winds, and having only one narrow entrance, which, as we observed before, leads into the harbour. There are a number of detached settlements lately formed by the loyalists upon the basin; the lands at a small distance from the water being generally thought better than those near to Halifax; but what success may attend their labours, will require some time to determine. An elegant and convenient building has been erected near the town, for the convalescence of the navy; but the healthiness of the climate has as yet prevented many persons from becoming patients, scarcely any ships in the world being so free from complaints of every kind, in regard to health, as those that are employed upon this station. There is a  
very



very fine light-house, standing upon a small island, just off the entrance of the harbour, which is visible, either by night or day, six or seven leagues off at sea.

East from Halifax, the coast lies much the same as before, and, in the extent of 50 leagues from thence to Cape Canso, contains as many harbours, most of which are very good, and at a small distance from each other; hardly any one, amidst so great a number, is to be found wholly uninhabited; but there are few of the settlements upon them as yet formed into towns, or that possess much shipping: The population is generally from 50 to 100 families, most of whom are successfully employed in the cultivation of their lands; hence a particular description or enumeration of them becomes unnecessary, except our observations were extended to matters in which navigators alone are concerned.

Cape



Cape Canso is the eastermost extremity of the province. The ground about it is much broken, and greatly in want of a light-house, as there is a small but navigable strait of some length, which separates Nova Scotia from the island of Cape Breton, communicating immediately with the gulph and river of St Laurence, thereby tending to facilitate the commerce between all parts of the remaining colonies. It is near this place that the loyalists have built a town, and formed a considerable settlement, at the bottom of Chedabucto Bay, and at a small distance from Cape Canso, which is seemingly well chosen to become a place of some consequence, being equally adapted for carrying on the cod and salmon fisheries upon an enlarged scale, as the misfortune which happened to the refugees at Port Matoon has added considerably to their population.

The woods thereabouts are equally good, and as well fitted for carrying on a trade  
- in



in lumber as any part of America. The lands having been formerly possessed, at least some districts, by the unhappy French Neutrals, were in a high state of cultivation, of which very few tokens remain at present. From Chedabucto Bay, the coast runs away to the north-west nearly, towards the mouth of the river St Laurence, where the land becomes very high and mountainous, but it is not entirely destitute of harbours, that were formerly inhabited by the French, and, though almost entirely deserted prior to the late war, are now partaking of that increasing population, which is observable in all other parts. Fine tracts of land, equal in goodness to most parts in the northern states, extend almost the whole way, from the gut of Canso, to the entrance of the river St Laurence, and their woods are still entire, and seem almost inexhaustible. Soon after passing the Straights of Canso, the island of St John becomes visible, and may be seen from Nova Scotia It has two or three good harbours,

bours, and one large town, besides several smaller ones. Its population amounts to near 5000 persons of all sorts, most of whom have settled there since the commencement of the war. Large tracts of woods have been cut down, and a part of them already exported to the British West Indies. The lands in general are not so high above the level of the sea as those of the neighbouring provinces, but are accounted fertile in grain, and afford very good pasture for horses and horned cattle.

T TRADE



## TRADE AND NAVIGATION.

**A**T a time when all the nations of the earth seem to vie with each other in extending their commerce, increasing the manufactures carried on by their respective inhabitants, or inventing new ones; when the monarchs of Europe, attempting to disguise their ambitious and sanguinary views upon each other's dominions, affect the same pursuits, and, pretending to forget the animosities which have agitated their kingdoms against each other for many ages, appear only desirous of contributing

ting to the ease and happiness of the people, over whom Providence has permitted them to become the sovereigns ; when a portion of the British empire upon the continent of the New World has been violently rent asunder from the crown of these kingdoms, the inhabitants of which, forgetting, in the triumph of independence, and amidst the exultation natural to people in the infancy of empire, the hand that protected and raised them to maturity, have studiously endeavoured to throw whatever can be considered as of weight or importance, in respect to themselves, into the hands of a powerful and rival neighbour, and, not satisfied with this, are discontented at being denied the privilege of becoming the carriers of the produce of her remaining islands and colonies : It will surely be for her interest to avoid entering into any measures that can tend to lessen her manufactures, commerce, or marine, as it is upon the preservation of these alone that the British kingdoms can depend for happiness



pinels and security at home, and peace and respect from abroad.

To trace the first rise, and the subsequent progress of the manufactures, commerce, and revenues of England, to any distant period, would be foreign to our purpose; it will be sufficient to observe, that, in proportion as these have flourished, from the time of Queen Elisabeth to the present day, the naval power of the kingdom has increased with it, so as at length to present to the world a spectacle of opulence and grandeur, which unfortunately, whilst it gave umbrage to the pride, excited the resentment of all the powers of Europe, and frequently hurried them on to attempt the destruction of a marine, which appeared from time to time upon the ocean, almost too formidable to be resisted. Baffled in this favourite plan, astonished at the inexhaustible resources with which her almost boundless commerce supplied the exigencies of war, and awed by that unbroken spirit, so

visible

visible in the resistance, and the victories of her fleets and armies, the world beheld a singular phaenomenon, unequalled in the page of history ! a nation distracted with intestine factions, and oppressed with a load of debt, which threatened the annihilation of her existence ; opposing, in every quarter of the globe, the hostile attacks of more than half of Europe ; and, amidst the unequal contest, securely protecting her trade, conveying in safety the immense property of her merchants to the most distant regions, and increasing her manufactures, commerce, and revenues, while that of her enemies was languishing and decreasing daily.

The advantages possessed by Great Britain, both as to her local situation, climate, and genius of the inhabitants, were better understood, and sooner profited by, than perhaps any other nation ; and, while the events alluded to above are still recent, let it not be forgotten to what they were chiefly

ly



ly owing ; and, if the recollection of such excites pleasing reflections, it can never be too often repeated, that those laws, and the principles of them, which have raised these islands to their present greatness, will, without doubt, if once relaxed, have a contrary effect, and plunge us into the very depth of wretchedness and misery ; since a decrease of shipping must of necessity be attended with a proportional loss of revenue, of seamen, and of national confidence, which, in the present state of things, is the chief bulwark of the kingdom.

That memorable law, the act of navigation, was probably framed at first with a mixture of just resentment, as well as of invidious partiality, the latter of which, far from making against it, is a strong argument in its favour. The Dutch were no doubt kept in sight when it was enacted ; they were become in a manner the carriers of all the trade of Europe ; since that time their navy has been constantly upon the decline,

decline, for want of a similar law, though its excessive weakness was not apparent until the late war discovered it. That of Britain has risen in proportion, and has not yet, perhaps, attained to its meridian glory.

If, then, the simple requisitions of that law, enjoining all our national shipping to be British built, and to be manned with at least two thirds of seamen born in the dominions of England, have produced such mighty effects, what could equal the folly of giving them up? Considered in this view, the propriety and justness of which is incontestible, it is not seamen only, nor yet the revenue in addition to it, that would be the only loss sustained \*. If ship-building is, indeed, a manufacture, it should receive

\* The new navigation act passed last session of parliament, is the best law that ever was enacted, to preserve and increase the power of these kingdoms; but much of its effects will depend upon the manner in which it is executed.



ceive every encouragement from a commercial state ; but, if the sale of American vessels be permitted, and they are allowed to become British bottoms, upon being transferred into the hands of British merchants, is it not plain, that the building of ships in America must be greatly extended, and, consequently, by drawing many of our ship-wrights thither, deprive this country of a most useful body of men, in the hour of public exigence. Without, therefore, entering into a comparative view of the superior goodness of ships built in Europe to those of America, as it is obvious to all the world, and particularly noticed by seamen, it will suffice to observe, that the colonies remaining to Great Britain are fully adequate to the building a far greater number of vessels, than ever can be wanted for the carrying trade, between the Continent of America and the West Indies ; that they have within themselves the means of supplying every article wanted by the British islands from thence, as well  
lumber



lumber and fish, as corn, flour, live stock, and other provisions; and, consequently, that, instead of throwing any part of our carrying trade into the hands of foreigners, the advantages of it may be made to center in the King's dominions, to the benefit of individuals, and the general good of the state.

The view that has been exhibited already of only a part of the territories remaining to us upon that continent, considered under their several heads, may serve, as they are really intended, to illustrate and confirm the truth of these assertions. Long unknown, and generally disesteemed, the whole was regarded as a desert almost unfit for habitation, or the residence of the human species. We affected to despise a country, with whose worth we were unacquainted, and rested satisfied in an unpardonable degree of ignorance. Canada was equally neglected, though possessed of a luxuriant soil, a territory almost unbound-



ed, the noblest woods, rivers without number, and lakes equal to the seas of Europe in extent, and probably in usefulness; it was considered with a gloomy satisfaction that bordered on malevolence. The folly and the misfortunes of the French nation lost them the possession of a province, to the importance of which they had been, until that moment, strangers.

The islands of Cape Breton and Newfoundland, though in conjunction with Nova Scotia, are the key of the fisheries, were as much disregarded as Canada itself. The first was entirely deserted immediately after the destruction of Louisburgh, the capital, and no attempts were made to people the latter; so that both remained a prey to the first invader. If, then, such ample possessions are left to Britain, it will be true wisdom to improve and encourage them, especially as the war itself, however destructive in other respects, has added so greatly to their population; many  
citizens,

citizens, independent of those upon whom sentence of banishment has been passed by their countrymen, having come voluntarily to reside upon the lands guaranteed to them by a constitution, that is equally free from the despotism of Kings, and the abuses of a democracy.

In the produce of the province, it will be seen how far she is able, as well as Canada, to carry on a trade with Great Britain and the West Indies.

The great quantities of whale oil consumed by many manufactures, in every part of Europe as well as in England, make it of the highest importance to this nation to bestow upon it every encouragement, both in her European dominions, and in the remaining colonies, the inhabitants of which are possessed of sufficient capital, and of that enterprising spirit necessary for arduous undertakings. They have, among other advantages, a larger proportion of  
seamen



seamen than any one of the States, except Massachusets's Bay, over whom their shipping must soon become superior, if the present laws relative to this article and the act of navigation are continued in force. They operate as a prohibition upon foreign train oil ; and have this further to recommend them, that no branch of our trade breeds hardier or better seamen than the ships employed in the whale fishery. Several towns are already engaged in this business, particularly Halifax, Port Roseway, and at St John's River ; which, with those of Canada, will soon put an end to that of Nantucket, as no market can be found equal to that of Great Britain, either as to the price of the commodity, or the great bounties given by the English parliament.

The Dutch take a great quantity off our hands, a large part of which goes to France ; and, when the most of this trade was in the hands of the New Englanders and Nantucket men, their annual returns were little  
short

short of L. 150,000 for several years before the war. Canada, particularly the lower parts, or those nearest the sea, afford considerable quantities of oil, that may be greatly increased from their enlarged population, as the gulph and river of St Lawrence, and the adjacent seas, abound with seals and white porpoises ; their oil is already obtained in large quantities, and is generally of a better quality than that of the whale.

COD FISHERY. The remaining colonies and islands have an evident advantage over every other people in this branch, being much nearer, by several days sail, to the banks, than the fishermen of New England, and can at all times dry their fish on shore, a privilege which, though granted to the Americans, by the third article of the provisional treaty ; yet, as that article mentions only uninhabited bays and harbours, and very few can be found in that state, they  
have



have not attempted to avail themselves of this advantage.

Too much encouragement can never be bestowed upon the cod fishery by Great Britain, as, next to the coal and coasting trade, she receives from it the best and most useful body of her seamen, and who are scarcely to be equalled, and cannot be exceeded, by any in the world. It may, in every sense, be considered as a species of manufacture, which, independent of the seamen it raises for our marine, employs a great number of persons in ship-building, and in curing the fish on shore, thereby adding to the population, and, consequently, to the real riches of the state. Before the late war, scarcely 500 men were employed in the fishery of this province; but, since the emigration from the other provinces, their number is increased in the various stages of it to little short of 10,000, a sure proof of the height to which the cod fishery may be carried, and the fair prospect there

there is of their increasing population becoming the means of their successfully rivalling, and even underselling, other nations in foreign markets. Whilst the colonies that are now the United States were considered as British, it was common for them to purchase from Newfoundland and Nova Scotia large quantities of fish, caught and cured by those provinces, for which they generally gave in exchange rum that had been manufactured in Boston, and other places upon the continent, from melasses, the growth of the French West India islands. This spirit was of the very worst quality, either from its wanting age, or from the unskilfulness of the distillers; so that a double advantage accrued to the carriers of this traffic, which has now entirely fallen to the ground; for the fish thus procured afforded them a full cargo there, and was again exchanged with the French for melasses, very little of it being made into rum by that people, that it  
might



might not interfere with their brandies in Europe.

As the fishery can now be carried on with evident advantage, it will commonly be in dried cod, the annual consumption of which in our West India islands is not less than 140,000 quintals; so that, in proportion as the act of navigation is enforced in that quarter, will our fisheries become extended or diminish. Ships can put to sea from hence at all seasons of the year, as the harbours are never frozen; so that, in a few days, getting into the trade winds, they are free from every kind of danger, except in the hurricane months. Thus, if by means of the fisheries and lumber trade, their vessels are constantly employed, the quick return of so large a capital, as that at present employed in the trade of the province, must of necessity bring a considerable profit to the kingdom, which can never happen, if the strictest attention is not constantly paid by every officer, whose duty

duty it is to prevent any abuses of the admirable laws that have laid the foundation of our wealth and power.

It is not to the south side of the peninsula alone, which abounds with so many excellent harbours, that the cod fishery is confined. The seas on every side equally afford opportunities for the exertions of industry, and the means of subsistence to the inhabitants. Gaspec Bay was once a famous settlement of the French Neutrals; and is, together with Chalem Bay, the principal places resorted to by the Canadian fishermen. The fish caught here, though generally inferior in size to those of Newfoundland, is, however, considerable in quantity, not much short of 40,000 quintals, some small portion of which is consumed within the province of Canada, and the rest exported.

WHEAT AND FLOUR. In the present situation of the province, it cannot be supposed



posed that, since her population has increased to six or seven times more than it was before the rebellion, there is any to spare, either of the one or the other, so as to become articles for exportation, at least for some time to come. The lands are, however, in most places, well adapted for the cultivation of wheat, barley, rye, oats, pease, and beans; they are already growing in large quantities in many places, particularly upon the banks of St John's River, north of the Bay of Fundy, among the French colonists from Canada, equal to any in the world for goodness, and likewise at Port Roseway, and many other places in the peninsula. It will certainly be for the interest of government to encourage agriculture to a certain degree in the remaining provinces; for they are already able to export, from Canada alone, nearly all the corn that is used in the British West India islands; but it may be justly doubted, whether flour and wheat, as well as oats and beans, may not be sent



out cheaper from Great Britain and Ireland than they can be had from America ; since freight is much lower from the former, owing to many ships going out every year with scarcely half a cargo, and a great number in ballast only, for want of cargoes, which makes them always glad to take in goods upon almost any terms. Both the lower and upper Canada grow vast quantities of corn : The former is equal in the goodness of its soil to many parts of America, whilst the upper is greatly superior, both in that and its climate ; added to this, it is the only channel through which the state of Vermont can have any communication with the sea, and eventually with Europe ; consequently the subjects of Great Britain must always remain the carriers of its produce ; and it is certain that even Pennsylvania does not exceed it in the goodness of those articles of which we are speaking. The southern states of Europe take already to a large amount of flour from our remaining colonies ; and, if the present



sent high price of freight and insurance continues upon American vessels navigating in the Mediterranean, by being so much exposed to insult from the piratical states of Barbary, it will enable them to undersell the rest of America, in the only market where their flour can find a vent.

LUMBER. So much has been already said of the goodness of the woods, their plenty, and vast variety, as may make it less necessary to enlarge upon particulars in this place; and, as it is plain to a demonstration, that, whatever part of our carrying trade falls into the hands of foreigners, must, of course, be attended with a proportional diminution of seamen and shipping to Great Britain, it would be highly proper for government to allow a small bounty upon all lumber that is of the growth of our remaining colonies, exported from thence to the West Indies, though it were but for a limited time; especially if it appears that the complaints of the West India planters are



are well founded, who have long urged, that the supply at present is too scanty, often precarious, and commonly very dear, owing to a want of competition in the market, which would be immediately removed, were they allowed to receive lumber from the continent in American bottoms. As these persons form a very respectable part of the community, their grievances, where they have a real foundation, should be carefully attended to, and strictly redressed; but, if any measure tending to a relaxation of the navigation laws is the object of their wishes, they ought to remember, that such measures are sapping the very existence of the British naval power, and, by consequence, destroying that which can alone protect the possessions, from whence their wealth and importance is derived; and not only so, but doing the same by all our other foreign dominions.

The



The lumber sent from hence is already very considerable ; five saw-mills are going continually at Port Roseway, and in its neighbourhood, and a far greater number at other places. St Andrews sent off several cargoes very lately to our islands, notwithstanding the attempts of the Americans to ingross the trade in Passamaquoddy Bay to themselves, by endeavouring to form a settlement upon the west side of the river St Croix ; nor is it to be doubted, but that the woods, population, and shipping of this province, even independent of the forests of Canada, are fully adequate to supply the consumption of all the British islands for some ages to come ; since, from its local situation, and milder climate, it possesses many advantages over that province, and the woods of New England have already failed in many places, especially near the sea. Nothing, therefore, seems wanting, at present, but a small bounty, rather as the means of enabling our subjects to bring a sufficient quantity into the market,



ket, than from any scarcity; though, without bounties, its exportation will be greatly extended, as soon as the people are disengaged from the more necessary pursuits that at present may naturally be supposed to ingross their attention.

FURS. It may be deemed a fortunate circumstance, that, seeing such immense territories were abandoned to America in the provisional treaty, by a person who, probably, having never crossed the Atlantic, was therefore, in some respects, inadequate to the task, the Americans have failed in the fulfilling several of its essential articles. Until these are in some degree performed, it will be both just and wise to with-hold the posts upon the lakes as a security to carry on the fur trade, which can be done more advantageously through Canada, unless these forts are given up, than through any of the states, except New York, where Hudson's River, penetrating a long way into the country, communi-  
cates



cates with the lakes of Canada, and thereby enables Albany to become the staple for this traffic with the different Indian nations. The furs hitherto sent from Nova Scotia have been but inconsiderable ; they would have appeared much greater in the two last years, had proper custom-houses been established in the respective ports of the province, as has been lately done, for their entry ; since most of those sent to Britain were smuggled home in merchant ships or transports.

As the Americans, in spite of all our endeavours, will attract a part of this trade to themselves from Canada, our own subjects should receive every possible encouragement, either by taking off the present duties, which are intolerably heavy, and allowing not only a drawback upon exportation, but even a bounty, should it be found necessary, in order to enable the inhabitants of the colonies to undermine the trade of their neighbours, by giving a larger

ger price for furs than the Americans can afford.

Masts, yards, and spars, abounding in so great a number of places, and having been so often mentioned, need not to be enlarged upon; no other part of the continent affords them in so great a variety, nor so easy for transportation to the sea.

Rum is a spirit much used in America, particularly in those places that lie contiguous to, or are employed upon, the fisheries. It was formerly manufactured to an immense extent in Boston, and other places, now under the dominion of the United States, chiefly from the melasses, which they procured from the French islands; and the rum thus made, though of a very bad quality, was mostly consumed by the fisheries carried on from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Canada, to the amount of 600,000 gallons annually; a sure proof of the immense profit derived from it to the

Y

carriers



carriers and manufacturers, especially when it is considered, that the melasses were commonly received in exchange for fish, lumber, and provisions of various kinds; so that, with these encouragements, a certainty of freight, both out and homeward bound, and the constant evasion of duties on their arrival, it is not to be wondered at, that those people became so suddenly capable of making a figure as a commercial state. As the British islands generally make their melasses into rum, which the French do not, it may admit of some doubt, whether the distilleries of Nova Scotia should be extended, or the fisheries and remaining colonies receive their supply of spirits immediately from our islands. As the quantity is certainly very great that is consumed by the former, and the sale of foreign liquors being strictly prohibited, under very heavy penalties, this regulation, if strictly enforced, will, in a short time, amply compensate the planters and West India merchants for any partial injury they

may



may have received from the wise and salutary restrictions laid upon their commerce with the subjects of the United States, as they will hereby enjoy the monopoly, in its most extensive sense, of all our remaining possessions, and the different fisheries.

SALT. An advantage, and that not a small one, which our fisheries will have over those of foreign nations, is, the being possessed of the salt keys in the West Indies, where salt is made from sea water, evaporated to dryness by the heat of the sun. A garrison ought to be placed in them, to secure the monopoly of it to our own subjects, both in peace and war ; and thus, by prohibiting other nations from loading salt for their fisheries, except under certain restrictions, would cause it to operate as a bounty upon the fish taken by the British Americans, and give them the superiority in foreign markets, an advantage much wished for, and of which we should never lose sight.



White oak cannot be said to be very plentiful in Nova Scotia. As it is an article indispensibly necessary for staves for rum puncheons, and hogsheds, in the West Indies, it may admit of some doubt whether the quantity brought to Britain, by the tobacco ships from the southern States of America, each of which takes in a great number of staves, as dunnage for her cargo, will be sufficient for the consumption of the islands. If they are not, this kingdom cannot be injured in its trade by the supply that will be afforded them from the southern States, who, having no shipping of their own, are very little interested in the question, either how, or by what nation their produce is exported; and, as they will not be prevailed upon to lose the trade of this country, by adopting the ill-judged resentment of their northern neighbours, most, if not all, of their traffic with the islands will be carried on in British bottoms.



TAR, PITCH, AND TURPENTINE. A great demand for these articles will always continue in the British dominions, whilst they remain a commercial empire, large quantities of which may be made in the remaining colonies, where nearly four fifths of all the lands are covered with pines, especially if a small bounty was given for a few years upon each of them. Most of the tar formerly used in Britain was manufactured in the Carolina's, and though much cheaper, even with the extra charge of freight, than Swedish tar, was held so much inferior to it, that, in many works and manufactures, the latter was constantly preferred. Since, however, the discovery of extracting the bitumen and essential oil of pit coal, a thing long sought for, and at length brought to perfection, this nation bids fair, after supplying herself, to become the staple for the rest of Europe, as it has been found to resist the bite of that destructive insect, the sea-worm, with which the waters of  
our



our seas abound, almost as much as those of America\*.

As a quantity of vegetable tar will always be wanted for rigging, cables, sails, &c. and the British colonies are capable of affording a supply to some extent, it will be proper to bestow upon it some encouragement, which must tend greatly to clearing the lands, in the same manner as confining the transportation of lumber to the West Indies to British vessels alone; for,

\* It would not, perhaps, be altogether an useless inquiry, whether this insect, so well known by its terrible effects upon the bottoms of vessels, and all kinds of wood, that are constantly eat into and entirely destroyed by it, is originally a native of this hemisphere, or has been imported since our discovery of, and commerce with, the new world, as their numbers and ravages seem continually to increase. In Holland, for instance, the wood that composed a part of one of their dikes, upon which the safety of the country in a great measure depends, was so entirely destroyed a few months ago, that the damages were estimated at L. 40,000, in one place only.



for, as the new settled countries upon the continent are one entire forest, the greater the demand is, and the surer vent they find for their produce, the sooner will the lands be cleared, their improvement effected, and the nation thereby freed from the expence of feeding and clothing the loyalists.

Pearl ashes, and pot ashes, are made at this time by almost every inhabitant, but not in sufficient quantities for exportation. The reason is obvious. The cultivation of their lands, as the only means of securing a permanent subsistence, must naturally preclude almost every other pursuit, except those branches of commerce, the means of extending which are easy in the acquisition, and immediately open to their view.

Iron ore abounds in many places. The soil in general is well adapted to the culture of hemp and flax. Their pit coal is of an inferior quality, abounding with sulphur, but may hereafter become useful to  
the



the province, as an article of export. It has lately been discovered near the Grand Lake upon St John's River, and is accounted better than that of Spanish River, in the island of Cape Breton. Most of the garrisons are supplied from the latter ; and it is probable that the United States must purchase it from them a few years hence, as wood is much dearer and scarcer in the sea-port towns of the Eastern Provinces, than is generally imagined.

It may be unnecessary to enlarge upon the imports from Great Britain to the colonies still possessed by her. Their nature is too well known, to need either a description or enumeration, and their increasing consumption must always be in proportion to the population of the colonies. The superior goodness of the manufactures of Great Britain, even where attempts have been made to rival them, has constantly opened to themselves a market, extended their sale, and increased their reputation.

Not

Not only the province, whose produce and description have been more particularly attended to, but Canada, and the extensive territories upon the lake, the population of which is very great, and is hourly increasing, must receive all their supplies of clothing, &c. from England; to which may be added, a large and valuable trade with all the nations of the north.

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GOVERN-



## G O V E R N M E N T.

**T**HE form of the government in Nova Scotia approaches as nearly to that of the parent state as possible. The governour is named in England, and represents the Sovereign, as no laws are deemed valid without his assent. A council is named by him, whose office is analogous to that of the House of Peers, as holding a middle rank in their legislative capacity, between the governour and the representatives of the people. These last are chosen by the freeholders and burgessees for each of the counties

counties and large towns, and resemble the House of Commons in England.

This kind of government, though apparently complicated, is, on a closer analysis, equally just and simple. The liberties of the people can only be endangered by the pusillanimity or treachery of their representatives; and, whilst their freedom is guarded against the incroachments of weak, arbitrary, or profligate ministers, by the power and authority of a British parliament, an entire, full, and complete exemption from taxation, but by their own consent, is secured to them for ever.

The governour's power formerly extended, not only over the peninsula, but also to the island of Cape Breton, then entirely deserted, and to all that tract of country which reaches from the Bay of Fundy to the south shore of the river St Lawrence, then possessed of very few inhabitants, beside the little Canadian colony at  
Mau-



Maugerville. When many thousands fled thither from the southern provinces, towards the close of the war, it was soon discovered that the sea would frequently prove a bar to that speedy administration of justice, which is so essentially necessary in every well regulated community, but in none more so than in those that have been newly settled.

Great Britain, considering the distance of the courts of law, and of the legislative body, has, therefore, with equal justice and humanity, lately separated the province into two distinct governments, each of them enjoying a similar mode of administering their affairs with that above described. The northernmost, which has for the seat of its government the large town at the mouth of St John's River, is called New Brunswick, and is already beginning to experience the good effects of this judicious arrangement.

The



The contrast between new fangled states, where a rude and imperfect fabric is suddenly raised upon the sandy foundations of a turbulent democracy, and a government formed upon the model of a superstructure, which has been the work of ages, and is the admiration of the world, is too striking, not to afford to the present age a lesson equally interesting and instructive. The probable consequences of such a form subsisting in the latter, will be, an increase of population by emigrations from other countries, an increase of trade and shipping, a great improvement in their lands, and an addition to the value of them.

Where freedom does not exist, in the fullest and most unconfined sense, very little good is to be expected from the richest soil, or most unbounded territories, even in those countries where science has long since reared its head, and the arts have enjoyed the patronage of the great; but, in countries newly planted, whose inhabitants  
know



know how to prize their liberties, and esteem them as natural and inherent rights, every innovation that can possibly affect them, must be a step toward the ruin of the colonies, and the means of sowing eternal discord with the mother country.

Great Britain still possesseth a large extent of territory in the new world, inhabited by a people virtuous and loyal ; their morals are as yet untainted, by that impoisoned spring, which, flowing from the jails of Europe, and the most corrupt of mankind, contributed to spread its pestilential influence over many parts of America, and whose effects are too well known to need a comment, or to point it out as a mode of colonization equally absurd and impolitic. Extensive dominion, if destitute of people, of industry, and of commerce, in proportion to its size, is such a possession, as is only fitted to gratify the pride of conquest, or the licentiousness of ancient heroism. Their great extent is but a proof of their extreme weakness, and renders them

them either an easy prey to foreign invasions, or the more liable to suffer or to perish by their own dissensions. The remaining colonies are compact and united. Long may this island continue, by the wisdom of her councils, and the justice of her measures, to unite all the distant parts of so great an empire in one strict and indissoluble bond of fraternal union ! and, while the freedom of her sacred constitution bestows blessings upon the unborn millions who may hereafter become inhabitants of her remaining colonies, may it be the *second* wish of every subject, “ That the King may long continue the sovereign of a free people, the *first* should be, That the people may be free !”





A S H O R T  
A C C O U N T O F C A N A D A,  
A N D T H E  
B R I T I S H I S L A N D S  
O N T H E C O A S T O F  
N O R T H A M E R I C A.

**I**N leaving the shores of Europe, which have so long been the seat of arts, and of sciences, and where the exertions of human industry have erected so many croud-ed cities, invented a thousand manufactures, and covered the ocean with innumerable fleets, which are employed in wafting the riches of all other nations to that enlight-

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ened theatre, and contributing to the ease and elegance of polished life, the mind, after being amused with the novel appearance which that vast collection of waters affords, approaches, with anxiety and earnestness, to that immense continent, which the daring genius of Columbus has given to the inhabitants of the old world. The imagination has full scope to range undisturbed, and finds a plentiful source of amusement in the grand scenes which are frequently portrayed by the hand of nature. The eye, no longer amused with the busy multitude in cities, with ships, with merchandize, with manufactures, or with cultivated plains, beholds one great forest, as boundless as the continent on which it stands, every where covering the earth, and affording a retreat to the beasts of the desert. The human race, small in number, and, when compared with the Europeans, contemptible in their attainments, and as different in their persons as in their manners and mode of life. The cities of  
the



the new world, thinly scattered, and no part of the country, but in their vicinity, bearing the least vestige of cultivation or improvement. Vast mountains rising above each other, lifting their frozen tops beyond the clouds, and extending north toward the polar regions, where human avarice has never yet penetrated. Seas of fresh water, almost without number, collecting the tributary rills from the mountains, and pouring out their fountains to those great rivers that run in every direction toward the ocean, their common parent. There a stream of water pours down, with the hoarse murmur of distant thunder, a never ceasing supply to some great river, whilst the dark forest which hangs on the mountain's brow beyond it, seems, from its extent and magnitude, almost coeval with time itself. The eye, however elevated, can see no end to the ample lake, which impresses the image of the boundless ocean on the mind, while it is frequently awakened



awakened to a sense of danger, by the noise of falling water among the rocks.

The nighest land in America to any part of the British empire in Europe is the south-east point of Newfoundland, from whence, to Cape Clear in Ireland, it is only 650 leagues. That Great island, which is 330 miles long from north to south, and 220 in breadth from east to west, is most admirably situated for the cod-fishery, and accordingly is the grand scene where the English and French nations have long exerted their rivalship, to found thereon a branch of foreign traffic, or breed up seamen for their respective navies.

The latter nation is possessed of two small islands, those of St Pierre and Miquelon, both near the southern coast of Newfoundland; beside which, they have permission to dry their fish on a certain part of the coast, but not to form any settlements,

ments, as the right of the English to the whole island has never been disputed.

Its shores are bold and steep, but every where covered with wood, and containing a great number of excellent bays and harbours, that are extremely useful to the persons employed in the fishery. The English have two hundred sail employed in it, and the French about one third of that number, whose greatest demand is in the southern states of Europe, from whence the Americans have been almost entirely excluded, by the attacks of the Barbary States.

From the north end of Newfoundland, which is separated from the continent by the Streights of Belleisle, the main land of America runs away to the north-east, and is called Labrador\* ; a cold inhospitable region,

\* Corrupted from the French name *La bras d'or*, or, *The golden arm*.



region, inhabited by wandering tribes of the Esquimaux Indians, who subsist chiefly by hunting, fishing, and killing seals, often venturing out to sea in great storms, which their frail canoes seem ill calculated to withstand. Their food is fish, and their drink whale or seal oil, of which they are immoderately fond.

Opposite to the south shore of Newfoundland, at the distance of 18 leagues, lies the island of *Cape Breton*, and forming, with a bold and steep shore, the east entrance into the gulph of St Laurence, which seems purposely formed to receive the water of the great river that falls into it. This island contains large tracts of land that are naturally fertile, and was once populous, at least in many of its districts, but, being since abandoned, have gone to ruin. It has within it a number of excellent harbours, and, among others, that of *Louisbourg*, which, till very lately, was in a state of desolation, though formerly the capital



capital of the island, strongly fortified, and garrisoned by the French with 7000 men, from whom it was twice taken, once in 1746, and again in 1759; after which, the fortifications were ruined, and the place abandoned to its fate. Spanish River is a good harbour, on the east side of the island, well sheltered from all winds, and, though possessed of but few inhabitants, is well situated for the fisheries, and abounds with pit-coal, which is exceedingly sulphurous, but is sent off in large quantities to Halifax, and other places.

The west coast of this island borders upon the east end of Nova Scotia, being separated from it by a small navigable strait of two miles wide, called the Gut of Canso, through which strong tides run from the gulph of St Laurence, into which it leads. No inhabitants reside upon this part of Cape Breton, though the seas abound in every direction with fish; and the whole island is covered with wood,  
which



which will probably soon diminish, as it is beginning in several places to assume the form of a colony, and is partaking of the emigrants who have fled from all parts of the United States, over whom Great Britain has lately appointed a governor.

The island of St John, commonly called *St John's in the Gulf*, lies 15 miles north-west from Cape Breton, and is 60 miles in length from east to west, and 21 in breadth, containing about 6000 inhabitants, who have a separate government of their own, and are making rapid advances in the cultivation of their lands, which are esteemed the best of any on the Gulf of St Lawrence, and produce very large crops of excellent wheat. A considerable portion of the island has been cleared of its woods. The soil is a light sand, and, in some places, a deep, rich, black mould. The heat of the sun in summer is very violent, as this island is not so much elevated above the surface of the sea as the neighbouring countries.



countries. This island has two excellent harbours, one on each side of it, where towns have been built, and some foreign trade is carried on. The sea abounds with fish every where round the island, and its situation secures to the inhabitants the means of procuring them, in every kind of weather, during the whole year.

About 30 miles north-east from St John's, lie the *Magdalen Isles*, famous in Canada for the fishery carried on there for seals, and the manati, or sea-cow, and which might be extended to any length. They are wholly barren and rocky, but afford good shelter to small fishing vessels; but will never become capable of being inhabited.

*Chalem Bay*, at the east end of the land which forms the entrance into the River St Laurence on the south side, was once a famous settlement, when the French were in possession of Canada, and carried



on a considerable fishery, but has since been deserted, and is now only resorted to occasionally. It is an excellent station, and affords shelter to ships of the largest size, against the north-west wind, which prevails here nine months in the year.

*Miramichi Bay*, and the *Bay of Verte*, or *Green Bay*, both lie upon the same coast, and are beginning to assume the form of settlements, being famous for their salmon-fishery, especially the former, the shores of which abound with excellent wood.

The mouth of the great river St Lawrence, where it falls into the gulph of that name, between latitudes  $49^{\circ}$  and  $51^{\circ}$  north, is near 100 miles wide, but has a large island lying in the middle, called *Anticosti*, 120 miles in length from east to west, and 30 in breadth, the shores of which are rocky and desolate, affording no shelter but to birds and beasts, and have therefore never been settled.

From

From hence, to the capital of the province, it is 360 miles; the river gradually contracting itself to 12 miles in breadth, and passing by many islands till it reaches that of Orleans, within a few leagues of Quebec, and, there dividing itself into two channels, is never afterwards seen more than two miles wide, and sometimes much less, until it reaches Lake Ontario, which gives birth to it, 600 miles from the ocean.

The whole of the vast province of Canada ought to be viewed, as forming two grand divisions, distinguished by the names of Upper and Lower Canada. The latter contains all that tract of country which reaches from the straits of Belleisle and the coast of Labrador, on the north side of the gulf, and also the lands on the south side of the river to Three Sisters, about 30 miles above Quebec, being near 400 miles in length upon the river, and varying in its breadth according to the nature of the  
 soil,



foil, which is its distinguishing characteristic.

All this tract, though covered with good wood, has but few rivers that are navigable, and still fewer harbours. Its shores are steep and rocky, in many places high and mountainous, and often intersected with deep creeks, or impassable swamps, overgrown with forests of spruce and pine. The climate is subject to frequent fogs, which arise from the neighbouring gulf and river, and not only diminish the sun's influence, but increase the dampness and cold to a very great degree.

In consequence of these disagreeable circumstances, we find very few inhabitants \*  
in

\* In exploring the south side of the river, the author saw scarcely any until near the islands called the Pilgrims, 30 leagues below Quebec, where there is a small village.

in the Lower Canada, for near 300 miles above Cape Rosier, at the entrance of the river. At some distance below the isle of Orleans, the country becomes more cultivated on both sides; and the mountains gradually retiring from the river, not only improve the prospect, but give more room for the exertions of human industry, on the extensive plain that reaches from the capital to Lake Champlain.

The second division comprehends a space as large as the whole kingdom of France, every where well watered with deep and noble rivers, and bordering on the different lakes, whose extent and demensions are astonishing, and whose woods, soil, and climate, may vie with the most favoured of the United States. Yet, of all these vast regions, no part is peopled, except upon the banks of the rivers St Laurence, Richelieu, and those smaller ones that fall into them, as far as Lake Ontario, which gives  
rise



rife to the former, and to Lake Champlain, which is the parent of the latter.

In this divifion, as the great river winds away to the fouthward, the eye begins to lofe fight of thofe towering mountains that take their rife at its entrance. The Lady Mountains on the fouth fide, becoming lefs elevated, retire deep into the country, between the Bay of Fundy and this river, and there give rife to St John's River, which runs about 100 miles fouth, and then falls into the former nearly oppofite to Annapolis Royal.

Thofe on the north fide form an impenetrable barrier to the capacious bed of waters beneath; and, as they advance toward Quebec, begin to retire to the north-westward, in ranges piled above each other to the clouds, quite to Hudfon's Bay, and the polar regions.

There

There are few towns in Canada ; but the banks of the river present an uninterrupted prospect of one unbroken chain of villages and churches, for near 400 miles. The *Isle of Orleans*, which lies a little below Quebec, is the first place deserving mention, for the excellent wheat it produces, and the happy state of the peasants, of whom there are several parishes. It is 20 miles long, and 7 broad, and has opposite to it, on the north side, the famous falls of Montmorenci, where General Wolfe first attempted to land his army, but was repulsed. Their noise is distinctly heard at Quebec, though nine miles distant.

*Quebec*, the capital of Canada, and once the glory of the French empire in America, from its elevated situation, is distinctly seen, at a considerable distance, on the river. It is built on a point of land, formed by the St Laurence on one side, and a small river, called St Charles, on the other ; while a strong wall, mounted with heavy cannon,



cannon, reaches quite from side to side, and secures it from insult to the westward, though entirely destitute of outworks.

The form of the town is that of an irregular triangle, the longest side being next to the large river. It is composed of an upper and lower town ; the latter running irregularly the whole way round the beach, and becoming wider or narrower alternately, as the craggy rocks on which the upper town stands will allow for building. The city itself stands, in some places, 200 feet high above the water, and is inaccessible to an enemy on two of its three sides. It is strongly built, and has a number of batteries every way to command the river, and the lower town, which it can burn at pleasure, if possessed by an enemy.

On the highest part of the upper town, called Cape Diamond, stands the *Castle of St Louis*, which is (officially) the Governor's

nour's residence. It is impregnable on the side next the river, and terminates the south end of the land fortifications. The city contains several churches, which have nothing in them remarkable, and two convents; several friars of two distinct orders, a still greater number of priests, and two or three Jesuits, who are successfully employed in the education of youth. The streets, in general, are regular, and contain, with the suburbs, about 3000 houses, which are strongly built with lime and stone; and are from three to five stories in height, but totally devoid of that symmetry and convenience which distinguish the new buildings of London and Edinburgh.

The inhabitants are humane and polite; and, since their acquaintance with the British nation, many of whom make a respectable figure there, and have adopted a considerable portion of their manners and mode of thinking.



The basin of Quebec is very extensive, and capable of containing 500 sail of the largest ships. The tides are sometimes very rapid, and flow thirty miles above the town, where the water is fresh, but apt to affect the health of strangers.

Leaving Quebec, and proceeding up the river about two miles south-west, we see the steep ascent, and that narrow path, which leads to the plains of Abram, at the back of the city, where the great battle was fought which decided its fate, and where the immortal Wolfe breathed his last, after overcoming every obstacle of art and nature, to ensure victory to his country, and a never-fading glory to himself.

The tide flows thirty miles above this place, to Point au Tremble, where it is in some degree stopped by a bed of rocks, that are visible at half ebb, and extend above half way across the river, which cause many dangerous eddies, and the tide to run  
with



with extreme rapidity. The banks of the river from hence are no longer steep and craggy, but open on every side into a beautiful champain country, whose woods, as we advance, become more lofty, and are every where intersected with villages and churches.

*Trois Rivieres*, or *Three Rivers*, is the third town of any note in Canada, and stands upon the north side of the River St Laurence, a little way below, where it communicates with Lake St Peter. It contains 6 or 700 houses, and several churches, together with some English families. A small trade for furs is carried on here with those Indians who inhabit between Quebec and Montreal.

*Lake St Peter* begins three miles above the town of Three Rivers, in a flat low country, abounding with excellent timber, and extends 30 miles south-east, and is about 22 in breadth, receiving the waters of  
several



several small rivers, some of which are navigable to a considerable distance. The River St Laurence passes through the midst of the lake, which is the only part navigable for large vessels in their way to and from Montreal, and is divided into several channels, where it enters the lake, forming a number of beautiful islands, which, as well as the neighbouring continent, are covered with lofty woods, fit for ship-building, and every other commercial purpose.

From hence it is 45 miles to *Montreal*, the second town of Canada, in point of trade and eminence, seated in a fertile plain, upon an island formed by the River St Laurence, and every where surrounded by a beautiful and well watered country, wholly unincumbered with rocks or mountains, producing excellent fruits, and large crops of wheat, of which they have exported an immense quantity to the West Indies, and the southern states of Europe, this year.

Every



Every where between Lake St Peter and Montreal, the country is composed of fine plains, which are but little cultivated, except immediately near the shores and banks of the river. The rest of the lands are covered with woods, the noblest that imagination can conceive, and altogether of the most useful kinds, of which they have sent off considerable quantities as lumber, and for building.

Montreal is a handsome well built city, about two thirds of the size of Quebec, abounding with all the conveniencies of life, and exceedingly well situated for carrying on a general trade with the Indian nations that inhabit the countries to the westward \*. Its citizens, among whom are many British families, are distinguished for their humanity and politeness, and that  
phi-

\* Montreal has sent home this year, 1786, the greatest quantity of furs that have been imported into England from thence since the Americans took it in 1776.



philanthropy which teaches us to consider the whole human race, however marked by particular sects or professions, as the children of one common parent. The city contains several churches and monasteries, and, together with the whole province, makes profession of the Roman Catholic faith. In no part of the world have the people of that persuasion agreed better with the Protestants than here. The numbers of all the Canadians, taken collectively, may probably exceed 300,000; and their general characteristic is industry and humanity, in which the clergy frequently set the most laudable examples.

The River St Laurence is navigable no further for ships of burthen than to Montreal, above which it becomes rocky, and difficult to proceed upon, having a rapid current continually running to the eastward from Lake Ontario, 160 miles distant from Montreal, and is there called the Iroquois River, after the Indian nations of  
that

that name, who are the most powerful of all the savage tribes in North America, and possess, by right of conquest, all the territories upon the lakes, as well as upon the frontiers of Canada.

*Lake Ontario* is of considerable extent ; but, lying far to the northward, cannot be considered as an object of any importance to the United States at present, though it is so, in some degree, to Canada, on account of its fur trade.

At its northeast extremity, it has Fort Frontenac, on the south side Fort Oswego, and at the southwest end Fort Niagara, near the famous falls of that name, and one of the principal frontier places of Canada.

Beyond Montreal, on the west, the country is but thinly peopled, and the habitations of civilized life become scarce, in proportion as we advance toward the lakes,  
and



and the country of the Indians. The climate and soil are, however, equal to those which the most favoured provinces on the sea-coast enjoy, and the productions of the former are equal in every respect to those of the latter. The lands are very much elevated in the neighbourhood of the lakes, which likewise lie at a great height above the level of the sea, and accounts for the severity of the winter, especially when aided by the humidity of the soil, which is in every direction covered with the most venerable and magnificent woods. In several places, in the vicinity of the lakes, are found salt water creeks, probably impregnated by the veins of rock-salt, sometimes found in the bowels of the earth, that would afford a never failing supply to this country, if in a state of civilization, which it will take a considerable time to effect, as the emigration, now become prevalent in several of the United States, does not, in many instances, extend to the frontiers of Canada, along which the Indian hunting  
lands



lands stretch themselves in almost every direction ; and the jealousy of their owners makes them eager to embrace every opportunity of destroying those infant settlements.

It may be necessary to observe, that Sorel or Richlieu River joins the St Lawrence 60 miles below its own source, which is in Lake Champlain, 45 miles below Montreal, and nine miles above Lake St Peter, of which mention has been already made. At the junction of the two rivers, on a sandy point of land, which commands the passage both up and down the St Lawrence, stands the village of Sorel, in a healthy and pleasant situation. Ascending against the stream, which is almost every where rapid, and intermixed with rocks in many places, about 25 miles from Sorel, we come to a pretty considerable town, called St Denis, which carries on some trade with the Indians, and is situated in a fertile

D d

country,



country, having a number of villages near it, on both sides of the river, which runs in two distinct channels, with a dangerous and rapid current that is almost impassable.

Above this town, the country is well peopled on both sides the river, and seems to extend on all hands into a vast plain, without hills or mountains, except that of Chambli, nine miles below the basin, which bears its name; at the foot of which mountain the stream of the river is deep, rapid, and very narrow.

Forty-nine miles from Sorel, and 36 miles from Montreal, stands the little fort of Chambli, one of the frontier fortresses of Canada, commanding the head or basin of Sorel River, about 10 miles from where it rises in Lake Champlain, and from whence it runs with inconceivable rapidity, until it washes the walls of the fort,  
and

and immediately falls into the basin above mentioned \*. It is now, by the provisional treaty, included within the territories of the United States, the boundary line running immediately below it, but is still in the possession of Great Britain.

Above these rapids, on the borders of Lake Champlain, and near its end, is the Fort of St John, which was taken by the American army in 1776, after a siege of forty days. It is now repaired, is in the hands of a British garrison, and serves as the station and dock-yard for the King's ships upon the lake, which, with the gun-boats

\* Until an invading army has taken this fort, or Montreal, they cannot attack, with a prospect of success, the interior parts of the country, as they must otherwise make a great circuit about, in a district every where intersected with creeks and swamps, through which it is almost impossible to march, even with light troops.



boats and gallies, contributed to gain that memorable victory over the American fleet, which established the dominion of Great Britain in Canada, and secured the internal happiness of the province ever since.

*Lake Champlain* is a strong natural fortification to Canada, extending eighty miles in length from north to south, and 30 in breadth from east to west; and, with the smaller lakes that communicate with it on the south, forms a barrier against New York, and, in some measure, against the New England states, thereby drawing a line between them and Canada, over which it is not for the interest of Great Britain to trespass. The country is beautiful and fertile; and the peaceable possession of it secured to the loyalists and emigrants, now beginning to settle there, by the neighbourhood of the fleet upon the lake, which is sufficiently powerful to check any rash enterprise

terprise that may be undertaken by the subjects of the States,

*Crown Point* and *Ticonderago*, though once of Great importance, when England and France disputed for the empire of America, are no longer of that consequence they formerly were, as the superiority of the fleet of either of the nations upon the lake must ultimately decide the fate of all its dependencies, and of which those two forts are a part. The former of these commands the entrance into Lake Champlain from the south, and the other may be considered as capable of answering a similar purpose.

The larger lakes lie considerably to the northward and westward of the last mentioned districts, and being more remote from the old colonies, are less liable to become the immediate source of litigation. Some of them are of very great extent, particularly Lake Superior, which is 350  
miles



miles long from east to west, and 160 in breadth from north to south, but is seldom visited by any but the wandering nations of Indians, and sometimes by the traders, who go, for the sake of commerce, to a considerable distance into the country, and purchase furs in exchange for the manufactures of Great Britain, which are afterwards shipped off for this country from Montreal and Quebec.

In all this widely extended region, there are no places possessed by England worth naming, except Detroit, a fort situated 200 miles west of the Falls of Niagara, and near to the place where the waters of Lake Huron fall into Lake Erie.

This fort is become an object of jealousy and terror to the middle provinces, particularly Pennsylvania, whose ancient boundary line included the east end of Lake Erie, and extended north, almost to the  
Falls

Falls of Niagara, although it is evident that Great Britain is justified in retaining all the posts in that quarter, except she wishes to give up more than one-half of the Indian trade, to recompense the *gratitude* of the United States, and reward their *humanity* to the banished loyalists \* !

\* This term having been so often used in the foregoing pages, it is hoped the world will not impute its frequent application to arise from a want of discrimination between such as do, and such as do not deserve it, nor yet with any design to serve a party, since no other motive has ever predominated, in mentioning them, but those of humanity, arising in the breast of one who has been a spectator, and not a sharer, of their sufferings.



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Thus, in this short and imperfect sketch, have we traced with impartiality the outlines of that country which Providence has permitted to remain under the imperial crown of Great Britain, on the vast Continent of America. That it is of importance to her, cannot be doubted, while she ranks in the scale of maritime nations, and possesses colonies and islands in the West Indies, from whence a large portion of her revenue is continually drawn, and whose commerce employs no inconsiderable number of her manufacturers, her shipwrights, and her seamen. And, though the idea of distant colonization, as contributing to national strength, or of extensive dominion, as conducive to national glory, are equally exploded,

exploded, and have proved a source of misfortune to this country, yet it is neither wise nor necessary that she should abandon her remaining colonies on the continent, except it should also appear to be for her interest to give up the fisheries, the West India islands, her East India possessions, and, eventually, her formidable navy. But, when other maritime nations have put in practice such lessons, it will then be time enough for Britain to learn them.

In the present situation of things, her unfortunate faithful subjects in America call aloud on her humanity, and claim that grateful attention, which is equally due to their attachment and their sufferings. While this is bestowed, there are objects at home which cannot be neglected, without diminishing the national grandeur, and ultimately affecting the happiness of individuals. It is the interest of our country to attend to the following things.



*First*, To give every possible encouragement to agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, as tending to increase population, which wise men, in every age, have pronounced to be the real riches of a state.

*Secondly*, To pay attention to those parts of the united kingdom, particularly in the north, that have been so long neglected, from an illiberal policy, national prejudice, or the disadvantages of their local situation; to give life to agriculture \* and manufactures, by

\* A more partial or absurd tax was never laid than that upon coals in Scotland. All that are sent beyond a certain distance from the collieries pay a heavy duty, while those that are consumed near at hand pay nothing. This accounts, in a great degree, for the present unimproved state of most of the lands in the northern parts of that kingdom, which have abundance of limestone to manure them,

by freeing them of all unnecessary restraints; to extend the home fisheries, which are capable of being carried to four times their present scale, without ever interfering with those of Newfoundland, and equally affording a race of stout and hardy seamen for the royal navy, as well as preventing those emigrations to America, which, in every point of view, must be detrimental to this nation:

*Thirdly*, To enforce the navigation-laws in their utmost extent; which will operate equally to increase the shipping, seamen, wealth, and power of the nation; give  
life

them, but, at the same time, have duty, freight, and sea-hazard, all operating upon them, in proportion to their distance from the districts that abound with coals. To awaken a general spirit of improvement, the tax should be reversed. It should be laid on at the collieries, and either paid on all the coals indiscriminately, or those at a certain distance should be entirely exempted.



life and vigour to every exertion of the remaining colonies, and enable them, in a few years, rather to assist, than become a burthen, to the mother country.

*Fourthly*, To discourage, by every possible means, that fatal propensity to emigration, which has been attended with such fatal consequences to the empire formerly.

*Fifthly*, To preserve in America whatever we now stand possessed of, and to avoid altercations and unnecessary cavils with the United States; but, at the same time, prevent them from becoming carriers to the British islands, and our remaining colonies on the continent, which should be in our own hands, and those of our subjects in America.

*Lastly*, To support the civil establishments in Nova Scotia in their present form, the wisdom of which is manifest,  
by

by a division of the province, in such a way as Nature herself has pointed out, to be perfectly adapted to the ease and security of the inhabitants. The government of Canada has, indeed, in its present form, been frequently the subject of animadversion, as being a system utterly incompatible with the liberty or prosperity of individuals. But, whilst Providence shall continue to bless the empire with a Sovereign, whose happiness is founded on that of his subjects, no part of them will be wanting in affection to his person, nor have cause to be dissatisfied with the mode of his government.

## F I N I S.

## E R R A T A.

- Page 193. line 18. *for Chalem read Chaleur*  
 201.           20. *dele and*  
 207.           20. *for scarce read scarcer*  
 208.           9. *read ; and this accounts*







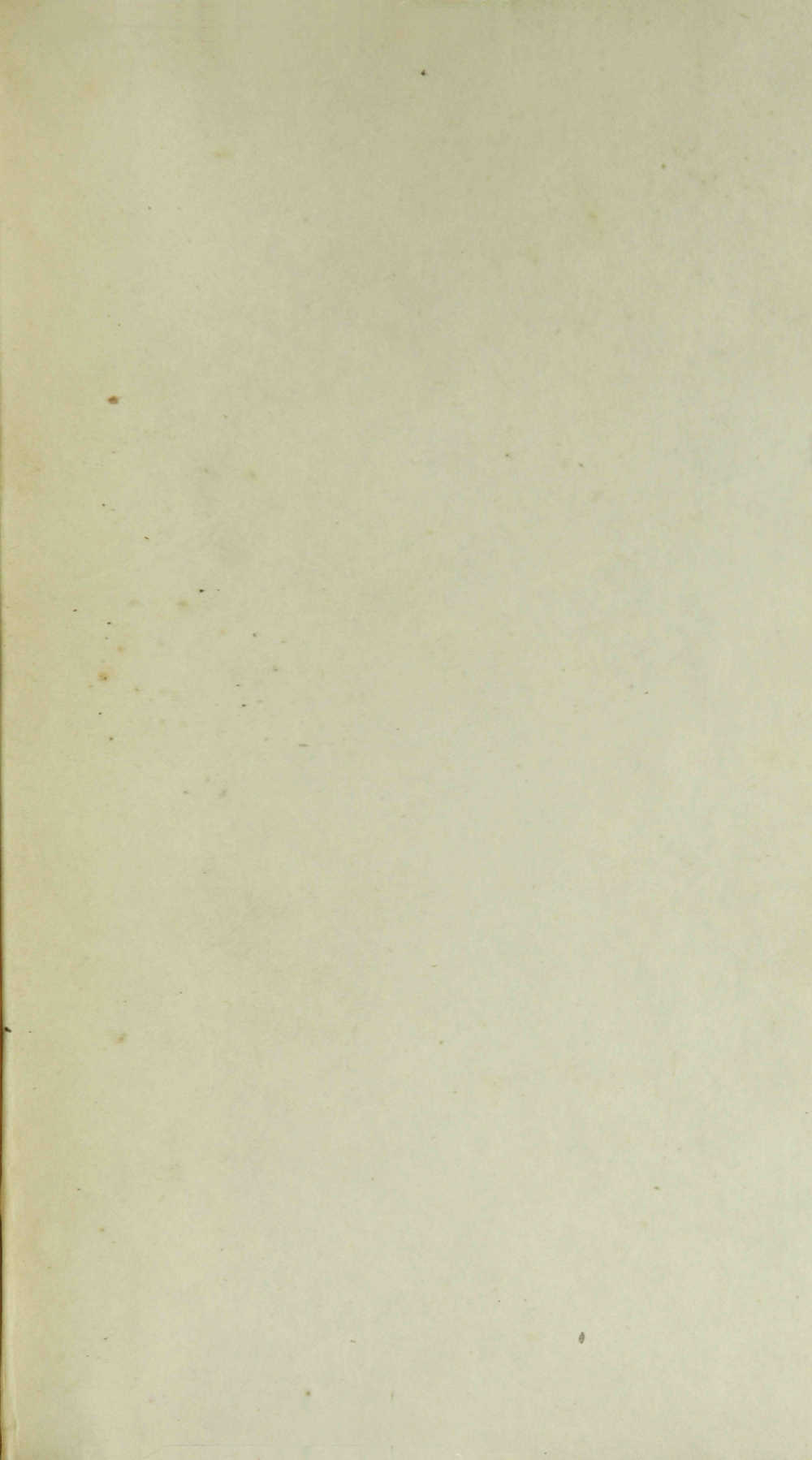
















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