

Preface - or Dedication.

My fellow Countrymen

For a number of years past During a period of fourteen years I have been accustomed to address you upon some topic, of more or less importance, almost every week - of late, at certain seasons, almost every day. The kind indulgence and active sympathy with which these fugitive and contemporaneous appeals have always been received, tempt me to hope that this volume, written for your information, will also be <sup>metre</sup> received with favor at your hands. It has been attempted because I knew, and because I believed that many of you felt, that, without it, or ~~without~~ some such <sup>transcript</sup> ~~work~~, the struggle in which we have been engaged together could scarcely be said to ~~have terminated~~ <sup>have terminated</sup> - because not only was there no work in which the principles asserted and issues joined, at different periods, could be clearly traced, <sup>but none</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>adequate</sup> ~~adequate~~ - because not the advantages gained were grouped, so as to convey an <sup>adequate</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>idea</sup> ~~idea~~ of the ~~importance~~ <sup>importance</sup> of the results.

The achievements of arms in the field, and the <sup>movements</sup> ~~intrigues~~ <sup>intrigues</sup> of factions by which revolutions have violently effected, and cities deluged with blood, are elaborately recorded, often by those who led them to battle, or conducted their intrigues. Why then should I, raised by circumstances <sup>to the position</sup>, and by your continued confidence and regard, invested with the character and influence of a leader, shrink

pressing the facts of the contest for Constitutional Government what has accom-  
plished our time and engrossed our thoughts for years, and what, by the blessing  
of Divine Providence, has terminated in one of the most complete and peaceful  
victories what ever crowned the efforts of an intelligent people struggling to throw  
off a system unadvised to the age in which they lived. While I feel, therefore,  
that there is nothing presumptuous or intrusive in the attempt, I assure you I  
sensibly impressed with the difficulties which present themselves to the successful  
execution of such a task. To turn an amiable while the actors in the scenes  
recorded still surround us - before the feelings aroused have had time to subside -  
and while numbers, perhaps, of friends and foes, stand prepared to question  
the soundness of our views and the correctness of our deductions, requires no  
ordinary nerve, and ~~is~~ but for other considerations, which have much weight  
with me, I would gladly postpone the task to a later period of life. Both  
life itself is uncertain, and even if assured upon a given old age, who can as-  
sure me that, twenty years hence, I shall either have leisure, inclination, or  
sufficient command of my faculties, to enable me to discharge this duty,  
or that the impressions which are now fresh and vivid will not have faded  
from my mind. If I do not now do you justice, it may never be done,  
or the task may devolve upon others, who, however able and well disposed,  
may not be so conversant with the facts.

Nova Scotia

The changes which have been wrought in ~~British North America~~, within  
the last few years must have an important influence on its destiny in all  
time to come. The important character of these changes no man can dispute  
those who laboured to produce them; and who thoroughly comprehended their nature  
and extent, believe that a more important revolution was never wrought in

any country, by such trifling sacrifices and in so short a time. Those who have laboured in vain to stop the onward march of events, are yet conscious of an overthrow to most decisions, by weapons the most strictly Constitutional - and although at times they labour to excite <sup>disunion</sup> ~~affection~~ in the ~~union~~ ranks of their opponents, by attempting to undervalue the practical results, their estimate of the extent of the concessions which the people have obtained may be gathered from their admission that the old Colonial system has been completely overturned.

To show the nature of the contest, now happily drawing to a close - to trace the causes in which it originated - ~~to~~ to sketch the leading points upon which the opposing influences were rallied from time to time, and to exhibit in one connected view a narrative of events in which most of you have taken some share, is <sup>then</sup> the ~~design~~ <sup>object</sup> of this volume. That you will approve of the design, whatever you may think of the execution, I am encouraged to hope, and that you will pardon any errors you may discover, provided the general scope be conceived in a spirit of truth and fairness, I have not a shadow of doubt. Perhaps you will pardon me for confessing that, apart from any sense of public obligation, I have a personal interest in this matter. As an actor in scenes now passing away - one whose motives have been studiously misrepresented - I am anxious that the grounds and principles upon which I acted should be understood. Nova Scotia is a small - thinly peopled and poor Colony, but it is dearer to me than all the world besides. It is the land of my Father's adoption and of my birth - I have wandered over it so much, and mixed so freely with its

Inhabitants, that, like a familiar household picture, it is ever before my eye, and this is scarcely a hamlet, however remote, in which I cannot conjure up a friendly circle whose sympathies I have shared, or a scene of sylvan wildness or rural loneliness at which my heart has bounded. To improve <sup>these scenes</sup> ~~my native land~~ - to elevate, to advance, and to live in the hearts of this people, has been my dream by night and the stimulant to my daily toil. Beyond the bounds of my own country I have no hopes and no ambition, but I cannot bear <sup>the thought</sup> ~~that~~ that myself, and the men with whom I have acted, <sup>some of whom are already in the tomb</sup> should pass away without leaving an authentic record of our ~~our~~ principles and actions in the hands of <sup>the</sup> ~~that~~ posterity by whom we shall be judged.

That you, my fellow Countrymen, may find in this Book, evidence of the soundness of the views, and the sincerity of the convictions, upon which the Reformers of Massachusetts have acted - and that you may find in it also motives to <sup>constant vigilance and</sup> ~~constant vigilance and~~ further exertion, that the principles of rational freedom, now happily established, may be expanded with the growth of the Province; is the fervent wish, as it is the confident expectation, of

De Montis ab P. Rayd 1604

Argall's descent 1613

## Chapter:

Political agitation, ~~down~~ aimed at the framework and abuses of Govt almost was <sup>in</sup> the early history of Nova Scotia. The reasons for this must be sought in the original elements of society, rather than attributed either to the perfection of its Institutions or to the combined sparsity and wisdom of successive Administrations.

For ~~nearly a century~~ <sup>after the first settlement by Europeans at Port Royal</sup> ~~years~~, a contest was carried on between the French and English for the permanent possession of the Country. While held by the former, it was parcelled out by the adventurers who sought to monopolize the fur trade and fishing, and who generally pleaded the Royal Authority for making wars upon each other, and for attacking and destroying civil Establishments. As the British population increased in wealth and numbers in the old New England settlements, and housing rose to the dignity of a regularly fortified City, forming the great link in that great chain of military and trading posts with which the French sought to surround and smother them, a struggle for dominion over the boundless wastes of woods and settlements began to assume a degree of importance in the eyes of both governments, which the Colonists took a lively and decided interest in. By the skill and bravery of Wolfe, ~~ably seconded by the British war~~ <sup>finally</sup> in 1758, the French power was ~~and through~~ <sup>and through</sup> and Nova Scotia, together with the Canadas and all the adjoining Colonies ~~was~~ subsequently ~~ceded to the British~~ <sup>passed into the undisputed, though long-disputed possession of the British Crown</sup> ~~by the Treaty of Utrecht~~ <sup>by the Treaty of Utrecht</sup> Governor Cornwallis landed at Halifax in 1749, and soon after the British occupation of this Province by the Mother Country commenced. For many years <sup>afterwards</sup> and for a long time subsequent to this period, life and property were extremely insecure. Large bodies of French remained in the western

Counties and in parts of Cape Breton, occupying and improving the wild  
waste lands on the borders of the Rivers, and availing themselves, either  
for their own defence, <sup>or the advantage of the English Emigrants</sup> of the sympathy and Co-operation of the Indians  
over whom their Franciscan missionaries and the imposing ceremonies of their  
religion, gave them unbounded influence. It will readily be supposed, that any  
form of ~~settled~~ <sup>established</sup> Government, was regarded as a great boon by the early English  
Settlers, and, that, whatever may have been its defects, its acts <sup>must have been</sup> ~~would be~~ cheerfully  
acquiesced in, and its errors ~~to~~ permitted to pass unquestioned. With a respect-  
table military force at its disposal <sup>the patronage of</sup> a liberal expenditure ~~at its disposal~~ from the  
resources of the Mother Country, and nearly all the lands of the Province in its gift,  
there was no political combination, ~~of~~ <sup>even if there had been the disposition, which</sup>  
there was not, among the scattered pieces of improvements, to give over a  
momentary advantage to the half military and half patriarchal Administration,  
which swayed the distances <sup>of the Colony</sup> and represented the Royal Authority from the <sup>first</sup> landing  
establishment of a British Governor at Annapolis <sup>down to the calling of the first</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>legislative</sup> ~~Representative~~ Assembly in 1768.  
What there were abuses, even in these early times, is more than probable - but if there  
were - if merit did not always meet its reward - if the supple intriguer sometimes rose  
to undeserved command, ~~and~~ if the Parliamentary Grants were unwisely lavished - or the  
virgin soil of the Colony <sup>and</sup> the confiscated estates of the Acadians were improperly  
parcelled out to unworthy favorites or grasping speculators, but little was known  
and less said of such matters. The great standing grievance - that which smouldered  
up all others, and occupied each man's thoughts, when he went sowed to his field  
in the morning or laid his head upon his pillow at night, was the restless  
spirit and hostile incursions of the French and Indian Men, accustomed to  
hear of, if they did not witness, hamlets reduced to ashes - friends shot down  
and scalped - children brained on the domestic hearth - or daughters spirited away  
to the forest, were not likely to trouble themselves about the errors or malversa-

tions of a Government to which they <sup>appealed</sup> looked for protection from the repetition  
of such acts of outrage and aggression. They cheerfully overlooked its defects  
in consideration of its utility. Those in authority were <sup>regarded</sup> looked upon with respect  
because they wielded the only power by the exercise of which life and property  
could be rendered secure. It is more than likely, too, that, in the main they deserved  
the confidence and homage, on personal grounds, which we know must have  
been paid to their ~~former~~ stations. ~~They~~ Many of them were men of high  
character - liberal education - and correct deportment - and there is something in the  
dangers and difficulties of planting New Colonies in a comparative wilderness,  
which labors the judgment and restrains the passions, and creates in a society  
where all are subjected to some trials and privations, considerations for the rights  
and the feelings of all.

¶ In turning from this early period of personal insecurity to that which  
immediately succeeded we find other guarantees for the tranquil course of ad-  
ministration, and the apparent contentment of the People, scarcely less strong  
than those to which we have already referred. ~~Scarcely~~ With the outbreak of the  
American Revolutionary war, ~~great~~ many of the Loyalists emigrated to this  
Province, ~~and~~ ~~at~~ and during its continuance, and towards the close of that  
memorable contest, vast numbers of these valuable Settlers, and of the disabled  
Soldiers who had ~~been~~ served in the American Campaigns, sought an Asylum  
in Nova Scotia - spent themselves over its seaport, and ~~consequently~~ extended  
the permanent affluence and the active cultivation of its soil. By such  
re-inforcements - the scattered remnants of French and Indians were every where  
surrounded and overawed - the germ of insipient disaffection, which began  
to display itself on the Cumberland border, was crushed in the bud, and the



The British superiority in numbers, enterprise and intelligence was every where as-  
serted and maintained. Life and property were no longer insecure - the pregnant evils  
of the older time had passed away - but yet there was even less danger than  
ever of the growth of political agitations occasioning any serious embarrass-  
ment to the Government. It is true that the materials of popular strength and organ-  
ization had largely increased, and that the Government which, by its own strength  
energies, had <sup>for a time</sup> protected a few scattered hamlets of poor and illiterate emigrants  
suddenly found itself in the presence of large <sup>and</sup> <sup>intelligent</sup> ~~organized~~ communities,  
accustomed to hear every act of authority questioned, and every principle of  
monarchical government criticized and condemned. But the loyalists had brought  
with them a distaste for such controversies - an abhorrence of ~~democratic~~ popular  
movements, ~~some~~ however well meant, or temperately conducted - a suspicion of demo-  
cratic tendencies, that made them shrink with <sup>apprehensions of the result</sup> ~~horror~~ from any man who  
attempted to assume an attitude of hostility to the established order of things.  
All this was natural, in men whose prospects had been ~~frustrated~~ <sup>frustrated</sup>, and  
~~of their property and driven with blighted~~ <sup>stripped of their property, and driven</sup>  
from their homes, to seek in a companionless wilderness an asylum for  
their families and their opinions, by the swelling tide of successful revo-  
lution. ~~It~~ many of these men displayed, however, a peculiar aptitude  
for civil business, and our early records bear testimony to their firmness  
capacity and acuteness. How many there were wanting among them, at times, isola-  
ted instances of spirited resistance to the individual exercise of unjust au-  
thority - or to flagrant and gross abuses of administration. But these sprung  
often from the personal vices of ~~some~~ <sup>ambitious</sup> aspirants, or from the  
gross misconduct of the individuals charged, than from any settled com-  
mis-

tion in <sup>minds</sup> the people that their Institutions are imperfect, or from any design on the part of a majority of their Representatives, to seriously embarrass and change the general <sup>in Nova Scotia</sup> ~~policy~~ <sup>character</sup> of an administration

The earliest British <sup>in Nova Scotia</sup> ~~settlers~~ <sup>settlers</sup> must have ~~had~~ <sup>cherished</sup> rather a kindly feeling towards the people of New England, because, prior to the effective occupation of the ~~continent~~ <sup>continent</sup>, it was to that quarter that they looked for aid against the French. The influence of the Loyalists, and the continued repetition of the story of their wrongs, created a rebellion of feeling, which was sustained by the general tone which these men gave, by their superior activity and intelligence, to the whole society of the Province. The difficulties which beset the Republicans at the outset of their career served to feed and sustain these impressions. Their Institutions had been tried by no sufficient tests - they were sanctified by no experience. The limited past gave no guarantee for the future. The achievement of independence, under peculiar circumstances, was not a sufficient assurance for the stability of forms of government, called into existence on the ~~spot~~ <sup>occasion</sup>. Hence the Colonists, <sup>Spunk and</sup> ~~deeply~~ <sup>deeply</sup> imbued with a feeling of very excusable hostility, saw ~~nothing~~ <sup>little</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the Bay of Fundy to envy and nothing to admire. If the experiment they were trying <sup>not</sup> ~~themselves~~ <sup>themselves</sup> were eminently successful, the same might be said, in the then state of knowledge, of those which were being tried in the Country, to do violence to their own indignant feelings - to quarrel with their own forms, or with the general course of administration, was to qualify their enemies and arm them with weapons to be aimed at their own foresight and sagacity. To confess that their own Institutions were not perfect, was to admit <sup>partiality</sup> ~~partiality~~ the Republicans desire for change - to point out their errors, was to strengthen the attachment of their opponents to the new ones they had called into existence.

French War 1793 to 1801

2<sup>d</sup> do 1803

Am. 1802

Peace 1814

Fifteen Years later, and before this strong prejudice had had time to sub-  
side, the French Revolution burst forth. This extraordinary event, which  
agitated Europe to its centre, was not without its influence even in this remote  
portion of the British Empire. It is possible that some small <sup>number</sup> ~~portion~~ of our  
people <sup>may</sup> have ~~been~~ <sup>at first</sup> dazzled with its high hopes, with the assertion of  
great principles, and the solemn organization of forms of Representative Government  
upon the ruins of ancient despotism, held out to the ardent and enthusiastic  
every where. But there is ~~some~~ <sup>much</sup> reason to believe that ~~the~~ <sup>these</sup> number was compa-  
ratively few. When, however, the reign of terror commenced - when the Sovereigns of  
France <sup>were</sup> brought to the block and <sup>the</sup> cities <sup>of</sup> were deluged <sup>with</sup> blood, a  
new impulse was given to those ~~same~~ feelings which, if they had ~~ever~~ <sup>been</sup> begun  
to ~~fade~~ <sup>fade</sup> still lay deep in the hearts of our population. The royalists had  
their descendants, and most of their friends and neighbors, recognized in the Danton  
and Robespierres of Paris only the excess of that restless desire for change -  
that hatred of Monarchical Institutions - that revolutionary and all questioning  
spirit, which, on this continent, had led to events, ~~both~~ <sup>both</sup> ~~the~~ British Colonists,  
who maintained their allegiance, had so much reason to deplore. The failures  
of Republican forms in France strengthened their belief that they must fail in  
America, and the evils and abuses, whatever they were, which were performed at  
this period, sank into insignificance, or were borne with patience, in presence  
of these greater evils which other countries suffered - of those accumulated horrors  
that any attempt to redress them might possibly entail.

A long, bloody, and all encompassing war, in which their old Enemies, the  
people of the United States, <sup>latterly</sup> participated, filled up the succeeding period of  
twenty years. The organization of the Provincial Militia - the Canadian Campaigns  
the descents of the <sup>American</sup> ~~our~~ <sup>coasts</sup>, and the hourly apprehensions of

more formidable invasion, gave full employment to its mind. It is not when bustling activity pervades the absolute - when troops are arriving and departing every day - when the naval armaments guard its Harbours - and when each fresh arrival brings tidings of some great battle lost or won, that the people of any country have either leisure or inclination to discuss more political questions or criticisms the institutions under which they live. This ~~was~~ the people of Nova Scotia, then, in <sup>the</sup> ~~surrounding~~ <sup>down to 1815</sup> themselves to the excitement of the French and American wars ~~they~~ had they done otherwise - had they turned from the contemplation of a world in arms - of thrones and principalities and powers crushed beneath the iron heel of the extraordinary man, who sprung from the heart of revolutionary France, as Minerva sprung from the head of Jove, <sup>for</sup> ~~for~~ all antipathy - to a calm and thoughtful revision of their own comparatively petty interests, they would have displayed a degree of ~~the~~ phlegm and selfishness, by no means creditable to their feelings or intellect. ~~By~~ at this period the Executive was all powerful, the evil appeared as nothing, compared with the lamentable weakness, and chaotic disorganization, from which other countries suffered - if there was no effective responsibility; there were no acts of flagrant oppression. ~~Something~~ <sup>exciting</sup> to crime - if the Provincial revenues were sometimes squandered, the lavish expenditure of a vast war establishment enriched the Capital and stimulated the industry of the country. It was not to be expected then, that our countrymen could, during all this period, withdraw their gaze from the exciting scenes which distant Countries presented, or from the movements of fleets and armies on their ~~own~~ coasts and frontiers, to contemplate and grapple with the anomalies of their own Institutions, or the mismanagement of their domestic affairs.

Peace was at length proclaimed. The common disturber of Europe, mastered by the great Duke, was chained to a rock, like Prometheus, with the vultures of insar-

liable ambitions preying upon his vitals - armies were disbanded and fleets withdrawn  
and British subjects in every portion of the Empire, whose feelings had been so  
powerfully excited, and whose loyalty had been so severely tested, once more were  
blessed by that security and repose which they had earned by honorable exertion.  
It may be asked, why did not political agitation now commence? Why was it  
left for the Reformers of 1838 to expose abuses which should have been unveiled  
in 1815 - to press improvements in the working of our institutions, which must have  
been equally required at a much earlier period? The answer is easily supplied -  
the reasons ~~to~~ need only be indicated to carry conviction to the mind of any  
dispassionate enquirer. The transition from war to peace, though hailed with  
delight by the People of Massachusetts - and though experience proved that their  
true interests are best promoted by the ~~with~~ continuance of friendly relations  
with all the world, was, during the time to which we refer, followed by a  
train of consequences productive of much embarrassment and alarm. The ~~destruction~~  
consumption of a formidable military force, stationed in the West-Indian and  
East-India Colonies - and of the crews of the powerful fleets which guarded  
the British Provinces, or cut up the ~~lines~~ <sup>lines</sup> and menaced <sup>islands or</sup> ~~their~~ <sup>seaports</sup>  
towns, created a demand for the necessaries and luxuries of life which the  
productive powers of the Colonists, and the profitable investments of their limited  
Capital, could scarcely supply. The consequence was ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> money, scattered with  
the habitual prodigality of the United Services, was abundant - the rich prizes  
captured by British Cruisers, or our own privateers, found into our warehouses  
valuable products from every quarter of the globe, while the vessels themselves  
supplied the means to the speculative and adventurous, to export them to other  
Colonies or to the Mother Country, with a certain ~~certainty~~ <sup>prospect</sup> of enormous profits  
if they were fortunate enough to escape re-capture by the foe. The habits of the

people were naturally influenced by this influx of wealth. Money was spent with as little reflection as it was <sup>often obtained</sup> ~~made~~ Those who could make thousands by a purchase, a contract or a voyage, might be excused for indulging in every mode of wasteful extravagance. The Lawyer, who pocketed by a ~~fringe~~ <sup>fringe</sup>, while pursuing the confederations of a prince - the Farmer who could sell his Beef for 1/2 a pound - the Carter, whose potatoes brought from 5/6 to 7/6 a bushel - and the ~~Labourer~~ <sup>Orphan</sup> who could earn his 10/6 a day, might be excused if they followed the example of the ~~higher classes~~ Merchants, as regulated their expenditures by the extent of their gains. The constant association of every class of society with the gay, & heedless, but not ungenerously reckless things, whose swords reaped the rich harvest, and whose hands scattered it with a prodigality only surpassed by the bravery with which it was won, ~~which~~ inevitably broke down those habits of simple economy - the citizens best security every where - but, when adventurous resources are withdrawn, absolutely indispensable to ~~support~~ <sup>support</sup> and success in such a country as this. This flood tide of prosperity began to subside when the olive branch of peace appeared. Regiment after regiment returned - ships after ships were ordered home - the depot for prisoners, with all its legitimate expenditures and facilities for speculation, was broken up, and lost, though not one of the finest Naval arsenals on this Continent was reduced to a mere skeleton establishment, and the head quarters of an American Squadron <sup>was</sup> removed to an Island <sup>possessing</sup> the prominent advantages of a soil that yields no supplies, and a climate which destroys to stores nearly as fast as the manufacturer at Plymouth ~~could~~ <sup>can</sup> furnish them.

By slow degrees our population became aware that "a change had come over the spirit of their dreams." While agitated by the ~~powerful~~ <sup>powerful</sup> ~~barred~~ <sup>barred</sup> excitement of that singular period - and venturing in the profusion which the war expeditious and prodigal supply, few if any had taken time to reflect how little of all the wealth and activity which pervaded the Community, really

young from the natural resources of the Province. But when <sup>Hull's bay</sup> the harbour, no longer covered with Men of War and the prizes they had captured, began to present its broad and beautiful expanse, almost unbroken by a single object to the eye - when white roofs of houses, so recently filled with happy and happy inmates, were shut up - and streets so lately thronged by busy crowds, or animated by victorious tars with cash in both pockets and streamers in their hats, became comparatively deserted - when the markets no longer presented any thing to buy or sell or export, but the poor returns of our own limited fishery and rude agriculture, ~~the~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~the~~ ~~only~~ ~~thing~~ ~~of~~ ~~value~~ ~~when~~ ~~dollars~~ ~~ceased~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~valued~~ ~~in~~ ~~barrows,~~ ~~and~~ ~~Bills~~ ~~of~~ ~~Exchange,~~ ~~which~~ ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~a~~ ~~drug~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~market,~~ ~~rose~~ ~~to~~ ~~an~~ ~~extravagant~~ ~~premium,~~ the real condition of affairs slowly forced itself on the minds of the population. Unfortunately, habits, contracted during the war, could not be immediately thrown aside, when the resources which ministered to their indulgence had passed away - debts ~~contracted~~ <sup>incurred</sup> in prosperous times could not be discharged when the times had changed - farms purchased or mortgaged, under the stimulus of war prices, were thrown into a market where there was few purchasers or required comparatively profitless or seriously <sup>incumbered</sup> ~~incumbered~~. Many persons were ruined - others fled from a country whose growing fortunes appeared to be suddenly smitten, like the Prophet's gourd. While those who remained, were for long time puzzled and dismayed by the gradual depreciation of property, as the visible progress of things went from bad to worse. Years elapsed before matters found their level - before the real elements of permanent prosperity began to be discovered - before those who possessed little but their experience and physical powers had shaken off their old habits, and learnt to practice a more rigid



economy, and before the hoarded wealth which the panic created by the depression <sup>had locked up,</sup> began to circulate through the channels of business seeking new objects for investment.

The object of this brief historical sketch has been to show that our ancestors were not to blame, if they left to us, to perform, in a more calm and <sup>auspicious</sup> ~~appropriate~~ period, than any which distinguished <sup>their</sup> early history, the duty we have just discharged. It is plain that their time and thoughts were abundantly occupied - that peculiar circumstances rendered such discussions as we have recently been engaged in, extremely inappropriate and distasteful - that to have expected more from them would have been to undervalue their services, insult their memories, and evince great ignorance of the circumstances in which they were placed. The founders of our Institutions - "the forefathers of our country," did their duty faithfully, according to their knowledge and opportunities, in their day and generation. We, I trust, have not been ungrateful of theirs, but, that a blessing may follow our labours, that our children may appreciate our ~~labours~~ <sup>possessions</sup>, and consolidate and perfect <sup>our</sup> work, let us not be guilty of the sin of ingratitude to the race which has passed away. Had they lived in our time they would have done all that we have done, and perhaps have done it better - had we lived in theirs, we might not have met their trials and difficulties with as much cheerfulness and fortitude, nor have left so much that was valuable for those who came after us to inherit and improve. May the soil which <sup>they won</sup> ~~was~~ made to blossom as the rose, not lightly upon their ashes, and may those who seek to found upon their indifference to topics, for the consideration of which they had little leisure, - reflections upon their children's zeal, find in this chapter as national a defence of their conduct as I trust the subsequent ones will furnish of our own.

## Chapter II

The period of years which elapsed, from the ~~close~~<sup>termination</sup> of the war in 1815 to the election of 1836, was one of necessary preparation for the Constitutional struggles which it is the object of this volume to record. It was just as impossible that the ~~several~~ appeals which Her Majesty's Government have so graciously sanctioned, should have been made at the commencement of this ~~era~~<sup>era</sup> as that they should not have been ~~made~~<sup>urged</sup> towards its close.

Within this quarter of a century the population of Nova Scotia had nearly doubled in numbers. A new race had grown up who claimed the country, not as a place of refuge from the evils of other lands, which more or less occupied their thoughts and divided their affections, but as the place of their birth-endears to them by every social tie - hallowed by the graves of their fathers - and blessed by the smiles of a numerous offspring, whose assumed inheritance it would become. The insecurity and perils of the ~~olden~~<sup>olden</sup> time had passed away with them and many of the strong prejudices they had created had ~~passed away~~<sup>passed away with them</sup> in peace. The reign of ~~our~~<sup>our</sup> borders, and the black of war no longer sounded in the distance. All parties had leisure to pursue their avocations and to develop the resources of the country. It was soon discovered that the adventures ~~which~~ aids upon which many had relied were not those <sup>whereon</sup> upon which a people could hope to found a condition of permanent prosperity. Those who had first anticipated ruin and depopulation because the spoils of war no longer supplied an export, sought in the fertile soil and teeming seas around them, ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ elements of wealth which no accident could withdraw or industry exhaust. If the stimulus of war prices ~~did~~ did not urge to exertion, there were the usual motives which operate upon our nature, when left to seek the rewards and comforts of life by a judicious employment of the faculties.

and there were found to be within the reach of all who sailed with a cheerful confidence in the capabilities and ultimate destiny of the Province.

The history of this period, if minutely traced, though ~~devoid~~ the stirring incidents of former times might be wanting, would possess many attractions to those who take an interest in Colonization—who delight to mark the growth of new States—to witness the fusion of the varied <sup>peculiarities</sup> ~~characteristics~~ of different countries into one race, over <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>influence</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>of</sup> its origin, and ~~the~~ <sup>influenced</sup> by early impressions, but gradually forming and sustaining a character of its own. ~~It is not my wish~~ The time will come when a work of this nature would be a treasure to our descendants, who, in tracing the stream of their history upwards, may, without such a guide, overlook many sources from which its head waters were supplied, or an impulse <sup>was</sup> given to its <sup>object to supply such a work, nor my</sup> volume. It is not my ~~desire~~ <sup>desire</sup> to dwell longer on this period, than may be necessary to show its general connection with that which preceded it, and its value, as one of necessary preparation for those peaceful victories, which the People of Nova Scotia have recently achieved.

The history of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> country from 1815 to 1836 is the history of progress in every department <sup>of Provincial</sup> industry, and improvement in every phase of our provincial character. Previous to this <sup>the chief ornaments of</sup> period, ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Bench, the Bar, <sup>and the</sup> Press, had been reared and educated either in the Mother Country or in the revolted Colonies. Though a few <sup>men</sup> ~~men~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>immigrated</sup> ~~immigrated~~ rather than impaired by the usual process of transplantation, <sup>yet</sup> stood among their juniors as first specimens of the elder growth, previous to 1836, natives of the country through the professions

and exercised, in the public affairs of the Colony, a powerful influence. These men, reared in different sections of the country, familiar with <sup>and</sup> their features, wants, resources, and influenced by those early local ties and attachments, <sup>which</sup> grow with our growth, which have ~~been~~ <sup>often</sup> inspired by the mute appeals of inanimate nature, or, <sup>an</sup> born of some happy combination of circumstances, applied themselves steadily (sometimes, perhaps, with a zeal which outran their knowledge) to elevate and improve the communities in which they dwell; and to secure for them the fostering care of the Legislature, and the favorable notice of the government. A cheap paper circulation, based upon public credit, and duties upon imports, supplies the means for ~~opening~~ <sup>making</sup> new roads - erecting bridges - and for improving the internal communications of the country, that every part of its life is thrown open to improvement the enterprise of the resident population, or of the emigrants by whom their numbers were from time to time increased. A feeling of airy justifiable pride grew out of this system of exploration - the more the <sup>surface</sup> ~~face~~ of the country became interested with roads, the more strong became the confidence of the people in the extent of its resources; and when they came to estimate the value of their noble harbours - their rich mines - their inexhaustible fisheries - the extent of their water power and the fertility of their soil, the conviction that God had given them a fair and glorious inheritance dissipated the despondency which settled over the <sup>Province</sup> ~~Country~~ at the close of the war, and laid the foundation of that patriotic attachment to their country, and confident reliance upon its fortunes, by which Nova Scotians, in the present day, are happily distinguished.

within this period, too, our Agriculture was materially improved. The virgin soil of a new Country yields an ample reward to the first rude hand that breaks it, and the farmer whose labor is bridged by Contractors, anxious to obtain, at any price, the products of his fields, may get rid with little labor, and prosper without much science. When, however, the productive powers which the vegetable accumulation of centuries had cherished, become exhausted, and when ~~the~~ ~~skill and economy~~ ~~are~~ ~~required~~ there is only a steady and natural demand for the fruits of the earth: science, and skill and economy, are necessary to the successful ~~prosecution~~ <sup>prosecution</sup> of agricultural operations and to the accumulation of capital by the cultivation of the soil. The writings of Agricola, and the example of his noble patron, turned public attention to this fact, at a time when it was of much importance that it should be generally known, and as the hardy <sup>continued to</sup> pioneers penetrated every section of the wilderness, to gather, by dint of sheer physical exertion, the almost spontaneous crops of the new clearing, a higher state of knowledge, and a more judicious style of cultivation ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> applied to the older farms. A comparison of our climate, and the qualities of our soil, with those of other Countries, (apparently, to a superficial observer, more highly favored), convinced our agriculturists that population, and science, and capital, only were required, to make the household equally fertile and productive. A cheerful and settled devotion to agricultural pursuits was the consequence, and a yeomanry, living on their own lands, proud of their occupations, and of the personal independence they afford, formed ~~as~~ at the time to which I refer, and still form, the great substratum of our population.

~~Report~~ The liberal measures submitted to the British Parliament under the auspices of Mr. Huskisson, <sup>also</sup> gave, within this period, a new impulse to our trade. The whole world was thrown open to the enterprise of the Colonial Merchant, till then hampered and controlled by most unwise restrictions. Commerce, no longer confined to a few channels, and conducted by a limited number of British Merchants or their Agents, <sup>who frequently retired to spend in the old world the fortunes they had made in the new</sup> opened a field of honorable exertion <sup>to the</sup> to the gaze of <sup>our</sup> the seaport towns. As Captains and Super-cargoes they visited every quarter of the globe, and investing their ~~capital~~ <sup>savings</sup> in permanent improvements, and bringing the knowledge to bear upon the resources of the Province, laid the foundation of those commercial relations, which based upon a continually accumulating domestic capital, and directed by high integrity and intelligence, have given to ~~the~~ <sup>this</sup> branch of industry a character and an <sup>importance</sup> ~~importance~~, of which it scarcely seemed susceptible for many years subsequent to the close of the war. The coasting trade ~~had~~ also largely increased. no longer harassed by the enemies' privateers, or awed by the dread of foreign captivity, the hardy settlers on our Bays and Headlands, launched their challenges upon the ~~deep~~ <sup>ocean</sup>, and sought in the transport of our mineral wealth, in the deep sea fishing, and in the carrying trade of the surrounding Colonies, those ever varying, ~~so~~ yet permanent and profitable employments, the best nursery of a commercial marine, and of an <sup>active</sup> ~~extended~~ foreign trade, and capable of almost indefinite extension.

The Fisheries, so far as they can be regarded as a distinct branch of industry, and ~~is~~ ~~is~~ disconnected from others which have already passed in review, may be said, within this period to have undergone a similar change. The marine treasures which Nature cast upon the shores of this Province a century ago must have been beyond all calculation, and it requires a strong effort of

The imagination to realize the tales which the early inhabitants relate of the sur-  
prising fecundity of our inlets and harbours. The very exuberance of the supply  
tempted the settlement of many spots upon the Southern Coast where there was  
scarcely soil enough for a garden. Hence a portion of our population became  
fishermen, without a chance of being able to combine with an employment which  
has its charms as well as its hazards, any other occupation. Many <sup>more</sup> others, who  
reared their dwellings and stages on rocky but still practicable soil, combined with  
their chief employment the resources of a rude and desultory agriculture. With the growth  
of population on this continent, and the steady prosecution of the fishery, by ~~the~~  
our own people, and by the numerous fleets of small vessels from the United States  
which annually swept ~~over~~ our shores and thronged around the gulf of St. Lawrence,  
the supply began to decrease - the schools were broken - and the spirit of <sup>our</sup> fishermen,  
accustomed to draw at will upon the boundless prodigality of nature, and to spend  
with reckless extravagance what had been so easily acquired, were clouded with ap-  
prehensions of the future. A clamour for bounties arose, and these, for many  
years, were tried in various forms, with the constantly recurring experience of their  
doubtful utility. It was at length discovered that the Fisherman's best dependence,  
as in the case of the Merchant, and the Agriculturist, was in the ~~increased~~ application  
of increased intelligence, industry, economy and foresight, to an occupation, which  
founded upon the inexhaustible treasures of the deep, and the progressive consumption  
of ~~the~~ growing millions of his species, however it might tax his powers, or ex-  
cite his fears, would generally yield its reward. If the quantity of fish fell off  
around the harbours, he learned to pursue them to other haunts and draw them  
from deeper waters - if he caught less, the price was higher, and the improved machinery  
of the Mother Country, and the accumulation of commercial <sup>capital at the disposal of the merchants</sup> furnished him with the  
necessary supplies at a much less extravagant rate. Habits of greater frugality were  
also forced upon him, and what was saved more than supplied the deficiency of  
what he could formerly afford to waste. The Fisheries of Nova Scotia, now, like its

like its agriculture, Commerce and Coasting Trade, is a valuable branch of progressive industry, relying upon no adventitious aids, but resting upon a solid basis which nothing can destroy, ~~but~~ tested by the vicissitudes and strengthened by the experience of the period which this chapter includes.

The Mineral resources of Nova Scotia <sup>began to attract increased attention</sup> during the times to which I refer. The Trade in gypsum, for which there is a natural demand for agricultural purposes in the Southern States, sprung up with ~~increased~~ <sup>great</sup> activity after the close of the war, and has gone on extending, until a large amount of tonnage, and a superior class of vessels, find steady employment in the exportation of a rock of which the supply is inexhaustible, and for which no domestic use has yet been discovered. By the vast expenditure of an English Company, and the application of Scientific aids to the business of mining, the Coal fields of the Province, which perhaps extend beneath a fifth of its entire surface, also rose into importance in the eyes of the population, about this time, and, although yielding but little profit to the shareholders, form one feature of our growing industry which it was impossible to overlook. Fifteen years ago, the Coal Trade of Nova Scotia was confined to a scanty supply of the capital, in 1839 upwards of 100,000 chaldrons were exported to foreign countries, and there is little doubt that the growing demand for this excellent fuel, not only for manufacturing and domestic purposes, <sup>but</sup> for ocean and inland navigation, will by and by, when superior skill and economy are combined with increased capital and legitimate competition, ~~and~~ give to this branch of industry a character as stable, and an extension as indefinite, as any other in which the population is engaged.

The natural markets of Nova Scotia were proved, within this period, to be as abundant as its productive powers, and internal and proximate resources, were shown to be inexhaustible. Enjoying the same advantages which



to the Colonies passes, in its commercial intercourse with the Mother Country, it has many wharves and harbours peculiarly its own. Every Harbour in Canada, ~~the~~  
~~the~~ ~~the~~ Prince Edward Island, <sup>and New Brunswick</sup> ~~is~~ is closed throughout the winter months, with the exception of one or two on the Bay of Fundy side of the latter Province. It is almost impossible that these ice bound ports can ever become eminently commercial - they may form entrepôts, in which the staple productions of the Province will be collected, to be shipped, during the summer months, in exchange for the manufactures which the Mother Country sends them in return, but they cannot support a Commercial Marine, with any chance of successful competition in the carrying trade, and general Commercial relations, with <sup>that of</sup> their more fortunate neighbors. Vessels owned at these ports, if so employed, must rendezvous in the harbours of Nova Scotia, and be entrusted to distant agents and correspondents, during the winter months. If laid up on the closing in of ~~the~~ the season, they are met, on their first voyage, perhaps within a few leagues of the wharves at which they have deposited, <sup>by</sup> the vessels from that Province, freighted with the products of every quarter of the globe gathered into our warehouses during the winter months. - It is ~~clear~~ hence it follows that our people must either become the factors and Agents of the Canadian ~~and New Brunswick, and Prince Edward~~ Island Merchants, or they must yield to us the carrying trade in West

to every quarter of the globe where their sagacity can discover a  
Market, and to which a cargo can be transported by their enterprise

India produce, and other articles, which can be shipped on better  
terms from this Province, than if they passed through the warehouses  
of the Mother Country. The productions of the Colonies, suitable for  
the West India markets, must also pass through our hands. of this  
double advantage our Merchants have learned to avail themselves - they have  
become, and must ever continue to be, the Carriers between the Bahama  
Islands which skirt the Gulf of Mexico, and the boundless Territory which  
stretches from the Bay of Bight to the Bay of Hudson. Besides this  
extensive field for Commercial operations, the Northern Timber parts of New  
Brunswick require all the Cattle, and surplus Agricultural productions  
of our Northern and Eastern Counties - the Coffee of Nova Scotia, Gypsum of  
Vanduyck, are drawn off to supply the Fisheries of Newfoundland -  
while our Western Towns almost monopolize the Supply of the Bay  
our Southern Counties are indebted with the finest Logwood in the world, upon throughout the year,  
an inexhaustible supply - St. Andrews, Bahamas and West Indies, to stimulate the industry, and easy access  
ports of St. Andrews and St. John. Indeed, there is no point at  
which an industrious man can set himself down in this Province  
where there is not a national and active demand for almost every  
thing he can produce. ~~Some~~  
These facts had been slowly and patiently worked out during the  
twenty years embraced by this Chapter. They were self evident in 1836,  
in 1845, and even further or timelier before later, they were extremely probable.

chial. Their demonstrations could not fail to have a powerful effect upon our Provincial character. Doubts and fears might still at times settle upon the minds of the ignorant, as some accidental cause disturbed ~~for a time~~ the ordinary currents of business, but an intelligent observation, looking through the mists of the moment, saw in the past history <sup>of this country</sup> and in assumed positions and advantages, the elements of a prosperity, which nothing could <sup>long</sup> retard, and which at such a distance lay from her forming the central point of communication between the Southern and Northern Colonies, gave to her a standing and influence out of all proportion to her mere territorial extent. Reinvigorated in 1875 by her adventurous ~~aid~~ <sup>aids</sup>, and inspired but little confidence in 1836, the energies and enterprise of ~~the people~~ <sup>her</sup> upon her bosom, her laws, operating upon her natural and permanent resources, had given her a much higher character, and <sup>upon</sup> ~~both~~ <sup>her</sup> aroused her to affections of those born upon her bosom. It was natural that a people, possessing such a country, and feeling within themselves the power to make it flourishing and influential, should desire to improve their institutions, and <sup>bring</sup> ~~make~~ them into strict conformity to the British Model and to the growing intelligence of the age.

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