

25th July, 1625. It is addressed to the Chancellor Mar, Huntly, Marshall, Murray, Wyntoun, and Linlithgow; and it empowers them, or any six of the Privy Council, with "full authority and commission to meet at such times, days, and places, as they should think expedient, and there to hear the petitions of his Majesty's subjects who intend the said plantation, and are willing to embrace the same; to confer, make, and thereupon conclude with them to receive resignation of all lands lying within the country of New Scotland which should happen to be resigned in their hands as his Majesty's Commissioners by the Earl of Stirling, or his lawful procurators in his name, in favour of any person or persons; and to give and grant now heritable infestments under the Great Seal of his Majesty's said kingdom (viz. of Scotland), to those to whom the said resignations are granted of the said lands, with the degree, state, order, dignity, name, honour, title, and style of KNIGHT BARONET, with such like privileges, prerogatives, immunities, liberties, and others, whatsoever, which are granted, and to be granted, in the Charters already passed to the Baronets of the said Kingdom, made by his Majesty to be enjoyed and possessed heritably as an especial token of his royal favour."—*Royal Commission for Creating Baronets, 25th July, 1625, Register Office, Edinburgh.*

From the date of this Royal Commission to the year 1630, upwards of fifty baronets were created, each of them receiving grants of 16,000 acres, some in Nova Scotia, others in New Brunswick.

By the articles of plantation each Baronet was bound to furnish "six men towards his Majesty's Royal Colonie, armed, apparelled, and victualled for two years," or else to pay 2,000 marks towards the undertaking, and 1,000 marks towards the expenses incurred by the Earl of Stirling, in exploring and settling Nova Scotia.—*Letter from the Privy Council to James I., 23 Nov. 1624.*

Sir James Balfour, Lord Lyon, King at Arms, and one of the persons raised to the dignity of Baronet, mentions in his Annals of Scotland, anno 1630,—“About the end of February this year, a fleet of fourteen ships sailed, furnished with men, women, and children, and all necessaries, divers of them being handicraftsmen of good quality and substance, to make a firm plantation in those parts of America called New Scotland, lying between the degrees of 42 and 48. They had with them two hundred and sixty kine, and other live cattle, for their use at their arrival.”—*Balfour's Annals, vol. ii. folio 117.*

On the 31st of July, 1630, the Charters of King James I. and King Charles I. erecting the Baronetage of Scotland and Nova Scotia, and all the acts and proceedings of the Privy Council thereanent, were approved and confirmed by the Parliament of Scotland. The following is a copy of the act in question.—

“Apud Holyrood House, ultimo die mensis, Julii, 1630.”

“The Estates presentlie convened, all in one voice, ratifies, allows, approves, and confirms the Dignity and Order of Knight Baronet, erected