

of neutrality on the part of the French population, together with the loss of Louisburg, under the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle, in October, 1748, rendered such an establishment indispensably necessary to support the dominion of the British Crown in the Province.

The scheme for a settlement at Chebucto is said to have originated with the people of Massachusetts, who in calling the attention of Government to the claims and encroachments of the French on the Territory of Acadia, suggested the necessity as well as the great commercial advantages to be derived from such an undertaking. A plan was accordingly submitted to Government in the autumn of 1748, and being warmly supported by Lord Halifax, advertisements\* soon appeared under the sanction of His Majesty's authority, "holding out proper encouragement to officers and private men lately discharged from the Army and Navy, to settle in Nova Scotia;" among other inducements was the offer to convey the settlers to their destination, maintain them for 12 months at the public expense, and to supply them with arms and ammunition for defence, and with materials and articles proper for clearing the land, erecting dwellings and prosecuting the fishery. The encouragements appeared so inviting, that in a short time 1176 settlers, with their families, were found to volunteer, and the sum of £40,000 being appropriated by Parliament for the service, the expedition was placed

\*A copy of the advertisement will be found in the appendix to this paper, marked A.