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tion till the year 1690, when the people of New England, finding the inconvenience of having the French to near them, prepared a fleet, with a proper number of land forces, and gave the command to Sir William Phips, a native of that province; who sailing from New England, on the twenty-eighth of April 1690, arrived before Port-Royal, now Annapolis, in May following; and soon reducing that town, obliged the inhabitants there, and on St. John's river, amounting to about six thousand, either to consent to submit to the English government, or to be transported to Canada; when most of them, for the sake of keeping their estates and habitations, consented to become British subjects; but soon showed that they were still bad neighbours to the people of New England. In 1710 queen Anne listening to their repeated complaints, sent a squadron and some land forces under colonel Nicholson, who took Port-Royal, which, in honour of the queen, he called Annapolis; after which Nova Scotia was yielded to Great Britain, by an express article in the treaty of Utrecht. Those of the inhabitants who chose to remain, were to become British subjects, and freely to enjoy their religion. However, in order to secure their obedience, and keep possession of the country, a garrison was kept at Annapolis, and a small one at Canso; but as no government was yet established, nor any proper encouragement given to the British subjects to settle there, the inhabitants, notwithstanding their oaths of allegiance, assisted a party of French, in 1744, in the reduction of the fort at Canso, and made an attempt upon Annapolis, but without success; that garrison being seasonably relieved from New England. They, however, still continued to commit secret hostilities, and to supply and encourage the Indians in their neighbourhood to perpetrate the most horrid acts of cruelty and barbarity on the English, upon the frontiers of New England, whose scalps, says major Rogers, were carried to market to Louisburgh, Quebec, &c. not only in time of war, but in peace, and there exchanged for powder, ball, or whatever they wanted. By these means there were at the conclusion of the peace, in the beginning of the year 1749, no other English in Nova-Scotia besides the garrison of Annapolis, and the inhabitants who lived within a few miles round that place.

The peace was, however, no sooner concluded, than the earl of Halifax projected the complete settlement of Nova-Scotia by the English, and used his utmost endeavours to carry it, in the most effectual manner, into execution. He, with the other lords commissioners of trade and plantations, having gained his majesty's approbation, they in March 1749, published proposals, offering proper encouragement to such of the officers and private men as, after the conclusion of the peace, had been dismissed his majesty's land and sea service, and were willing to accept of grants, in order to settle in Nova-Scotia. Fifty acres of land in fee-simple were offered to every private soldier or sea-man, free from the payment of quit-rent or taxes for the term of ten years, and at the expiration of that time, they were to pay only one shilling a year for every fifty acres. But this was not all, every private soldier or seaman who had a family, was to have ten acres for every person of which his family consisted, including women and children; and farther grants were to be made to them on the like conditions, in proportion as their families increased, or to their abilities for cultivating the land.

The next care of the governor was to pitch upon a proper spot for the first settlement, and as the peninsula appeared preferable, both on account of its commodious situation, and the fertility of the soil, the able-bodied men on board each ship were employed in clearing ground in order to build a town at the south point, at the entrance of Sandwich river; but many objections being soon found against that place, another spot was chosen by the governor, at about the distance of a mile and a half from it, on the side of Chebucto harbour, and on the declivity of a rising ground that commands the whole peninsula, and would shelter the town from the north-west winds. The beach they found was a fine gravel, convenient for small boats, the anchorage was every

where good for large ships, within gun shot of the town, and the best navigable rivers of fresh and wholesome water flowed round it.

Here then they made a second, and more successful attempt; and, indeed, it would not have been easy to have chosen a more happy situation; they therefore cleared the ground in as expeditious a manner as possible, and having erected a large wooden house for the governor, with proper store houses, the ground was laid out, to form a number of bright and beautiful streets, crossing each other at equal distances, upon a most excellent plan laid to have been formed by the earl of Halifax. The work went on briskly; the people of New England brought several ships laden with planks, door-frames, doors, window-frames, and other parts of houses; and the people being employed in ships companies, this created an emulation, that rendered their labours remarkably successful; so that in about three years time, this town, which was named Halifax, from that nobleman to whom the settlement owed its beginning, was finished, and every family had a good house of their own, of which the matter was landlord. Within the same space of time were also erected a church, and schools, the town was palisaded, and other fortifications erected; some land was also cleared for agriculture, and already planted, notwithstanding the opposition they met with from the French, and their tools the Indians.

To explain this last circumstance, it is necessary to observe, that in the beginning of the settlement, and soon after the landing of the English, a hundred black cattle and some sheep were brought them by land from a French settlement at Minas, a town about thirty miles from the bottom of Bedford bay; and French deputies also coming to make their submission, it was proposed to cut a road thither, those deputies promising to contribute fifty men towards carrying on that work. The English also received the promise of friendship and assistance from the Indians, their chiefs waiting upon the governor for that purpose. But these submissions, and their promises, were soon broken by the perfidy of the French court, which disapproved of these proceedings, and resolved to harass the English before their town was built, and their fortifications erected. Instructions were therefore communicated to the descendants of the French in Nova-Scotia, and the scene was instantly changed; they engaged the Indians to use their utmost endeavours to prevent the new colony from proceeding; and the year in which peace was proclaimed, and Cape Breton restored, was not expired, when the town began to be frequently attacked in the night, and the English could not stir into the adjoining woods, without the danger of being shot, scalped, or taken prisoners. They however prosecuted the settlement with indefatigable industry, and the town was soon finished, notwithstanding all the endeavours of the French to oppose it.

It was however impossible to clear woods and plough lands, without separating into small parties; and this work was attended with great danger; for though the French and Indians did not dare to attack any considerable body of the English, yet they frequently fell upon small parties; and though they had been often repulsed, they always returned whenever they had an opportunity of doing it to advantage. Complaint of this open war, in a time of peace, was now made to the court of France, when his Most Christian Majesty proposed that commissioners should be appointed to settle the bounds of Nova-Scotia. This was done; but those of the French endeavoured by all the arts of sophistry to prove, that the Nova-Scotia ceded to the English by the treaty of Utrecht, was no more than the peninsula of that country. The British commissioners justified our claim to the whole by memorials filled with the strongest and most evident proofs; and the most trifling answers being returned to these, admiral Boscawen was sent to seize the French ships in North America; and France evidently appearing to have concerted the means of conquering all the British dominions on that continent, the late war was entered into to prevent it. During all this time, the French of Nova-Scotia continued their cruel and infamous practices, till at the beginning of that war, when