

Early Agriculture in the Provinces.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY AGRICULTURE IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Agriculture is the great industry of North America and this it must continue to be for years to come. Besides furnishing the staple food products required by the one hundred million population of its own, this continent annually sends tens of millions of dollars worth of the necessaries of life to the thickly settled countries of the old world.

The contrast between the seventeenth and the twentieth century is most marked in this regard; in the seventeenth century the existence of the pioneer in America frequently depended upon the arrival of the ship from Europe with a supply of food for the famishing colony. Now it is to Europe we look to market the surplus of the farm after our wants have been supplied.

North America has an area of seven million nine hundred thousand square miles, seven millions of which belong to the United States and Canada in about equal proportion. The remaining nine hundred thousand are divided between Mexico, Central America and Newfoundland.

The eastern provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, contain fifty thousand two hundred and fourteen square miles. Nova Scotia can fairly claim to be the oldest province in Canada, dating its birth either as a French or British colony. Its first record in British history as a colony of Great Britain was far from complimentary. In the history of the year 1750, Pinnock's *Goldsmith's England*, pages 339 and 400, we read: "A new colony having been founded in North America in the province of Nova Scotia, it was thought that thither the waste of an exuberant nation might well be drained off and those bold spirits kept in employment at a distance, who might be dangerous if suffered to remain in idleness at home. Nova Scotia was a place where men might be imprisoned, but not maintained; it was cold, barren and incapable