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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. 36—NEW BRUNSWICK, OR THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

CHIEFLY TAKEN FROM "CANADA, FROM SEA TO SEA," BY G. MERCER ADAM.

IN THE rich Atlantic shores from which the iron highway sets forth to span a continent, the historical student will recall the founding, amid its then rude environment, of De Monts' little Huguenot colony on the Bay of Fundy. It lacks but a decade and a

half of being three hundred years since then, yet within that space of time how vast has been the change! How vast even has been the change since Canada entered Confederation and brought within her wide embrace the vigorous colonies and contiguous Provinces on either sea, with the limitless stretches and Nature's boundless resources that lie between. When the first Stuart king issued his charter which gave the English rights in Acadia (the name then given to the Provinces now known as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick), and his successor created the Order of Knights Baronets of Nova Scotia, the whole continent was a wilderness. Bit by bit it has been reclaimed from the desolation of solitude, until what was once a veritable *terra incognita* is now "a well-kenned land."

Many were the encounters of which what we now call the Maritime Provinces were the witness, in the long conflict between the two great European nations that for a hundred and fifty years strove for mastery in the new world. In the Acadian wars, not only Port Royal (Annapolis), Halifax, Louisburg, St. John and other towns and cities of the Maritime Provinces are identified with the long struggle between the two races; but much of the coast line, from Prince Edward Island, round Cape

Breton and the Nova Scotia Peninsula and up both shores of the Bay of Fundy, has its historic sites and land-marks, which preserve the traditions of the years of international strife. In fact this whole Acadian country, steeped as it is in the romantic and picturesque, with its couple of centuries of history and tradition, with its grand seashore views and blue land-locked bays, its beautiful rivers and fertile vales, its noble forests and mines rich in every mineral, its great sea pastures teeming with fish and a people busy, thrifty, energetic and enlightened, forms a rich field for those fond of literary research.

The Province of New Brunswick has Fredericton for its capital and St. John for its chief city. Crossing the Bay of Fundy from Digby, Nova Scotia, a distance of forty three miles, the traveller comes to St. John, the Liverpool of Canada, in its present form a modern city, its chief portion having been rebuilt since the summer of 1877, when fire swept over it burning some two hundred acres of its business area, and causing a loss of some twenty-five millions of dollars. The site of this city was known to De Monts and Champlain, who visited it in 1604, though it was not occupied until thirty years later. Its harbor figures



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largely in naval history, being the scene of many sharp engagements between English and French war ships, and between the latter and the armed vessels of the spirited colonists of New England. The forts ashore have also a tale to tell of military daring in the vicissitudes of the times, in the long conflict of the two nations for supremacy in the New World.

After the Revolutionary war, to St. John came a British fleet bringing five thousand United Empire Loyalists, who had voluntarily exiled themselves to live under the old British flag, since when the city has steadily advanced to its present pros-