

liam, subsequently, sent out an armament, under Sir David Kirk, or Kirtck, who in 1628 retook Port Royal; but the French settlement of Cape Sable still held out, nor did the English obtain complete possession of the country. Sir William Alexander, thus in a great measure disappointed in the result of this expedition, and having involved himself in considerable expenses in pushing forward his projects of colonization, conveyed, in 1629, a large section of his territories of Nova Scotia to Claude de la Tour*, under the title of *Sir Claude St. Etienne, knight, Seigneur de la Tour and Vuarses*†, creating him at the same time a baronet of Nova Scotia. Subsequently, by another patent in 1630‡, Sir William, in confirming the dignity of baronet to Sieur St. Etienne, the son of De la Tour, erected two baronies, one to be called the Barony of St. Etienne, the other the Barony of De la Tour, to be held as dependencies of the crown of Scotland; and under this patent it appears that some attempts were made to form a Scotch settlement at Annapolis: but Charles the First, by the treaty of St. Germain, in 1632, surrendered all his right to Lewis the Thirteenth of France; whereupon the French immediately took possession of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Canada, which had been previously conquered by Sir David Kirk.

At the close of the civil war in 1654, Cromwell sent a force under Major Sedgwick, who reduced the whole country, and compelled the French to surrender at discretion; and it was confirmed to England by the treaty of 1655. The English did not immediately form any settlement, and retained only Port Royal in their possession, so that the French were by no means prevented from extending their settlements in the country. De la Tour afterwards preferred a claim to a section of the country under the transfer from Sir William Alexander; and having satisfactorily made it out, the Protector, by letters patent dated August 9th, 1656,

colony, in which he was to receive a large portion of land. The number of baronets was not to exceed 150: they were to have pre-eminence before all knights bachelors, and to be endowed with ample privileges. Those patents were ratified in parliament; but the knights never applied themselves to the original purposes of their creation; notwithstanding which the original titles, with all the ordinary privileges of baronets, continued to the original knights and their descendants, many of whom are now in being.

* Chalmers's Political Annals, 4to. edit. p. 92.

† Massachusetts Records.

‡ Ibid.