

Soon as Maurepas the French minister had carried his point in making the peace of Aix la Chapelle, he vigorously set about augmenting the marine of France, and among the great number of ships which he contracted for, several were put on the Stocks in North America. Now it is well known that there is not a country in the world, which produces better or finer pine for masts, yards, and other sorts of wood for ship-building than Nova Scotia; nor has so excellent a harbour as that which is now call'd Halifax, where a fleet of any number may supply itself with every necessary; therefore Mr. Mascarene the governor of Nova Scotia, being aware of the designs of the French in settling about the mouth of St. John's river, insisted upon their taking the oaths of allegiance to his Britannic majesty, which they refused to do, and made application to the governor of Canada, who immediately sent an officer and a detachment of troops to their assistance. Things were in this situation, when providence raised up a British minister, [Lord Halifax] for the immediate protection and support of Nova Scotia, who at this time delivered it from the great hazard of being swallowed up by French encroachments; and to whose talents, vigilance and spirit, the nation owes its possession of this province. There had long indeed been a plan drawn up by Mr. Shirley for settling and securing Nova Scotia; but the preceding war prevented its being put in execution. However as the peace of Aix la Chapelle had eased the labours of the British ministry, the thoughts of a scheme for settling Nova Scotia were revived. The earl of Halifax, who presided at the board of trade, principally interested himself init. †

† The particulars of the plan were, That proper encouragement would be given to such of the officers and private men,

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