

A. D.
1749.

The im-
portance of
Nova Sco-
tia.

Ordered to
be settled.

For what
reasons.

referred to the decision of commissaries. Cape Breton having been given back by the treaty to France, the people of New England represented the importance and necessity of cultivating or colonizing this country so effectually, by describing its produce, capacious and safe harbours for ships of any burden, and shewing that by its situation, it might be made not only a barrier against all the schemes and forces of the French in those parts, for extending their trade; but a key to their fur-trade and cod-fishery, and to counteract any attempts made against our settlements on that coast, by the greatest power France is able to equip at Cape Breton; that plans were form'd, and his Majesty approved ¹ of one for the better peopling and settling the province of Nova-Scotia in America, and for extending and improving the fishery thereof, and establishing a civil government.

Amongst other arguments to forward this resolution of the British council, it was urged, That the restoration of Louisbourg might prove very fatal to us in another war, unless the government could be prevailed upon to settle and fortify Nova-Scotia, which, as it would be a barrier to all our northern provinces, and, as it might be made a check upon Louisbourg and the French encroachments in the fishery, would, in time, be of more service to the nation, than half the colonies already settled. That it has a very large extent of sea-coast, abounding with fine rivers, bays, and har-

¹ In council on 7 March 1749. O. S.

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