

CHAPTER I.

HALIFAX, the Metropolis of Nova Scotia, and chief City of the Acadian or Lower Provinces, was founded in the year 1749, at the expense of Government, under the directions of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, and was named in compliment to George Montague, Earl of Halifax. then at the head of the Board, under whose immediate auspices the settlement was undertaken.

From the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, when Acadia was ceded to the crown of Great Britain, to the year 1749, no progress had been made by the British in Colonizing the country. The Governor resided at Annapolis Royal, a small settlement chiefly composed of neutral French, the facility of communication with New England enabling him to maintain his position with a few Companies of Provincial Troops, usually supplied by the Old Colonies.

The necessity of a British station and Military post on the Atlantic coast of the Peninsula, had long been felt ; but latterly the continued breaches