

From this motive it is the universal practice of the women to suckle their children during several years, and as they seldom marry early, the period of their fertility is over before they can finish the long but necessary attendance upon two or three children. In Nova Scotia they are now diminished to 350 families or 1500 persons. Previous to the dismemberment of the Province in 1784, there were two tribes of Indians inhabiting the country, the Micmacs and Richibuctos. They were a savage and ferocious race, often committing great outrages upon the solitary and peaceable settlers. But the French who have been always remarkable for their powers of address, conciliated their friendship, and afterwards converted them to christianity. They were all Catholics, and very strict observers of the ceremonial parts of their religion. As allies of the French they were the natural enemies of the English. To enumerate the various rencounters with the Indians, and the many injuries committed by them on the trade of the country would be departing from the plan of this work and extending this chapter to a size exceeding that of the whole book. I shall therefore merely mention two of their attacks upon Canso, which will sufficiently evince the resolute and warlike character of these people. On the 7th of August 1720, a party of Indians fell upon Canso, within the Province of Nova Scotia, but peopled every summer by fishermen from Massachusetts. Such was the secrecy, order, and expedition, with which it was done, that they surprised the English in their beds, and stripped them of every thing; telling them they came to carry away what they found upon their own land. The French of Cape Breton no doubt planned this enterprise, for the next day some of their vessels carried away the plunder, including among other things 2000 quintals of dry fish. The loss sustained by the English was estimated at £20,000 currency. There were but three or four lives lost among the whites upon this occasion. The Indians were most convenient allies for the French. When an outrage was committed by them, and satisfaction demanded of the French, they excused themselves from intermeddling with them, assigning as a reason that they were not French subjects, and therefore not under their control.

In 1723 there was a very general war commenced by all the tribes in this quarter, the Richibuctos, the Micmacs, and Penobscots. In the latter part of July they surprised