

Tho' this country was discovered by Sebastian Cabot in 1497, yet it lay neglected many years, and underwent several changes and revolutions before any considerable settlement was made in it.

In 1578, Sir Humphrey Gilbert obtained a grant from Queen Elizabeth of all the remote lands he should discover and settle. He set out, with a view to this part of America among others; but being lost on the coasts of the continent, the project dropt.

In 1621, King James gave a grant of this province to Sir William Alexander, afterwards Earl of Sterling, and Secretary of State for Scotland, by whom it was called Nova Scotia. The French, in the mean time, had attempted some settlements in this territory; but were disturbed therein by the Governor of Virginia, who sent Captain Argal to remove them in 1614, which was accordingly done.

In 1622, a ship was sent out by Sir William, with a number of people, and all kinds of necessaries for beginning a settlement. These people landed near Cape Sable; but I cannot find, after all, that they made any settlement. It is however certain that some of our people were settled here in 1631; for, in 1632, Quebec and Cape Breton, which had been taken from