

A more important thing than making a living is making a life.

—*Ruskin.*

History of Annapolis.

Annapolis is the name of a Nova Scotia County and of its shire town. The history of Annapolis is not local history. It takes us back to the first permanent European colony on the North America continent, to the centre of political influence during the French regime in Acadia and to the first capital of British North America. Before the English settlements were established in Virginia, three years before a white man had settled at Quebec, long before the Mayflower came to Plymouth, Annapolis was a European village. There first on this continent white men cultivated the soil. There was built the first American Mill. There was launched the first vessel built on this continent. Its shores witnessed the first conquest made to Christianity, and echoed the first notes of poetic song heard in British America. Its waters were reddened with the first blood shed in the struggle of France and England for possession of the continent. For more than a century, Annapolis was the centre of civilization and progress in Acadia.

Such is the claim with which the historian of Annapolis opened the story which he was not spared to complete. The late W. A. Calnek, well known as a local historian was early impressed with the responsibility that rested on him to give the world a connected history of his own country. Some fugitive chapters he had printed from time to time. A complete but brief sketch he offered as his contribution in the Kings Collage competition. He gathered a large amount of historical material for a

more ambitious work, and might have completed it, but that diverted from his original plan, he undertook to prepare a volume of records of early English settlers in the country. This work he was carrying forward concurrently with the larger enterprise when failing health and finally death cut short his laborious.

Mr. Calnek's death in 1892 left the historical work to be completed and edited by another. It was not until other resources failed that Judge Savary was induced to take it up. Though born in the neighboring country, he had become as familiar with Annapolis as a native. He brought to task a judicial mind, a scholar's training, wide reading in local history, the experience acquired in compiling historical and genealogical records, conscientious exactness, a gift for clear statement and untiring industry.

Judge Savary gathered together materials for the memoirs, combined them in one volume with the general history and that of the townships. He added a number of biographies, and many of the genealogies, and carried the Calnek records down to date. He has gone carefully over the Acadian chapters changing nothing, but adding explanatory passages in footnotes, supplying deficiencies and sometimes entering into considerable discussions in appendices to the early chapters. In this way many historical records that were not available when Mr. Calnek wrote, or were not seen by him, are made a part of the history.

Mr. Calnek passed rather lightly over the dispersion of the Acadians, and Judge Savary devotes a chapter of his own to the event. The Judge does not excuse the deportation. On the contrary he condemns it,

and in the twenty-two pages devoted to a discussion takes a position sympathetic toward the Acadian sufferers and strongly condemnatory of the authorities.

In the period of British rule, Annapolis was for many years the capital of Acadia. After Halifax the creation of a day, took the place so long enjoyed by Port Royal, Annapolis remained a place of large influence. Some of the most eminent of the loyalist immigrants found homes in the country. It gave to Nova Scotia, to British America, and to the empire some distinguished men. Among the names which appear in the long list of personal records, are those of Jacob Basly, the famous old minister who came to Nova Scotia in rags as a refugee Edward How, whose tragic death on the banks of the Missiguash is a sad chapter in Acadia history: General Williams, the hero of Kars and lieutenant governor of the province; Haliburton, jurist, legislator and historian of Nova Scotia and the Sam Slick of the world General Ruggles; J. W. Johnson, the conservative leader, and How's great opponent; and the Ritchie family, which gave three judges to the supreme court of Nova Scotia and one chief justice to New Brunswick and to Canada. These were not all natives of Annapolis but they were either born there or lived there.

Some of the biographies of the public men of Annapolis are by the author, and some by Judge Savary, who modestly claims for himself only the title of editor. But the reader has usually the advantage of knowing to which of the two he is indebted for the sketch. The joint labours of author and editor, or joint authors, as they might be called, is a notable edi-