

Crown, and when, according to the law of nations, and the usages of the British Government in all times past, the rights of the Baronets to their baronies, and regalities of 16,000 acres each, revived.

Such are the leading features of the claims set forth by the Baronets of Nova Scotia. The number who claim 16,000 acres of land each, with the titles, is 111, and among them are some of the chief nobility of England and Scotland. They have held meetings from time to time since the order was created. Petitions have also been laid before Parliament to obtain lands, or the renewal of their charter, and they are still urging their case to the notice of the Government.

It is almost unnecessary to review the arguments brought against these claims; certain it is that the Baronets never made any successful effort to settle the lands obtained under their charter even at periods when the Government offered bounties to immigrants into Nova Scotia. The country was conquered and reconquered, and defended, at the cost of the nation, and the British Provincials of Massachusetts. More than two centuries have passed away since the charter was given to the Premier Baronets. In that long period neither the descendants of the Earl of Stirling, nor any of those who have claimed the title, have taken up their lands and carried out the conditions of the charter. The final conquest of the country was followed by the general introduction of British subjects. The lands of the Province have been fully granted by the Crown to such subjects, who have improved the country, and now occupy the most valuable part of its surface. All this has been going on openly, and under the cognizance of the claimants, until it has become impossible for them ever to obtain possession of any but wilderness territory, and by grants proceeding from the