

## C H A P. II.

OF NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA, NEW ENGLAND, NEW YORK,  
the JERSEYS, PENNSYLVANIA, and MARYLAND.

## S E C T. I.

## Of ACADIA, or NOVA SCOTIA.

*Its Situation, Extent, Produce, Harbours, and History.*49:35-  
49:36.

ACADIA, or Nova Scotia, is the most eastern part of the continent of America. It is bounded by the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Straights of Canso, which separates it from Cape Breton, on the east; on the south by the Atlantic ocean; on the west by the bay of Fundy and the province of Maine, belonging to Massachusetts-bay; and on the north by the river of St. Lawrence, which divides it from Canada; extending from the forty-third degree thirty seven minutes to the forty-ninth degree thirty minutes north latitude, and from the sixtieth degree fifteen minutes to the sixty-ninth degree well longitude. It is so indented by what is called the bay of Fundy, that the fourth-east part, towards the ocean, forms a triangular peninsula, only joined by a small isthmus to the other part.

It is in general a fine country, the climate being tolerably temperate, though pretty severe in winter, when the cold is sharp and the snow lies deep on the ground; but the air is there generally clear, with a bright sunshine, and azure sky: the summer is, however, hotter than in England.

The soil of this province is various, in some places barren, and in others exceeding pleasant and fertile, particularly round the bay of Fundy, and on the rivers which fall into it, where are large tracts of ground on both sides these rivers, for fifty or sixty miles into the country, and several miles from the bay, which were once marshy, but, by being dyked, are improved to great advantage. The eminences in this province are also very pleasant and fruitful, producing wheat, rye, Indian-corn, peas, beans, hemp, flax, and some kinds of fruit in great perfection, as gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries, which grow in the woods. Several parts yield fine timber, and particularly excellent oak fit for building of ships; with fir, spruce, birch, &c. It abounds with all the necessities of life, particularly a great number of deer and other game, with plenty of wild-fowl, as teal, herons, wood-cocks, pigeons, bullards, partridges, wild-ducks, and great numbers of beavers and otters. The rivers abound with salmon and other kinds of river-fish. There are also several fisheries erected in the different harbours, which are carried on with great success.

The coast has the advantage of many bays, harbours, and creeks; and the land is enriched by many rivers, some of which are navigated for a long course by the native Indians. The harbour of Chebucto, upon which is situated the metropolis, may be justly esteemed one of the finest in the world, both for safety and convenience, it having good anchoring-ground, and water sufficient for the largest men of war. This is therefore made the place of rendezvous for the royal navy in America, it having a royal dock, and conveniences for the largest ships to heave down and careen. The entrance into it is from the south, with a large island of an irregular form, lying on the north-east side, named Cornwallis Island, from the first governor of Halifax. This island, as well as a smaller one that lies higher up the harbour, named George Island, is very commodiously situated for a fishery, and has conveniences of all sorts proper for drying and curing the fish.

On the west side of this harbour is seated the town of Halifax, which, though founded so lately as the year 1747, is now a considerable place, consisting of above

one thousand houses, laid out in handsome straight streets, and is the capital of the whole province.

There are also several other towns laid out round the bay, and partly inhabited; but the most considerable settlements are upon the bay of Fundy, and the rivers that fall into it.

About two miles up the harbour of Chebucto is a river on the south-west side, with a small harbour at its entrance. This river, which was called by the first settlers of Halifax Sandwich river, is at the mouth about as wide and deep as the Thames at London-bridge, and is salt-water for about four or five miles up, when it terminates, where a small fresh water rivulet falls into it from the north. From the mouth of Sandwich river to the opposite side of the harbour, is about two miles, with good anchoring-ground for the largest ships in any part of it, and a fine watering-place on the north-east side: the land on both sides is exceeding high, but covered with wood.

Four or five miles to the north of the above river, is a narrow entrance of half a mile, into Bedford-bay, which is about twelve miles in circumference, and has several creeks at the bottom of it, abounding with the finest salmon in the great-lake plenty: there are also several islands, and on the western side of it, grow a great number of pines fit for masts. This bay, with the harbour, and Sandwich river, divide the peninsula from the continent.

Upon the north-west shore are several large rivers, among which the river of St. John is the most considerable. It is a very long course; but has two prodigious cascades near its mouth, one of them no less than thirty fathoms deep, which is supposed to be chiefly occasioned by the great head of water above, and the channel being pent up between two steep mountains.

The inhabitants may be computed at about twenty thousand, who export to other parts chiefly lumber, as planks, staves, hoops, joints, and fish. The latter is, indeed, the staple commodity, and employs a considerable number of hands.

The king of Great Britain, who is sovereign of the soil, appoints the governor, the lieutenant governor, and council, who form the upper house; and the lower-house is formed of the representatives of the people, who are chosen by the freeholders.

This country was discovered by Sebastian Cabot in 1497, but lay long neglected before any considerable settlement was made in it. The French, however, had landed and built houses; but in 1614, captain Argal, by order of the governor of Virginia, sailed thither, and obliged them to depart.

In 1621, king James gave a grant of this province to Sir William Alexander, afterwards earl of Stirling, and secretary of state for Scotland, by whom it was called Nova-Scotia. The next year, Sir William sent a number of people, and all kinds of necessaries for beginning a settlement; but in 1632, Quebec and Cape-Breton, which had been taken from the French, were, together with this province, ceded to them by a treaty concluded between Charles I. and Lewis XIII. when a number of English removed out of it, and the French kept it in their possession till the year 1654, when Oliver Cromwell sent major Sedgewick, who took Port-Royal, and obliged the French to quit the country.

Nova-Scotia continued in our possession till the reign of Charles II. when it was again ceded to the French by the treaty of Breda. They kept it without molestation

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