

CHAPTER IV.

Population, Militia, Longevity and Religion.

DOCTOR FRANKLIN observes that population increases, as the means of subsisting a family are rendered more easy. In a country where the means of subsisting abound, more people marry early. In Europe, and in the American Atlantic States, the lands are every where occupied, and let at the highest rate; those who cannot arrive at property of their own are hired by those who have property. Rivalship, owing to the multitude of workmen, lowers the price of labour, and the smallness of their profits takes away the desire and the hope, as well as the abilities requisite for increase by marriage. The state of British America presents an appearance of a contrary nature. Tracts of lands waste and uncultivated are to be obtained either by grant, or so cheaply by purchase, that a man of the least turn for labour, is furnished in a short time with an extent, which while it is sufficient to rear a numerous family, will maintain his posterity for a considerable period. The inhabitants therefore of this colony, marry in greater numbers, and at an earlier time of life, than the inhabitants of Europe. When one hundred enter into the marriage state in Europe, there are two hundred in Nova Scotia, in proportion to its extent. And if we reckon four children to each marriage, in the old, we should allow at least eight in the new hemisphere. If we multiply these families by their produce, and add to that amount, the number of emigrants, it will appear, that at no great distance of time, the British North American Colonies will arrive at an immense degree of population. The progressive increase of population in Nova Scotia, has never been accurately ascertained. The first census taken in the Province after the settlement of Halifax was of property. In 1757 the inhabitants of the county of Halifax rated the value of their houses, cattle and merchandize at about £295,312 10 0. In 1817 a census of Nova Scotia Proper was taken by order of the Earl of Dalhousie, which was as follows.

County of Halifax,	30,196
Annapolis,	9,817
Sydney,	7,151
Queen's County,	3,098
Lunenburg,	6,628