

on the east to Cape St. Mary's on the west; is about 383 English miles; and its breadth varies from about 50 miles, at which it may be estimated from Chester to Black Rock Pier, to 104, which is its width from Bristol Bay to the head of Bay Verte. It contains about 16,000 square miles, or upwards of nine millions of acres.

Nova Scotia is supposed to have been discovered in 1497 by Cabot, then in the service of our Henry the Seventh. The French, under the Marquis de la Roche, were the first who attempted to form any settlement. He arrived with a number of convicts in 1598, and landed them on Sable Island, where the greater number perished, and the remainder were taken off the island and carried back to France. No farther settlement was attempted until 1604, when Messrs. De Monts, Champlain, and Petrincourt, and a number of volunteer adventurers, founded Port Royal, now Annapolis. De Monts acted as governor-general under a commission from the King of France, and he named the country (which included Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and part of the state of Maine) *Acadia*. This little colony was destroyed in 1614 by the New Englanders, under Sir Samuel Argal, who transported the inhabitants to Canada, and cancelled and destroyed the patents granted by the French king. These transactions in Nova Scotia are memorable as the first instance of hostilities between Great Britain and France on the continent of North America, and which scarcely ever entirely ceased until, at the cost of infinite blood and treasure, France was stripped of all her possessions in North America by the peace of 1763.

King James the First, in 1621, granted Sir William Alexander, of Menstry, a patent to plant colonies in this country, named in the patent "*Nova Scotia*." Sir William despatched a party of settlers to take possession of the colony, who, on arriving, found that the country had been occupied by the survivors of the early French emigrants, and several others, who had settled since the destruction of Port Royal by Argal, whereupon they returned to England without effecting any settlement. Charles the First confirmed his father's grant to Sir William by patent dated July 12th, 1625, and reappointed him governor-general*. Sir Wil-

* On this occasion Charles the First founded the order of *knight baronets of Nova Scotia*, the primary object of which was, that each knight should contribute to the settlement of this