

land, and to establish Maryland, called after Charles's Queen, and the city of Baltimore, called after his Irish title. Thus Newfoundland sustained an irreparable loss which retarded its progress for two centuries. The French on the other side of the Peninsula founded the town of Placentia, the envioning hills, the two arms of the sea with a rapid tidal current, reminding the French of the arrowy Rhone in their own land, and the almost total exemption from fog in a Bay remarkable for it, induced to call it Plai-ance, a pleasant place, now Placentia. They early saw the importance of the acquisition, and provided for its security by strong fortifications. These are now in ruins—they have served as a quarry for the few buildings requiring stone or brick. The great demilune which guarded the entrance of the port is now a shapeless heap of rubbish, its vaulted brick casements have been all destroyed, and the remains of a Castle on Creveceur Hill are slowly perishing. It is remarkable that several properties are still held in Placentia by virtue of the original French titles, and such importance did the government of Louis 14th, the Grand Monarch, attach to the possession of the place, that all the grants are signed by the King's hand, and countersigned by his minister Philippeau. Nor were the French oblivious of the necessity of religion in their new settlement—a Convent of Franciscans, a branch of the Convent of Our Lady of Angels of Quebec, was established there in 1689, on the site of the present Protestant Church and burying ground, and a few French tombs of the date of 1689 to 1690 yet remain to mark out the place where it stood. Most of the French tomb stones were taken by the English settlers after the surrender of the place by France, and applied to the ignoble purposes of hearth stones and door steps. Newfoundland was then under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Quebec, and in 1689 the second bishop of that See, Monseigneur St. Vallier, made a visitation of Placentia and the neighbouring parts in company with Father Giorgieu and some of the Franciscan community of Quebec. The records of the foundation of the Convent and of the Episcopal visitation are in the Archiepiscopal archives of Quebec. Thus we see two great and powerful nations established on the shores of Newfoundland, opposed in politics, in interest, in religion; and it is easy to imagine that the progress of the country must have been not only retarded, but absolutely impossible. A series of skirmishes, naval battles and obscure sieges follow, until the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, when the French, exhausted by war, were obliged to resign all claim to Newfoundland, to evacuate St. John's, which they held for five years previously and were strongly fortifying,