

the *Quebec Gazette* published on the 21st June.—In November the governor and council established a system of equity jurisdiction, being in fact an introduction into Canada of the Court of Chancery;* French laws and customs were, however, to be allowed and admitted in all causes in the courts of civil jurisdiction between the natives of Canada, in the controversies originating before the 1st October, 1764.—September 28th—Permission was given to the Acadians to settle in Nova Scotia, and to hold lands upon taking the customary oaths.—Mr. Henry Ellis having resigned his office of Governor of Nova Scotia, an office, by the way, the duties of which he never attempted to fulfil, Colonel Wilmot was, on the 8th October, appointed Governor of Nova Scotia.—About 600 Acadians, having received full permission from the authorities to leave, departed from Halifax towards the end of November to settle in the French West Indies.—The Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas were established.—The Governor-General was appointed Vice-Admiral of the Province of Quebec, and the territories thereon depending.

1765. The fourth General Assembly of Nova Scotia met at Halifax on 28th May. The session was opened by Governor Wilmot; Mr. Nesbitt was elected speaker. The chief business which engaged the attention of the members was an act to re-arrange the constituencies,† the County of Sunbury and Township of Sackville (in what is now the Province of New Brunswick)

* The Governor was to preside as Chancellor with two Masters, two Examiners, and one Registrar. In 1774 this court merged into the courts erected by the Act 14 George III., cap. 83.

† This Act was, however, disallowed by an order of the king in council, 11th September, 1767, and an instruction was at the same time given forbidding the passing of any Act of this kind in future.

being included for the first time in the electoral divisions. The session closed on 15th June. Collections were made in Nova Scotia in aid of the sufferers by the great fire at Montreal.—Very large grants of lands in Nova Scotia (Benjamin Franklin's name appears among the grantees) were made by Governor Wilmot and his council, and the advancement of the province was, in the opinion of many, much retarded by this rashness in locking up large tracts of country.—A great fire broke out in Montreal, which was not subdued until more than one hundred houses had been destroyed. The greater part of the Grey Nunnery was burned down during this conflagration.—22nd March—The Stamp Act* received the royal assent. The news of the passage of this act created the greatest excitement in Boston and the New England States, but in Canada and Nova Scotia it seems to have been accepted without much opposition.—28th May—The fourth session of the Legislature of Nova Scotia was opened by Governor Wilmot. This session terminated on the 15th June.—August 21st—William Henry, Duke of Clarence, born.

1766. Memorials had been forwarded from Canada to the Board of Trade complaining of certain matters in connection with the administration of affairs in the colony, and these memorials had been submitted by the Board of Trade to the law officers of the Crown,* by whom a report was pre-

* The Stamp Act was based upon a resolution passed by the House of Commons in 1764, "That towards defraying the necessary expenses of protecting the colonies, it may be proper to charge certain stamp duties upon them."

* William de Grey, one of the Crown lawyers at the time, was born on 19th July, 1719. He was educated at the University of Cambridge, and called to the bar. He became King's counsel 30th January, 1758; Solicitor-General to the Queen September, 1761; Solicitor-General to the King 16th December,