

# CANADIANA

A COLLECTION OF CANADIAN NOTES.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

---

---

VOL. I.

JUNE, 1889.

No. 6.

---

---

## *CRUISES OF A NOVA SCOTIAN PRIVATEER.*

By MR. ERNEST CRUIKSHANK.

Eighty years ago, Liverpool, N.S., was one of the busiest seaports in British America. Besides many vessels engaged in the lumber trade and fisheries, nearly a dozen private-armed vessels had been fitted out during the wars of the French revolution to play their part in the great struggle. Cruising, as a rule, in southern waters, they rarely returned unaccompanied by prizes, and one at least, the brig "Rover," Capt. John Godfrey, had acquired some thing more than local and temporary renown by her successful combat with the Spanish national schooner "Santa Aitta" and three gunboats off Cape Blanco, on the Venezuelan coast on the 10th October, 1800. But as the flags of France and Spain in after years almost disappeared from the ocean, except when displayed from the masthead of some swift-sailing frigate or corvette that had evaded the vigilance of the blockading squadrons, privateering became an unprofitable pursuit, and most of these vessels were converted into peaceful merchantmen.

When, however, it became known that the Congress of the United States had declared war against Great Britain and her dependencies, this sphere of activity seemed once