

INTRODUCTION.

In the area of History, research, varied and minute, is indispensable to accuracy and thoroughness. Books, pamphlets, coins, and manuscripts, with traditions of Pioneers, are foundations for such deeply entrancing and instructive publications.

True, Halliburton, Murdoch and Campbell, have successively written the general history of our fair Province with marked exactness. The system of County Histories, so popular in the LAND OF THE PILGRIMS, is, however, infantile in that of the MAYFLOWER. While, in 1857, steps were happily inaugurated by our Provincial Legislature for collecting, preserving and arranging decaying data, exhibiting the Rise and Progress of our Province, nobly supplemented by the kindness of the late Commissioner of Records, in bestowing that boon, known as the "AIKINS' HISTORICAL PRIZE" for Counties,—only Lunenburg, Queen's, Yarmouth and Pictou, have been honored by the publication of their truly momentous Histories.

Digby has also an eventful career, which is presented as clearly and concisely as its importance and extent allow.

The crowded and tumultuous countries of Europe, as well as the older British Colonies in America, with the innate love of adventure and liberty, led many to seek their fortunes in more salubrious atmospheres; and our forests soon attracted the best and bravest emigrants. Their cherished habits were introduced and perpetuated, much to the promotion and happiness of admiring posterity.

Many facts, valuable in themselves, though local in their sphere, attest the familiar adage, that "History repeats itself." Intense hardships, suffering, and peril, were the natural experiences of pioneers in all countries. This County is eminently replete with such incidents. But to the French and British Enthusiasts these obstacles were as mountains to moundhills. Other nations, it is true, claim priority in surveying these shores. But our hardy inhabitants, by zeal and endurance, occupy conjointly the fertile soil their forefathers rescued with utmost