

The rents were, on the Van Rensselaer estates, fourteen bushels of wheat for each hundred acres, and four fat hens, and one day's service with a cart and horses, to each farm of a hundred and sixty acres. Besides these there was a fine on alienation amounting to about half a year's rent." The reader of Parkman will remember all these incidents of land tenure as occurring in French Canada. In 1839, Stephen Van Rensselaer, the "patroon," died with great arrears owing to him, and his heirs proceeded to demand payment. Thereupon anti-rent clubs were formed to return members to the State Legislature who should advocate their cause; armed bands disguised as Indians resisted the officers in serving process; the militia were called out but in vain; and finally the Van Rensselaers and Livingstons were forced to sell their estates, "giving quit claim deeds to the tenants for what they chose to pay." Seigniorial tenure, therefore, far from being peculiar to Canada, as late as half a century ago was so strong in New York State that, as an observer said, it occasioned "a reign of terror, which for ten years practically suspended the operation of law and the payment of rent throughout the district."\*

Another illustration of the same fact,—that unless men were impelled by religious motives to leave their own country, a new land could be "planted" in the seventeenth century only by means of a semi-feudal organisation, may be found in the plan for colonising "New Scotland" (Nova Scotia), adopted by James I. The documents relating to it will be found in a collection of *Royal Letters*, etc., relating to Nova Scotia, printed by the Bannatyne Club, in 1867.

In 1621, Sir William Alexander, afterwards Earl of Stirling, received a grant of the territory now forming the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with a

\* See the quotation in Mr. Godkin's article in *Hand Book of Home Rule*, pp. 17-20.