

INTRODUCTION.

The following address was most hastily prepared; and as some of the subjects touched upon are of historical interest, especially the question of the expulsion of the Acadians, which has always hitherto been presented in a light most unfavorable to this Province, the publication of it has been delayed a few days to enable the writer to examine more carefully the documents relating to this transaction; and some notes have been added since the delivery of it that may be of interest.

The writer having, since the delivery of this address, been compelled to be absent from Halifax, its publication has been delayed until he could find time to make a less cursory examination of the original documents relating to an event respecting which so great an authority as the eminent American historian, Bancroft, has said—"I do not know if the annals of the human race keep the record of sorrow so wantonly inflicted, so bitter and so perennial, as fell upon the French inhabitants of Acadia." "The hand of the English official seemed under a spell with regard to them, and never was uplifted, but to curse them." As Mr. Bancroft seems to have had access to many, if not all, of the documents referred to, the writer feels that to oppose his opinion to that of Mr. Bancroft would be a piece of presumption, unless the public were afforded a perusal of a portion of those documents which have led Mr. Bancroft, on the one hand, to stigmatize the British Government as having been guilty of unprovoked cruelty; and the writer, on the other, in justice to the people of this province, and the British Government, to throw the burthen of this sad event on the unscrupulous ambition of France, which, in time of peace, waged by the aid of savages a secret and merciless warfare on the