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HISTORICAL SKETCH

HALIFAX CITY AND COUNTY.

(Revised and brought down to 1874.)

The City of Halifax, the capital of the Province of Nova Scotia, was founded in the year 1749 by the Lords of Trade, and was named in compliment to George Montague, Earl of Halifax, then at the head of the Board. The scheme for the establishment of the town is said to have originated with the people of Massachusetts, who, in calling the attention of Government to the claims and encroachments of the French on the territory of Acadia, suggested the necessity as well as the great commercial advantage to be derived from such an undertaking. A plan was accordingly submitted to the Government in the autumn of 1748, and being warmly supported by Lord Halifax, advertisements soon appeared under the sanction of his Majesty's authority, holding out excellent inducements for emigration. The prospects appeared so inviting, that in a short time 1,176 settlers, with their families, were found to volunteer, and the sum of £40,000 being appropriated by Parliament for the purpose, the expedition was placed under the command of Colonel the Honorable Edward Cornwallis, M.P., as Captain General and Governor of Nova Scotia, and set sail for Chebucto Bay early in May, 1749.

The fleet consisted of thirteen transports, carrying 2,376 passengers, men, women, and children, and a sloop of war, the *Sphinx* with the Governor and his suite on board. The total number of males was 1,545, of which about 500 were man-of-war sailors.

On or about the 21st of June, the *Sphinx* arrived in the harbor of Chebucto, and the Governor and suite soon after landed on George's Island.

On the 14th July the civil Government was organized on board the *Beaufort* transport, and the following gentlemen sworn in councillors, viz: Colonel Paul Mascarene, Captain Edward Howe, Captain John Gordan, Benjamin Greene, John Salisbury, and Hugh Davidson. The table around which the first Council sat is still preserved in the Council Chamber. The formation of the Council was announced by a general

CALCULIFUGE cures GRAVEL.—See Adv. page 77.