

their object, and who on this occasion seated himself beneath the gallery, apparently to avoid the glare of the gas lamps or the concentrated fire of Mr. POTTER's eye) constituted the meeting. At the expiration of thirty minutes, Messrs. FUMBLE, FREEBLE, FOOZLE, and DAZED, Mr. POTTER's doubtful friends, entered the hall one by one, and took their seats upon the platform. Mr. PROSY POTTER, after blowing his nose twice and taking a cautious glance into the dimmer recesses of the hall—as though an enemy or a wild beast might possibly be concealed within them, said aloud: "I think, gentlemen, we may as well proceed to business: shall we declare the meeting opened?" Mr. NYNCOM POOPE (the gentleman under the gallery) here remarked, obsequiously and in a tone of voice somewhat defiant for one so young,—"Mr. Chairman—Am I in order?" No chairman having been elected, the question was not easily solved. Mr. POTTER repeated it to his four friends, and, as Mr. FOOZLE (with extraordinary acuteness) remarked—"No Chairman having been elected, it would be a great presumption on the part of any gentleman present to answer the question which had been addressed by the honorable gentleman under the gallery exclusively to the Chairman." Mr. FUMBLE objected. "It was not," he said, "his desire to be obstructive, but it appeared to him only civil that the young gent—the honorable gentleman under the gallery—should receive an answer. If no one else would take the responsibility he would do it himself." Mr. FUMBLE, putting his precept in practice, invited Mr. NYNCOM POOPE to come upon the platform, which invitation, as rare as unexpected, was speedily complied with by the young gentleman invited. At this period a few persons of both sexes—attracted, moth-like, by the lighted windows, fluttered into the Hall. The necessity of electing a chairman became every minute more and more imperative. Mr. POOPE, seeing this, again stood up and said, "The meeting being now assembled we had better choose a Chairman." Mr. POOPE, moved by gratitude, suggested Mr. FUMBLE as a competent person to fill that important office, but his advice fell dead upon his audience who justly thought that none but Mr. POTTER deserved so high an honour. Mr. FREEBLE proposed Mr. DAZED. The latter gentleman, after frequent inquiries as to whether or no he was "in order," proposed Mr. FOOZLE—and so on. At length Mr. POTTER was elected by the elevation of three hands and three voices crying "yes" to some unintelligible proposition, and the meeting proceeded to business. What succeeded we do not exactly remember. Mr. DAZED talked about the Sea Island Cotton, and said that "its staple was not to be obtained elsewhere." Mr. POTTER, as Chairman, interfered. Mr. NYNCOM POOPE at last stopped the whole proceedings by proposing in a loud voice (and totally out of order) "the whole thing bosh"—a motion which we must with pleasure confess was carried unanimously, and succeeded by jeers and ironical cheers from the moths in the body of the hall. Then did Messrs. POTTER, FUMBLE, FREEBLE, and DAZED retire—not discomforted but rather elated at the reflection that they had brought a great subject forward and were entitled to the plaudits of the Halifax world for such disinterested endeavours to promote a great object.

And this is the way some Haligonians raise themselves above their fellows. Presidents of Clubs, Commodores, G. W. P's, and all the rest, are branches from the same root. Well, well, since men cannot all be equal, and should not be so, it is not for us to complain—where the old world ways to honor are impracticable, or muddy (witness politics in Nova Scotia) other courses must be found, and if they are sometimes rather absurd it is no business of ours.

## MURDOCH'S HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX—A. & W. MacKINLAY.

We have before us the history of Acadie, from the arrival of Baron de St. Just at Sable Island in 1518, to the appointment of Charles de St. E.ienne as "King's Lt.-General" in 1631. John Cabot is indeed said to have seen Newfoundland towards the close of the fifteenth century, and to have named it "Prima Vista," but the first event of much importance in the history of this Province, was the arrival at Liverpool, of M. de Monts, in the twofold capacity of missionary and explorer. Mr. MURDOCH has appended to his second chapter the commission granted de Monts by Henry of Navarre, wherein the instructions laid down for the protestant explorer are set forth at length. M. de Monts had visited Acadie during a pleasure trip in 1599, and having reported favorably thereon, was appointed "Lieutenant General, and commissioned by Henry to bring to obedience all the people of the said land and the borderers thereon: and to call, make, provoke and incite them to the knowledge of God, and to the light of faith and Christian religion, and to establish it there, and \* \* \* to make, or cause to be made, discovery and view along the maritime coasts and other countries of the main land, which you shall order and prescribe in the aforesaid space of the 40th degree to the 46th degree, or otherwise as much and as far as may be, along the said coast, and in the firm land. To make carefully to be sought and marked all sorts of gold, and of silver, copper, and other metals and minerals, &c." Among those who accompanied de Monts was the Baron de Poutrincourt, a gentleman of Peardie, who, for political reasons, was desirous of settling in the new world. Having confiscated a vessel found in the harbor of Liverpool, de Monts and his party coasted to the S. West, doubled Cape Sable and anchored in St. Mary's bay. "Two or three days after their arrival at St. Mary's, one of their priests, called Aubry (of the city of Paris,) got lost in the woods, not being able to find his way back to the ship," and was not found until seventeen days later, when he was more dead than alive, from exposure and want of sustenance. Leaving St. Mary's bay, the party entered the bay of Fundy, passed through Digby gut into Annapolis basin, and came upon the site of Annapolis, which they named Port Royal. Poutrincourt was so charmed with Annapolis, that he obtained a grant of it from de Monts, which grant was confirmed by the King in 1607. From Port Royal de Monts sailed to Mines, since called Horton, and thence crossing the bay, ascended the St. John river. Then, coasting south-westerly from the mouth of the St. John, de Monts landed at the isle of St. Croix, built a fort thereon and hoisted the royal standard of France. During the winter no less than thirty-six of the party died from scurvy, but in the spring they were reinforced by forty men brought out by Pontgravé, an able navigator, and one of the principal merchants of St. Malo. The whole party then crossed the bay to Port Royal, now Annapolis,—founded in 1605; "the first durable settlement formed by the French in North America, and the most ancient town in this part of the world after St. Augustine." De Monts sailed for France in the autumn of 1605, but the "heavy expense and small return of his adventure, set the minds of the people at home against it." Meanwhile, Pontgravé remained at Port Royal as de Mont's Lieutenant, and "with the arrival of winter, the Indians came from distances to Port Royal, bringing the skins of the beaver, the otter, and the moose to barter. They also brought with them fresh meat, and feasted merrily. \* \* \* The disposition shewn by the Micmacs to a friendly intercourse with the French may be attributed to two causes: I. That the Micmacs, though called savages, were an intelligent, honest, and kind race of men. II. That for a century before, from 1594 to 1604, there had been dealings and acquaintance between them and fishermen from Bretagne, the Basques and other French, who frequented these coasts. \* \* \* One of the greatest annoyances the settlers felt, was their being compelled to grind up their grain in hand mills. The Indians declined to assist in this severe labour, although half the meal ground was offered them as recompense. Six of the settlers died this winter, and Les-carbot thought this labour of grinding had contributed to kill them."

Both de Monts and Poutrincourt labored hard for support to fit out another expedition, and on the 13th May, 1606, they left Rochelle in the *Jonas*, a vessel of 150 tons, and arrived at Port Royal on the 27th July, where they found only two men, who had volunteered to take charge of the stores, Pontgravé and his party having (owing to a scarcity of food) left for France. But, as good luck would have it, Pontgravé "met a shallop, by which he learned that the *Jonas* had been spoken

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