

the small and uncertain contributions of the people. Such trials required no ordinary degree of physical and mental energy to encounter. Supported, however, by the enduring faith which has characterized the true church of Christ in all ages, we see the missionary of the Church of England, at this early period, going forth to his work, in the face of every obstacle, cheerfully encountering the most terrific vicissitudes of climate, struggling for years with poverty, and at last finding a grave among the people whose spiritual care had been assigned him by the Great Shepherd of the flock.

From the year 1713, when Nova Scotia was finally ceded to the British crown to 1749, there is no record of the establishment of any mission within that province, the inhabitants were all French Roman Catholics, with the exception of the few residents at Annapolis Royal, where a military chaplain was occasionally stationed. The Society for Propagating the Gospel, however, assisted in supporting a schoolmaster at Annapolis from 1729 to 1733, and another at Canso between 1736 and 1743.* In the spring of 1749, the Society received the following communication on the subject of missions from the Lords of Trade and Plantations :—

“ WHITEHALL, April 6th, 1749.

“ His Majesty having given directions that a number of persons should be sent to the Province of Nova Scotia, in North America, I am directed by my Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, to desire you will acquaint the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, that it is proposed to settle the said persons in six † townships, and that a particular spot will be set apart in each of them for building a Church, and 400 acres of land adjacent

* Reps. S. P. G., 1730, 1744.

† These townships were laid out along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia.