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HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

No. I.

PRESBYTERIANISM IN LUNENBURG.

Most of our readers are aware, that the county of Lunenburg was originally settled principally by Germans, and that their descendants still retain to a considerable extent, the language and habits of the fatherland. A short account of its early settlement and of the history of Presbyterianism there, may not prove uninteresting to the readers of the *Record*.

Shortly after the settlement of Halifax in 1749, proclamations were circulated by the agents of the British Government over the continent of Europe, inviting foreign Protestants to settle in Nova Scotia, on favorable terms. It is said that the efforts to obtain settlers from abroad arose from a fear at that time prevalent in Britain that the British isles would be depopulated by emigration. In consequence of these invitations, eleven vessels arrived at Halifax during the years 1750, '51, '52, bringing emigrants from the continent of Europe, to the number of over 1400 souls, who are classified as follows:—

Germans	1042
Swiss	153
Montbiliards	224
Other nations	29

1428

Those spoken of as Montbiliards were originally natives of Alsace and Franche Comte, provinces originally forming part of the Duchy of Wirtemberg, but united to France in the reign of Louis the XIV. Af-

ter this annexation, they suffered so many persecutions from the French Roman Catholic authorities, that a number of them gladly embraced the opportunity of placing themselves under the protection of the King of England. They have an interesting history, to which we may advert hereafter.

We have not seen any classification of the early settlers as to their religious profession. It is certain, however, that the majority were Lutherans, but a goodly number of them were Presbyterians, or belonged to the Reformed, as those churches formed on the doctrine and order of Calvin are called on the continent. They had generally brought with them the religious habits and the simple faith of their German and Swiss ancestors. Among their descendants may still be seen the large German family Bibles, as one described them as "most enough for a man to lift," bound in thick wooden boards covered with parchment, well mounted with brass and fastened with brass clasps, and also prayer books, hymn books, and other religious works, either originally brought from Germany or imported shortly afterward.

To meet the spiritual wants of the settlers, an Episcopalian church was built by Government in the year 1754, and a minister was early provided for it, but we believe the services were always in English. At all events the large majority of the original settlers were never connected with it. In the year 1769, the Presbyterians erected a church. It was built by subscription, but they sent a delegate to Germany to solicit assistance in the work. He brought back