

HALIFAX IN THE AUTUMN OF 1749.

In the Autumn of the year,—early in October,—the settlers found themselves housed rather snugly, having used great exertion to complete a sufficient number of wooden huts and houses, capable of protecting them from the inclement weather of approaching winter,—together with capacious warehouses for the reception of the mass of stores and provisions upon which they depended for subsistence for at least three-fourths of a year. At this time there were assembled within the palisade enclosing the settlement, inclusive of soldiers, nearly five thousand souls.

CHEBUCTO, OR HALIFAX, HARBOR.

CHEBUCTO HARBOR lies about midway between the Eastern and Western extremes of the Atlantic sea-board of Nova-Scotia proper, viz., between Cape Canseau and Cape Sable, and appears to have been selected as a seat for the new colony in preference to several other ports nearly as capacious, and in the neighborhood of which the soil is infinitely superior, for the reasons of its supposed nearer proximity to the great fishing-grounds, and the facilities afforded by the configuration of the surrounding country for the erection of strong fortifications. Halifax Harbor, admitted to be one of the finest in the world, is entered from the South, and, reckoning from Sambro Island, upon which stands a light-house, extends northward nearly sixteen miles, terminating in a magnificent sheet of water—Bedford basin, (known to the French as the inner harbor,) upon whose bosom,—sheltered from all winds, and navigable throughout, a thousand vessels might ride in perfect security, be the weather ever so tempestuous.—Strictly speaking, the harbor has two entrances, formed by McNab's Island, and known respectively as the Eastern and Western passage. The former, narrow and obstructed by a sand-bar, is open to small vessels only. The latter is broad, with water, in the main channel, sufficiently deep to float vessels of the largest size. (The Leviathan might venture through it without risk.) Opposite the southern entrance of the City is George's Island, which, being regularly portified,