

THE NOVA SCOTIA QUESTION.

— “Persevere for the furtherance of this ROYAL WORK, that it may be brought to a full perfection. Because it is to be the foundation of so GREAT A WORK, both for the good of the Kingdom in general, and for the particular interest of every Baronet.”—*Letter from King James I., written on his death-bed, to the Privy Council of Scotland, 23rd March 1625.*

MEMORANDA.

WITH a view of enabling the BARONETS OF SCOTLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA in particular, and the SCOTTISH NATION in general, to understand more fully the merits of THE NOVA SCOTIA QUESTION, and the value and importance of the rights, privileges, and properties which collectively belong to them in BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, under the grants and charters of King James I. and King Charles I., the following miscellaneous MEMORANDA, OPINIONS, EXTRACTS, and NOTES have been compiled from the authorities and publications respectively cited:—

His Majesty King James the First, on the 5th of August, 1621, addressed a Letter to the Lords of the Privy Council of Scotland, stating that “He had ever been ready to embrace any good occasion whereby the honour and profit of his kingdom of Scotland might be advanced;” and directing them. “to grant unto Sir William Alexander (then principal Secretary of State for Scotland, and afterwards Earl of Stirling) and to his heirs, assignees, and any others who should join with him in the undertaking, a SIGNATURE, under the Great Seal of Scotland, of the ROYAL PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA OR NEW SCOTLAND, to be holden of the Crown and Kingdom of Scotland, as a part thereof, with such powers to colonize, govern, and dispose of the same, as had at any time past ever been delegated by the Crown to any subject whatsoever.”—*Letter from James I., dated Beauvoir, 5th August, 1621.*

Immediately consequent to the receipt of this letter, a royal charter was passed under the Great Seal of Scotland, 10th September, 1621, erecting the lands of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, Gaspé, Anticosti, and all the adjacent islands, into one whole and free lordship and regality, in favour of Sir William Alexander and his aforesaid, with all the fishings, mines, minerals, metals, and coals, &c., ap-