

been called from nature's rudest and wildest state, and now presents an aspect cheering to behold. Where once the tall trees of unbroken forests stood, "thick as the waving grain which kisses the summer's breeze," we have now splendid cities by thousands, and homes of rural beauty scattered thick over by the land. Dwelling in these fertile vales and beautiful plains, through which savages, both in human and bestial forms once roamed, we have now millions of enlightened Christians, living in the full enjoyment of all the blessings of religion and civilization. In these great changes our little peninsula has largely shared; and it is not the least favoured with respect to the benefits and blessings which have grown out of them. To trace its eventful past; to delineate its cheering present; and to cast a hopeful glance at its probable future, is the design of the subsequent pages. If the reader succeed in gathering a few fragments of knowledge, worth treasuring up in the storehouse of his memory, the object contemplated by the writer will be gained, and he will be richly rewarded for his labours in the field, which he has thus humbly, though confidently, entered.

CHAPTER I.

FROM THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA IN 1492, TO THE CAPTURE OF
PORT ROYAL BY SIR S. ARGALL, IN 1613.

The past history of our country, does not, like that of the countries of the old world, reach backward into the region of fable and uncertainty. Interesting facts and figures, constituting our history, stand in thick array before us. All we have to do is to collect and arrange these, so as, at once, to instruct and interest the reader. This rich and inviting field now lies open before us. Let us enter, and see if an abundant harvest will not reward our labours.

The student of European history is not ignorant of the fact, that for many years, both anterior and posterior to the discovery of America, the French and English were arrayed against each other, with longer or shorter intervals of peace, in the most deadly conflicts. The hostility of these rival powers to each other, had, as we shall see, an important bearing upon the early history of Nova Scotia, as well as upon other portions of North America.

In 1492, Christopher Columbus, a native of Genoa, under the patronage of Ferdinand and Isabella, sovereigns of Castile and Arragon in Spain.