

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. JOHN CITY AND COUNTY.

PREVIOUS to 1783, that portion of the Lower Provinces now known as New Brunswick, under the name of Sunbury, formed one of the counties of Nova Scotia. More than twenty years before the separation of New Brunswick from the older province, a settlement existed at Mauderville on the river St. John, and the settlers, who were chiefly Congregationalists, obtained a grant of land for a glebe in connexion with their church. Subsequent to 1758, a few families, chiefly of German extraction, who had removed from the other American colonies, or who had lately immigrated from Europe, went into occupation of the lands formerly held by the French in the district now divided into Albert and Westmorland Counties, under agreements to purchase from the Nova Scotia government, or as tenants to joint stock companies, which had bought the land on speculation. The remaining portion of the present Province, with the exception of a few districts peopled by the *habitans*, who had been driven from their older cultivated farms and dyked marshes, and possibly an occasional trading post at the mouths of the great rivers, was wild and untenanted until the year first referred to. The country, however, is far from being devoid of historical interest, as indeed this portion of Acadia—the name originally given to French territory comprising Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, part of the present State of Maine, and of Lower Canada—was the platform upon which many passages of the great drama carried on between England and France in the 17th and 18th centuries were enacted; and in this respect, the present site of the city of Saint John and its environs, may be said to possess special interest. In 1604 when de Monts and Poutrincourt, the true pioneers of French colonization in this portion of America, with the little squadron under their command had first landed on the southern coast of Nova Scotia, and at Annapolis and skirted along the Nova Scotian shore of the Bay of Fundy and the Basin of Minas, they crossed over to the mouth of the Ouigondy, which they named the St. John, in honor of the patron saint of the day on which they arrived. They devoted several weeks to the exploration of this noble stream, and seemed to have spent a portion of their time in recruiting the sea worn energies of the sailors on the shores of the western side of the harbor. In the year 1629, when the seigneurs D'Aulnay, Charnizai and LaTour were contending for ascendancy in Acadia, the latter built a small fortification near Navy Island, in Carleton, where after repelling a fierce attack on the part of Charnizai, his little garrison was at length obliged to capitulate. The incidents connected with the final assault and the heroic bravery of Madame LaTour,