

and in the Charters founding the Order, it is declared "*in verbo principis*," by the royal Founder, that "no lapse of time, non-user, or other adverse circumstances shall ever bar the rights and privileges which they convey." These Charters have been twice ratified by Acts of Parliament, it being covenanted in the latter of these Acts that the Letters Patent granted to any individual Baronet of Scotland whatsoever, "shall stand and continue in force with all liberties and privileges, &c., granted therewith, in as ample manner as if the bodies of the said Letters Patent were therein particularly engrossed and expressed." At the present moment, there are about 160 Baronets of Scotland and Nova Scotia, (of whom upwards of forty are Peers,) the first Patent being dated in 1625, and the last in 1707. There are therefore, exclusive of the Foundation Charters of the Order, the Proclamations of the Privy Council, and the two public Acts of the Scottish Legislature, 160 Letters Patents by Charles I., Charles II., James II., William and Mary, and Anne, each having the force and effect of a statute law of the realm. Further it is to be observed, that all these legal instruments are rendered indefeasible by the Treaty of Union between England and Scotland in 1707; nor can they be annulled without a dissolution of the Union of the two Kingdoms, and a violation of every principle of national law, justice, and honour.

The territorial rights of the Baronets of Scotland and Nova Scotia, extend to upwards of two millions and a half acres of the soil of Nova Scotia as originally bounded, being eight millions and a half acres less than what is at this moment lying waste and ungranted in New Brunswick alone—a territory comprehended in the ancient ROYAL PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA. Of this quantity, 1,776,000 acres, were actually allotted in the reign of Charles I. to the Baronets whom he created prior to 1638; and they form 111 Baronies and Regalities, of 16,000 acres each, all defined by metes and bounds, some situated in Nova Scotia proper, some in Cape Breton, and some in New Brunswick. In aid of the plantation of Nova Scotia, the Baronets furnished in supplies, or in money, what was equivalent to 3000 marks each, upwards of 480,000 marks in all; an immense sum two centuries ago.—*Letter to James I. from the Privy Council, 23 Nov. 1624.*

In addition to the extracts from the royal correspondence of Charles I. above cited, it may be mentioned also, that in letters commencing the 17th November, 1629, and downwards, his Majesty, after referring to the plantation of New Scotland as a matter which would "much import the good of his service and the honour and benefit of his ancient kingdom," states, that, "the Earl of Stirling, his Lieutenant of Nova Scotia, who these many years by-past had been at great charge for the discovery thereof, had now in the end settled a Colony there, where his son Sir William Alexander was then resident;" that He understood, "both by reports from thence, and by the sensible consideration and notice taken thereof by neighbour countries, HOW WELL THE WORK WAS BEGUN, his Lieutenant there having *fully performed* what was expected from him for