



THE ANNALS OF CANADA.

PART II.

FROM 1763 TO 1837.

1763. On the 25th April the General Assembly of the Province of Nova Scotia met at Halifax. The session was opened with a speech by Lieutenant-Governor Belcher. This Assembly was prorogued on 21st July.—On the 10th May a treaty was signed at Paris,* by which the whole of the possessions of France in North America, except the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, were ceded to Great Britain.—Pontiac commenced the siege of Pittsburg, which he carried on until the place was relieved by General Bradstreet in 1764.—General Amherst, before leaving for New York, divided Canada into three districts, and appointed a Lieutenant-Governor for

each, namely: General Murray for Quebec, General Gage for Montreal, and Colonel Burton for Three Rivers.—August 26th—Governor Belcher announced that Colonel the Honourable Montague Wilmot had been appointed to succeed him as Lieutenant-Governor.—September 24th—Colonel the Honourable Montague Wilmot reached Halifax, and on the 26th he took the oaths of office, and entered upon his duties as Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia.—On October 7th a proclamation was issued by King George III., defining the position of the new colony, and virtually abolishing the French laws and substituting those of England.—The

* In the treaty of Paris, the following clauses were inserted to regulate the rights of fishery, &c.:

" V. The subjects of France shall have the liberty of fishing and drying on a part of the coasts of the Island of Newfoundland, such as it is specified in the XIII. article of the treaty of Utrecht; which article is renewed and confirmed by the present treaty, except what relates to the Island of Cape Breton, as well as to the other islands and coasts in the mouth and in the Gulph of St. Lawrence. And his Britannic Majesty consents to leave to the subjects of the Most Christian King the liberty of fishing in the Gulph of St. Lawrence, on condition that the subjects of France do not exercise the said fishery but at the distance of three leagues from all the coasts belonging to Great Britain, as well those of the continent as those of the islands situated in the said

Gulph of St. Lawrence. And as to what relates to the fishery on the coasts of the Island of Cape Breton, out of the said Gulph, the subjects of the Most Christian King shall not be permitted to exercise the said fishery but at the distance of fifteen leagues from the coasts of the island of Cape Breton, and the fishery on the coasts of Nova Scotia or Acadia, and everywhere else out of the said Gulph, shall remain on the foot of former treaties.

" VI. The King of Great Britain cedes the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, in full right, to His Most Christian Majesty to serve as a shelter to the French fishermen; and His said Most Christian Majesty engages not to fortify the said islands, to erect no buildings upon them, but merely for the convenience of the fishery, and to keep upon them a guard of fifty men only for the police.