

ted in regard to commercial, military or naval power, by depriving us of a large extent of lands, to the greater part of which the New England states had, before the peace of 1783, only a claim of the most shadowy and imperfect kind.

The third volume of this work is now finished, and the history of Nova Scotia brought down to 1827. I feel it necessary to suspend any further progress for a time, thinking it but judicious to await awhile the public judgment on the utility of my labors, before increasing the bulk of these volumes.

I have in many parts of the work felt anxious to give more copious extracts from the very interesting works of Lescarbot, Champlain and Denys, and to expand the descriptions of the early French adventurers and their exploits.

The manners, customs and language of the Micmacs, form a subject in itself of great interest to the philosopher and the philologist; and I have had to exercise much self-denial in this respect, by refraining from availing myself of what was written of them by the earlier visitors to our shores, and of many anecdotes and particulars which Mr. Rand has more recently published, and the enlightened views of Catline on the character of the Indians of North America. Lescarbot and Denys give most accurate delineations of our aboriginal people in every aspect of their lives and manners. These genuine pictures of life in the forest, if translated and republished among us, would go very far to place our brethren of the darker skin in a better attitude to claim a share in our esteem and affections. It rarely happened that the Micmac,