

and Pizarro,—while others may, in, perhaps, new forms of poetry, ennoble the pacific conquests of Penn; and while the genius, the exploits, and the fate of Raleigh, may render his establishments probably the most alluring of American subjects, every inhabitant of the New World will turn his eyes with filial reverence towards Columbus, and regard, with equal enthusiasm, the voyage which laid the foundation of so many States, and peopled a continent with civilized men.

“But to an European poet, in this age of the world, the voyage of Columbus is too naked and too exactly defined by history. It has no variety,—scarcely any succession of events. It consists of one scene, during which two or three simple passions continue in a state of the highest excitement. It is a voyage with intense anxiety in every bosom, controlled by magnanimous fortitude in the leader, and producing among his followers a fear—sometimes submissive, sometimes mutinous, always ignoble. It admits of no variety of character—no unexpected revolutions. And even the issue, though of unspeakable importance, and admirably adapted to some kinds of poetry, is not an event of such outward dignity and splendour as ought naturally to close the active and brilliant course of an epic poem.”

BRITISH AMERICA.

CHAPTER II.

GEOGRAPHY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

[Concluded.]

24. The *geological features* of the Province are, as yet, imperfectly explored. The whole of the N. W. is part of the same *carboniferous* area that occupies, according to Gesner, so large a portion of the S. E. of New Brunswick. S. E. of this lies a narrow but continuous strip of *upper red sandstone*, associated with masses of trap (of which the North Mountains, Digby Neck, Long Island, &c. are formed), skirting the Bay of Fundy and both sides of the Basin of Minas. S. E. of this again is a broad belt of *lower Silurian rocks*, forming most of both parts of the watershed before alluded to, and rising into the highest hills of the Province; and lastly, most of the eastern seaboard is of *primary formation*, causing the unproductive soils of that section, consisting mostly of granite, or a hard, intractable clay slate, which, when colored by the presence of iron pyrites, is commonly called ironstone. The primary strata and sandstone have as yet yielded neither fossils nor any valuable minerals, except, perhaps, a few building stones and ornamental varieties of quartz (amethyst, &c.); but the Silurian have yielded fossil remains (of extinct species), of marine animals, shells, crustacea and corals, together with ores of iron and copper, roofing slate &c.; and