

The Story of the Kirk in Nova Scotia.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The first British settlement in Nova Scotia was effected in 1744, when the Hon. Edward Cornwallis was appointed governor of the province and proceeded to found a colony accompanied by 3700 adventurers who landed in Chebucto Bay, and immediately began building a town for their habitation, which they called Halifax. It was so called in honour of the English Earl of that name, then a member of the British ministry.

By a law of the province, passed in 1758, it was enacted that "the sacred Rites and Ceremonies of Divine Worship, according to the Liturgy of the Church of England, shall be deemed the fixed form of worship and the place where such Liturgy shall be used shall be respected and known by the name of the Church of England, as by law established, provided nevertheless, that Protestants dissenting from the Church of England shall have free liberty of conscience and may erect meeting-houses, choose and elect ministers and administer their sacraments, according to their several opinions, and all such Dissenters shall be free from the payment of all taxes or rates required to be raised and made, for the support of the Church of England." At the same time the church wardens and vestrymen were authorized to assess the faithful for the support of ordinances and Justices of the Peace were empowered to grant warrants of distress against such as refused to pay their dues after one month's notice.

A long standing grievance among the Dissenters seems to have been the exclusive privilege claimed by the Church of England to marry by license and, what made matters worse, that this privilege was claimed in parishes where there were no resident