

THE CITY OF HALIFAX.

PRELIMINARY.

FROM the date of the Treaty of Utrecht, 17— to 1748, by one of the stipulations of which ACADIA was ceded to England, little or no progress had been made in the settlement of that part of it now known as NOVA-SCOTIA. Indeed, from the unaccountable neglect and indifference manifested by the Government of England towards the Colony, a very natural inference drawn by the French was, that England must be ignorant of the real value of her newly-acquired possession, and that it might be regained *viét armis*, or by the frequently superior force of clever diplomacy. Accordingly, as a first move in the game, they boldly asserted that Acadia was the name of the Peninsula only, and that the residue of the territory lying between New England and the Bay of Fundy was still a possession of the Crown of France. The people of Massachusetts, naturally regarding this unexpected claim with great alarm, at once invited the prompt attention of the British Government to the disastrous results which its admission must produce, alike to the safety and tranquility of the North American Colonies.

This earnest remonstrance had the desired effect. A plan for “confirming and extending the dominion of the Crown of England in Acadia, by constituting communities, diffusing the benefits of population, and improving the fisheries on the coast,” was submitted to the Earl of Halifax, then President of the “Board of Trade and Plantations,” and, being at once approved of by that sagacious statesman, was adopted with ardour by the Government, who resolved to carry the scheme into immediate operation. Commissioners were appointed