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CHAPTER I.

GENERAL REMARKS—NEWFOUNDLAND AND NOVA SCOTIA BANKS.

The province of New Brunswick, which forms the northern shore of the Bay of Fundy, limits the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the west and the St. Lawrence River on the south, and has a coast line of about 500 miles, which is only interrupted by the low isthmus which joins it with Nova Scotia.

New Brunswick was first settled by the French in 1639, and it continued, in connection with Nova Scotia, to form part of Acadia, or New France, till it fell into the hands of the British after the capture of Quebec in 1759; it was formally ratified as an English possession in 1763, and from that period was annexed to Nova Scotia until 1785, when it became a separate colony.

In 1881 the population of New Brunswick amounted to 321,233.

The general surface of this province is broken by a series of bold undulations, which do not, however, rise into mountains, and is traversed by many rivers, the principal of which is that of St. John, which flows into the well-known harbor of the same name.

Coal is found in great abundance, and iron ore and gypsum, as well as other minerals, are also to be found in considerable quantities. A great portion of the country is covered by dense forests, and the cutting and exporting of timber affords remunerative employment to a large number of the inhabitants. Shipbuilding is carried on to a considerable extent throughout the province, but chiefly at St. John.

Nova Scotia, a province of British North America, is an extensive peninsula varying in breadth from 50 to 100 miles, and connected with the continent by an isthmus only 8 miles in width, having the Bay of Fundy on the one side and Northumberland Strait on the other. It lies between latitude 43° and 46° N., and longitude 61° and 67° W.; and is bounded on the north by Northumberland Strait, which separates it from Prince Edward Island; NE. by the Gut of Canso, lying between it and Cape Breton Island (now a county of Nova Scotia); south and SE. by the Atlantic Ocean; west by the Bay of Fundy, and NW. by New Brunswick.

The soils of Nova Scotia are various along the south shore; the granite forms the basis, extending in many places 20 miles into the interior. This region is the least fertile, and being that which strangers first see is apt to create an unfavorable impression; but there are else-