

hazard on water, than countries of ten times the surface or population could shew. Herein is a resource of infinite value, prompt and ready to defend the national honor.

There is a subject which every Novascotian and inhabitant of any of the lower or maritime provinces must ever view with regret. I refer to the concessions made in 1783, and in every subsequent convention with the United States, by which that government have got possession, step by step, of a very extensive portion of the original French province of Acadie. In the early part of the reign of Louis XIV. the river Kennebec was the South bound of Acadie, although in the latter part of his reign the river St. George was claimed by New England as the limit. If the reader will look at pages 141, 446, 156, 180, 224, 231, 242, of my first volume, he will perceive that Machias, Castine, Pentagoët (Penobscot), &c.,—in fact the whole of what is now called the state of Maine,—was held and occupied as undoubted French territory as far as the Kennebec, and never having been part of New England, was transferred as portion of Acadie to the British crown by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713. The government of Massachusetts were very anxious to gain ground in this direction afterwards, and we find an application to the government of Nova Scotia from the general assembly of Massachusetts, to unite with them in settling their mutual boundaries, which lieutenant governor Belcher laid before the house of assembly here, who declined to enter into the matter, stating the lands claimed by Massachusetts to be part of Nova Scotia. [*See 2d. vol., p. 412.*] This loss of territory, though considerable, is of more importance to these provinces, because it deprives us of a direct line of communication with Canada, as the state of Maine in its Northern part is wedged in between Lower Canada and the maritime provinces. Thus a great source of weakness is crea-