

relating to New Brunswick are among the St. John (P.E.I.) papers, from being dated at the city of St. John; some are among Massachusetts papers, some in Plantations General, some in the series relating to America and the West Indies, among the papers concerning the Bahamas and in other collections the most unlikely to contain documents having relation to the Canadian provinces; volumes of correspondence are in the Colonial Office, chiefly duplicates, but containing letters not in the other collections; all, however, had to be examined. The British Museum contains Mascarene's correspondence and other papers relating to Nova Scotia; the Archbishop of Canterbury gave a most gracious permission to examine the correspondence at Lambeth Palace and there, in the rooms of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and in the mission rooms of the Moravians, or United Brethren (Unitas Fratrum) were found documents relating to the early ecclesiastical history of the Provinces. I had also access to the papers in possession of Lord Dartmouth in which are documents not to be found elsewhere. Inquiries were also made at the War Office on various points and at the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland in relation to the early Acts of the Scottish Parliament respecting Nova Scotia.

Mention of the earnest desire to be of service on the part of the authorities to whom I had the duty to apply, cannot be omitted, but where all were courteous, obliging and helpful, it would be invidious to particularise.

In order to reduce the mass to regularity, I have arranged the whole on a strictly chronological system, no matter in what series the document might be found. The papers will thus follow each other in consecutive order, so that there will seldom be occasion to refer to the page for any document of which the date is known. The system it is proposed to follow was pointed out verbally to the superintendent of the copyists, but carefully [prepared instructions as to the method to be pursued, shall be sent to be placed on record. Another effect of the chronological order will be to ensure that duplicates are not copied, thus saving a considerable expense. In order to facilitate the investigation of those who may desire to consult the original documents, and are in a position to do so, the series, whether one or several, from which each transcript is made, will be entered at the head of each document, with the marks indicating the series and volumes and the pages, where the volumes are paged.

Calendars of all the provinces have been prepared and are ready for the printer, but in accordance with your instructions to avoid too great a bulk, only the calendar of Nova Scotia is published in this report, but as it covers nearly two centuries, from 1603 to 1801, it is necessarily of some extent. The preliminary report, for the same reason for restriction, is as concise as possible. With respect to the documents calendared for the other provinces, Prince Edward Island, originally and at the date of the disjunction called St. John's Island, was separated from Nova Scotia in 1769, but Lord Egmont's proposals for a feudal tenure in 1763 and 1764, so closely relate to the island and to it alone, that although it was then, and for a few years after, under the jurisdiction of Nova Scotia, it has been thought judicious to incorporate Lord Egmont's proposals with the papers which relate to Prince Edward as a separate province; New Brunswick and Cape Breton became separate provinces in 1784, although the latter was again annexed to Nova Scotia in 1820, the papers relating to Hudson's Bay begin in 1673, about three years after the charter to the Company of Adventurers trading to Hudson's Bay was granted, and extend to 1759, but they are comparatively few in number.