

protect his subjects, undertakers of the said plantation, in the peaceable possession of the same, as being a purpose highly concerning his Majesty's honour, and the good and credit of this his ancient kingdom." Also to the following statute act passed by Charles I. and the Scottish parliament, on the 28th of June, 1633, viz. :—"Our Sovereign Lord and the Estates of this present parliament ratifies and approves the Act of General Convention of Estates, at Holyrood House, the last day of July, 1630, whereby the said Estates have ratified and approved the Dignity and Order of Baronets, with all the acts of Privy Council and proclamations following thereupon, made for the maintaining of the said dignity, place, and precedency thereof, &c.; and his Majesty and Estates aforesaid will, statute, and ordain, that the said letters patent, charters, and infestments, and the said dignity, title, and Order of Baronets, and all letters patent and infestments of lands and dignities granted therewith to any person whatsoever, shall stand and continue in full force, with all liberties, privileges, and precedencies thereof, according to the tenor of the same, and in as ample a manner as if the bodies of the said letters patent, infestments, &c., above-mentioned, were herein particularly engrossed and expressed."

There was laid on the table a copy of the book printed in 1842, by the order of the Court of Directors, entitled "A Concise View of the Origin, Constitution, and Proceedings of the Honourable Society of the Governor and Assistants of London of the New Plantation in Ulster, within the Realm of Ireland, commonly called the Irish Society." And extracts were read from Mr. Godfrey's pamphlet, entitled "Letters and Correspondence on the Halifax and Quebec Railroad," showing that the vacant lands recently held by the Crown in Nova Scotia *proper* amounted to 5,787,772 acres; ditto in New Brunswick, 12,300,851; ditto in Canada, 70,000,000; ditto in Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton, 1,000,000; ditto in Gaspe, 4,586,746. Total, 93,495,369 acres.

Letters were reported from various absent Baronets concurring in the propriety of the steps which are being taken by the Committee. Also communications from several correspondents in the Colonies, from one of which the following is an extract :—"If the Baronets do not exert themselves and vindicate their rights, depend upon it that every year tends but to weaken the connection between England and her North American dominions. This is my firm conviction from extensive local knowledge of the lower provinces. My feelings are strongly interested in the advancement of this question; because I am satisfied that the greatness and stability of the British connection with America is dependent on the success of your enterprise." Dr. Gesner, commissioner in Nova Scotia for Indian affairs, writes as follows :—"I trust all due allowance will be made for me when I remark that there exists in this quarter a common prejudice against the introduction of titled land-owners, and all large grants of land to such claimants. And this prejudice extends throughout the whole of North America. But this unfavourable opinion may, I have no doubt, be removed in this province by a timely development of the objects proposed by the Baronets of Nova Scotia, especially when they are associated together to promote immigration, and the improvement of the resources of the country. With the claims of the Order I am unacquainted; but having understood from articles that have appeared in the papers, that they still retain a desire to settle the wilderness lands that remain unalienated from the Crown, I have felt an interest in their cause, which, by being promoted, would be generally advantageous to this and the parent country."

Mr. Gillies, the loyal and talented Editor of the *Colonial Watchman*, published at St. John, likewise makes the following comments, in August last, on the proceedings of the Order :—"We repeat our conviction that it would greatly benefit the colony if the Baronets got 2,500,000 acres altogether in New Brunswick, on the express condition, however, of their occupying them by a resident population within a reasonable time. An increase of population is what we want, and we cannot understand what solid objections can possibly be made to 20,000 or 30,000 Scottish settlers, rich and poor as they may happen to be, who would bring with them habits of industry and economy, as well, as in many cases, a complete knowledge of agriculture. If gentlemen of rank, education, and property, should come with them, there is nothing in our view of things could be more valuable."

The following extract from the *St. John Courier*, received by the last mail, was read :—"For some weeks past we have observed, with much regret, the departure for the United States, by every steamer, of numbers of young, active, and enterprising persons, natives of this province, who go 'to return no more' to this colony.