

stipulated qualification of 16,000 acres each, some in New Brunswick, others in Nova Scotia.

King Charles I. being in Scotland in the month of June following (1633), on the 28th, the Parliament passed an Act, of which the following are clauses:—

“Our Sovereign Lord, and Estates of this present Parliament, ratifies and approves the Act of the General Convention of Estates at Holy-rude House the last day of July, in the year of God 1630, whereby the said Estates have ratified and approved of the Dignities and Order of Knight Baronet, with all the acts of Secret Council and proclamations following thereupon, made for the maintaining of the said dignity, place, and precedencie thereof.”

“And his Majesty and Estates aforesaid will, statute, and ordain, that the said letters patent and infeftments, and the said dignity, title, and order of Baronets, and all letters patent and infeftments of lands and dignities granted therewith to any persons whatsoever, shall stand and continue in force, with all liberties, privileges, and precedencies thereof, according to the tenor of the same, and in as ample manner as if the bodies of the said letters patent, infeftments, &c., were herein particularly ingrossed and exprest, and ordain intimation to be made thereof by open proclamation to all his Majesty's lieges at the Market Crosse of Edinburgh, and other places needful, that none pretend ignorance.”—*Acts of the Scottish Parliament, edited by Thomson, vol. v.*

By this statute law made and passed unanimously by the three Estates of Scotland, the King himself being present in person, the various charters to the Baronets have the force and effect of Acts of Parliament absolute and irredeemable; and rights from the Crown so constituted are onerous against the State. For it is declared and established that, “the said charters are and shall be valid, sufficient and effectual, in all time coming, in all parts thereof as set forth, for ever to the said Baronets, and each of them, in law against King Charles I., his heirs and successors; and against all other persons whatsoever, in all his courts, and those of his heirs and successors, and in all other places whatsoever, at all times and occasions, notwithstanding whatsoever law, custom, prescription, practice, ordinance, or constitution hitherto made, ordained, or published; or hereafter at whatsoever time to be made, ordained, and published, or provided, and notwithstanding any other matter, cause, or occasion whatsoever.”

From the date of the passing of this Act to the Union in 1707, upwards of 120 Baronets were created, “with no less liberty and extent of right in all respect” than the Baronets previously created. Owing to the breaking out of the great CIVIL WARS, many of these did not receive their territorial qualifications; but their representatives are still entitled to have them, it being a fundamental compact between the Crown and the members of the Order, that each Baronet “shall have and enjoy all and singular the rights, privileges, and immunities vested in the institution in