

REPORT.

NOVA SCOTIA, previous to 1862, was comparatively but little known to the world, or even to the educated classes in the Mother Country. It had suffered from the proverbial misfortune of having had a bad name given to it, and all efforts made by those interested in having justice done to it, seem to have been unavailing to efface the stereotyped descriptions of it which were at least based on prescription, if not on truth.

Few of the British colonies have, however, been alternately such especial objects of temporary interest, and of permanent neglect. At one time it was regarded as essential to the naval supremacy of England, and the conquest of what is now one of our fishing villages was made the occasion for a general illumination, and for rejoicings similar to those that greeted the fall of Sebastopol. But, with the extinction of French dominion in North America, the temporary value of Nova Scotia declined. The growth of the United States, the unlimited areas of cultivable land in Canada, the rise of the Australian colonies, all tended still farther to dwarf the proportions and the importance of this province, until it came to be at last, though in position one of the nearest to the mother country, the farthest removed from her sympathies and her pride.

The old prejudices that were rife even under the French dominion, respecting Nova Scotia, revived after the lapse of more than a century, and were almost acquiesced in, at length, by many of its own inhabitants. More than a hundred years ago we are told that "some authors have represented it to be as indifferent a country as ever was inhabited by barbarians;" and though the Governor, determined to do full justice to its resources, reported to the French king that "one single grain of wheat sown near La Huvé, produced 150 ears, very long, and so loaded that they were forced to support them with iron hoops," it is to be feared that the world must have regarded the description as highly coloured, especially as it came from one who was "the Proprietary of the Province." His attempt, however, to make known its resources in other respects at least deserved, if it did not receive, the attention of Europeans. Though the *lapis lazuli* "in Funda Bay," which "sold in France for ten crowns an ounce," was perhaps as