

THE FOUNDING OF HALIFAX.

THE good city of Halifax has only been known as such for 140 years. In 1749 the British Government, at the request of the Colonial Governments of New England, founded the city, and gave it its

By means of the Shubenacadie river, and the chain of lakes reaching from the head of that river to within a few hundred yards of the eastern side of what is now known as Halifax harbor, they were able for untold generations to travel and traffic between the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic—and from the head waters of the Bay of Fundy in turn, at Cobequid and Chignecto they were able to connect with the gulf and river of St. Lawrence. Thus long before Halifax was trodden by European feet it was the Atlantic entrepôt of the trade of a large portion of what is now the Dominion of Canada. Chebucto, "the greatest of harbors," was to our Algonquin predecessors what it must ever remain,—the Atlantic terminus of the trade and traffic of the Great River of Canada, and all the territory to which that river gives access.

In 1604 the French founded Port Royal (now Annapolis) in Nova Scotia, and thus effected the first European settlement in North America. Thenceforward, for 150 years, this province was the theatre of many stirring incidents in the gigantic duel between France and England, to decide which should be supreme on this continent. And of all those incidents, perhaps the most romantic, as well as the most tragic occurred in Halifax harbor. It was in the year 1746, three years before the founding of the present city, that France fitted out what up to that time was her most formidable naval expeditions,

in America and the West Indies. It consisted of 11 ships of the line, 20 frigates, and 34 other vessels, transports, fire ships, etc., and had in addition to its full complement of marines, a detachment of 3,100 soldiers on board, with abundance of arms, ammunition and provisions. It was commanded by M. de Rochefoucauld, Duc d'Anville, a distinguished member of one of the most noble families of France. It is no wonder that the announcement of such an expedition being sent against them was received with profound dismay by every English colony in America, for there is little doubt that it was quite capable of destroying everything English on this side the Atlantic. But it was overthrown and destroyed by a series of misfortunes, equalled only by those which overwhelmed the Great Spanish Armada in the reign of Elizabeth. It sailed from Rochelle, 22nd June, 1746, for Chebucto, where it was to be joined by Indians and French neutrals. The Indians and French came according to appointment, but the fleet that sailed from Rochelle came not. After a succession of storms and disasters which had stranded a number of his vessels on Sable Island and forced others to return to France, d'Anville arrived in Chebucto, on September 10th. Here, in a few days, 1,000 of his men died of fever and dysentery, and the duke himself, overcome with dismay, took poison, as is believed, and died on the 16th. The command then devolved on the Vice-Admiral, d'Estoumelle, who having been ordered by the Governor of Canada, La Jonquière, to proceed to attack Annapolis, fell on his own sword, and was found dead in his state-room the next morning. Finally, on the 13th of October, "all that was left" of d'Anville's fleet took its departure from Chebucto, but being once more overtaken by storms, it returned to France without attacking a single English settlement. When three years later the English arrived in the harbor of Chebucto, to found the city of Halifax, they found what is now called Bedford basin—an extension of



LIEUT.-GOVERNOR MCLELAN.

present name. For long ages before that it was known among the Indians as "Chebucto" or "Chebuct," meaning "the greatest of harbors." But while the Indians showed by the name they gave it that they fully appreciated its advantages as a harbor, it was chiefly useful to them as the Atlantic terminus of their great line of trade and travel between "the Great Sea" and the interior of the country.

charged with the fell purpose of retaking Louisbourg, destroying Annapolis, burning Boston, and reducing, as far as possible, all the English colonies



VIEW FROM THE ROAD.



ON TOWER ROAD, EDGE OF PARK.

the harbor—strewn with the debris of sunken and destroyed French vessels, and its shores dotted with French graves,—striking mementoes of the signal collapse of an expedition that a short time before had threatened, not only English supremacy, but English existence, in North America. Thus, on the new-made grave, as it were, of the last great effort directed against the English in America, was built the City of Halifax, the first English settlement in what is now the Dominion of Canada.

Great was the rejoicing throughout the English colonies of this continent over the destruction of the d'Anville expedition. With devout thankfulness it was hailed as a direct interposition of the Almighty, who, it was believed, had overthrown the French, even as He had overthrown Pharaoh in the Red Sea,