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PART OF THE OLD FORT AT ANNAPOLIS ROYAL.

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A good deal of public attention has lately been directed to the historic old fort at Annapolis, N.S., by the announcement that the Dominion Government intended selling by auction the military ground at that place for building lots. The matter was promptly brought up in Parliament, and it is reassuring to learn, on the authority of the Premier, that no such step is contemplated. Disposing of old Annapolis in this way would be nothing but a piece of barbarous vandalism. Far too many of the venerable relics of our history have been allowed to go to ruin by the neglect of the Government, whose fear of spending a few dollars on military and historic matters of moment is only equalled by the readiness with which larger sums are disbursed for much less worthy objects; but to job out the ordnance land at Annapolis—the oldest settlement in Canada—would be disgraceful.

A brief summary of the history of the place may be of interest. It goes back to the spring of 1605, De Monts

and Champlain, with a certain number of men, entered the bay called Annapolis and erected a few buildings on the north shore of the basin opposite the island, situated at the mouth of Annapolis river. Lower Granville now covers the site of this first Canadian settlement. The settlement was called Port Royal on account of the beauty of the scenery. On the map of Champlain, 1605, the buildings of Port Royal are delineated very plainly. We all know that Captain Argall destroyed that establishment in 1613. The French, under Biencourt, a son of Poutrincourt, continued to occupy the country, and although more frequently engaged in hunting than in other avocations, they were careful enough to cultivate the piece of land which had been ploughed by Louis Hébert in 1605. The land embraced the site of the present town of Annapolis Royal. Near by is the place chosen by the Scotch settlers of Sir William Alexander, who arrived there in 1623, but could not hold their ground against the French of Biencourt and Latour. During the summer of 1629 the Scotch came back and founded the *Scotch Fort*, where Annapolis is now. This colony was ruined by the