

details here ; suffice it to say that it spread over 6000 square miles of the finest forests in the country, on the north bank of the river, entirely destroyed the towns of Newcastle and Douglastown, and several villages, with 160 persons, 900 head of cattle, 600 buildings, and property and timber to the amount of about half a million. On the same day another occurred at Fredericton, which destroyed one third of the town, Government house, and £50,000 worth of property ; and during the same year a third conflagration, though of small extent, broke out near the Oromocto. About £40,000 was contributed to the relief of the sufferers in this and the sister Colonies, as well as in the "old country." In this same year the Royalty was imposed on the mineral produce of this and the adjoining Province for the benefit of the Duke of York ; some portion of the profits of working, however, being reserved for the Colonies. Steam communication was commenced between St. John and Annapolis Basin in 1820. In the same year, King's College, Fredericton, was established by Royal Charter, supported by a grant of 1000 acres of land, and £2000 annually. Till 1830 the colonies had an exclusive trade with the West Indies, and large fortunes were made in Halifax and elsewhere by this branch of commerce. But in the above mentioned year the Americans withdrew certain prohibitions which had hitherto excluded them from the West India ports, and thus came into competition with colonial vessels. The effect was that the colonial trade with the West Indies almost immediately declined. In the next year the cholera made its first appearance at St. John. In 1833 occurred the first attempt to legislate for the general education of the youth of the Province. The frequency with which it has been amended or repealed (in 1837, 1840, 1847, 1852, and 1854), shows a laudable desire to give the subject the attention it merits. In 1834 the second census being taken, the population was found to be 119,500. In the same year the Legislative Council was made a separate body from the House of Assembly, and the Imperial Government granted 550,000 acres of the wild lands between Fredericton and the Miramichi to the newly incorporated "Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Land Company." They have since cleared and brought into cultivation above 7000 acres in the heart of the Province. From this date till 1840, many Joint Stock Companies were set on foot, a fair proportion of which are yet in profitable operation. In 1836 the Baptist Seminary at Fredericton was established, and the first movement in the lower Provinces with regard to railways excited public attention. The project was started at St. Andrews for a line from that place to Quebec *via* Woodstock. The sum of £10,000 was granted by the Government, and expended in exploring the line ; but operations were not commenced till 1844, and the day is probably yet distant when the completion of the project is realized. The subject of the inter-colonial line from Halifax N. W. to Quebec was not mooted till 1845.

57. The year 1837 witnessed a complete change in the relations