

Fifty Years of Scientific and Educational Work in Canada

CHAPTER I

BIRTHPLACE AND PARENTAGE

How it came to pass that the subject of this biography began his earthly career in October 1820, in the little town of Pictou, in Nova Scotia, will appear in this introductory chapter.

The county of Pictou was one of the more recently settled portions of the province of Nova Scotia, and its principal town, situated on an inlet, or harbour, of the same name, had attained to some local importance as a trading place, and had already a population of about two thousand souls. Small though its population was, yet, like most other towns and villages in newly-settled countries, its people were a very miscellaneous assemblage from