

1601 king James I. granted to Sir William Alexander, afterwards Earl of Stirling, the whole territory lying between the river St. Croix and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The country was named Nova Scotia (New Scotland) in the grant, and it was Sir William's intention to colonize it with Scotch emigrants. By the change of name was introduced that confusion which at a subsequent period caused so much difficulty, and gave rise to a tedious and intricate discussion whether Nova Scotia and Acadia were words indifferently expressing the name of the same country, or whether they were two distinct and neighbouring provinces. It was the intention of James to establish an order of baronets for the purpose of encouraging in supporting the colony, but he died before this was put into execution. Associated with Sir William Alexander, was one David Kirtck, a French Calvinist, who had sought refuge from persecution in England. Their attempts to introduce Scotch settlers proved abortive, but they succeeded in capturing several French transports, while on passage from France to Quebec, under the French "*Company of New France*." In the mean time, as Sir Samuel Argall's conquest of Acadia had not been followed up by actual settlement, the French had regained possession, and were strengthened by the arrival of numerous adventurers from France. Among the prisoners taken on board one of the French transports, was a nobleman named Claude de La Tour, who appears to have been easily won over to the English interest. He entered readily into Sir William Alexander's scheme for settling the country with Scotch emigrants—a scheme which, though delayed, had not been abandoned. Charles I., who succeeded James on the throne of Britain, warmly seconded Sir William's plans, and, re-appointing him Governor General, confirmed the grant of his father, by patent dated July 12th. 1624. He also founded the order of Knights Baronet of Nova Scotia, who were to contribute their aid to the settlement, upon the consideration of each having allotted to him a liberal portion of land. Claude de La Tour, who had married one of the queen's maids of honour, was included in the number of these knights, and, having received such flattering expressions of the royal favour, seems to have quite forgotten that he had ever been a subject of France. He undertook to procure the submission of his son, who commanded a fort which still bears his name, in the southern part of Nova Scotia. But the younger La Tour manifested a praiseworthy loyalty to his king and country. He indignantly refused to betray his trust, although his father attempted to bribe him by the most tempting offers of honors and emolument. Finding all his offers firmly rejected, the elder La Tour landed his men, and made a vigorous attack upon the fort. After an ineffectual attempt of two days, in which he lost