

they might bring them to the necessity of abandoning the settlement. These perfidious practices were not only countenanced, but warmly encouraged by the French court, who intended as soon as possible to seize Nova Scotia entirely.

Their temptations for this project were very many and powerful. Its situation was inviting on account of its vicinity to Cape Breton, the cod-fisheries and the mouth of the river St. Lawrence; and there is not a country in the world which produces finer pines for masts, yards, and other sorts of wood for ship building than Nova Scotia; nor is there a better harbour, than that which is now called Halifax, where any number of ships may supply themselves with all kinds of necessaries.

Mr. Mascarene governor of Nova Scotia, being aware of the designs of the French in settling about the mouth of St. John's river, insisted upon their taking the oaths of allegiance to his Britannic majesty; but they absolutely refused to do so, and applied to the governor of Canada, who sent to their assistance an officer with a detachment of troops.

At this time lord Halifax interposed for the support and protection of Nova Scotia, and delivered it from being swallowed up by French encroachments. There had formerly been a plan drawn up by Mr. Shirley for settling and securing Nova Scotia, but it was prevented from being put in execution by the preceding war. However, after the peace of Aix la Chapelle, the thoughts of a scheme for settling Nova Scotia were revived. The earl of Halifax, who presided at the board of trade, principally interested himself in it. The plan was concerted in order to be a seasonable and comfortable provision for such of the army and navy as were disbanded at that time: the effect was, that in a short time near 4000 adventurers, with their families, embarked with col. Cornwallis (whom the king had appointed governor) and landed at the harbour of Chebuctou, one of the finest harbours in the world, and well situated for the fishery. He was joined with two regiments from Louisburgh, and having pitched upon a spot for the settlement, he set his people to work in clearing the ground in order to lay the foundation of a town, which

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