

granted him, by the style of Sir Charles La Tour, and to Sir Thomas Temple and William Crowne, the principal part of what now composes Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In this grant by Cromwell, no mention is made of the rights of Sir William Alexander himself, although his charter, which was ratified in 1633 by the parliament of Scotland*, is made the groundwork of De la Tour's claim to that part of the country claimed by him under it. Temple purchased La Tour's share, re-established the different settlements, and kept possession of the country until it was again ceded to France by the treaty of Breda, 1667. Nova Scotia was in fact during all this period inhabited by the French; and although they made but little progress in settling the country, yet their population, principally occupied in carrying on the fur-trade with the Indians, was scattered on the several rivers emptying themselves into the Bay of Fundy.

The French court paid but little attention to this colony, which, during the twenty years succeeding the peace of Breda, enjoyed repose, and received some addition by immigration. The French settlers invariably entered into close alliance with the Indians, and instructed them in some measure in the art of war; so that on the breaking out of war in 1689, they became very troublesome neighbours to the English colonies. An expedition from Massachusetts, under Sir William Phipps, in 1690, took Port Royal and some other places. The terms of capitulation were, that the inhabitants should be protected in the possession of their property and the free exercise of their religion. Phipps, after dismantling Port Royal, and burning one or two other places, quitted the colony, without leaving any garrison behind him. The French of course resumed the government of the colony. From this period until 1710, several predatory expeditions were fitted out from the New England colonies against the French settlements of Acadia, some of which were disgraced by horrible atrocities. At length, in the year 1710, a considerable armament was fitted out by the New Englanders, and the command given to General Nicholson, who proceeded to Port Royal, which surrendered to him after a short siege. In compliance with the terms of the capitulation, the French troops

* Acts of parliament of Scotland—Laws of Scotland.