

N^o 18.—Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant General Sir James Kempt, G. C. B. to the Earl Bathurst, K. G. dated Halifax, Nova Scotia, 19th October 1821.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your lordship, that I paid my annual visit to Cape Breton in the month of August, and that I was there during the sitting of the supreme court of justice, the first since its re-annexation to the province of Nova Scotia.

The little business that came before the court went on in the usual way; and, with the exception of a few individuals resident in and about Sydney, the people of Cape Breton express the highest satisfaction at their re-annexation with this province, and appear already to feel the advantages resulting from it. A very strong address to this effect was presented to me at Arichat by the principal inhabitants of that district, by far the most populous and important in the island.

There being a great many old claims and controversies of various kinds to settle and adjust, I remained in Cape Breton for nearly three weeks. It was impossible, as your lordship may believe, to satisfy all the applicants that came to me for relief, but I did not fail in every case to do what appeared to me to be just and right, diligently seeking the best information to be obtained, and hearing all the parties concerned before I came to any decision.

Many of the claims and disputes were of long standing, and they occasioned me a great deal of trouble; but I trust the public business will be so conducted in future that nothing of the kind will again occur.

In the course of the summer I also visited almost every part of this province; and I have great satisfaction in reporting to your lordship that it appears to be rapidly increasing in political and agricultural importance.