

THE

VICARIATE OF NOVA-SCOTIA,

Church of St. Mary's, City of Halifax.

THE PROVINCE OF NOVA-SCOTIA, originally a French Colony, occupied by Emigrants from France, during the reign of Louis XIV. was ceded to the Crown of England, by treaty of Utrecht, and the old Capital, Port Royal, (hodie Annapolis) ceased to be the Seat of Government, which was transferred to the present City of Halifax, built in 1759. The first inhabitants consisted of an immigration from the Colony of Massachusetts, in New England, including few, or no, members of our Communion. The spirit of the religious feelings, which their early legislation evinced, was deeply tinged with severities against the precepts and practices of the Catholic Faith. This temper of the earlier times, the intimacies of association, and the meliorating influences of intelligence upon society, have almost wholly subdued.

The Statute Book has been purged from these primeval blemishes; the restrictions upon the exercise of our civil rights, owe their disappearance and rescindment to the tolerant and kindly jurisprudence of a fair and well-disposed people, and if the advantages which equal laws, and unrepressed freedom, in the exercise of our religious opi-