

coast, and, above all, the infusion of new life into all the sea-bound provinces by the influx of the Loyalists at the close of the American rebellion, would repay more careful investigation. The Nova Scotia Historical Society has done a great work by the publication of a number of most interesting papers bearing on local and provincial history; and several country papers have, during the past few years, been bringing to light a number of invaluable details of the settlement, etc., of their localities.

## 3.

It is interesting to note that while Nova Scotia has a population but one-third of that of Quebec and one-fourth of Ontario, provincial and county history has proportionately there received much greater attention. Haliburton and Campbell have each produced admirable accounts of the history of the province; while no one in Ontario or Quebec has marshalled into line such an army of facts as Murdock in his three-volume history, published in Halifax in 1865-67. In county histories, at least five have been issued in book form, viz.: Pictou, Yarmouth, Queen's, Lunenburg and Colchester (the latter mainly a geneological summary); while special attention has of late been given by King's College, Windsor, to complete the series.

## 4.

There is in this city a copy of one of the first books printed in what is now British North America; it is entitled "An Act for the Relief of Debtors, with Respect to the Imprisonment of their Persons; enacted at a Council holden at Halifax on Wednesday, the 6th of December, 1752."

Halifax: Printed by J. Bushnell, Printer to the Government, 1752.

The printing is very fairly done; the stamp of the Royal Arms (more intricate than at present) at the head is clear and distinct, and the initial letter is quite an uncommon piece of work. The get-up is altogether much ahead of the