

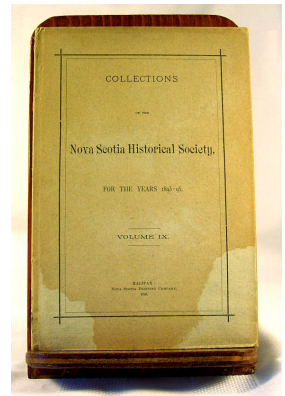
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Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society 1893-95

Volume IX CA0174-IX

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COLLECTIONS

OF THE

Nova Scotia Historical Society,

FOR THE YEARS 1893-95.

VOLUME IX.

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1895.

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OBJECTS OF COLLECTION.

1. Manuscript statements and narratives of pioneer settlers, old letters and journals relative to the early history and settlement of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, and the wars of 1776 and 1812 ; biographical notes of our pioneers and of eminent citizens deceased, and facts illustrative of our Indian tribes, their history, characteristics, sketches of their prominent chiefs, orators and warriors, together with contributions of Indian implements, dress, ornaments and curiosities.

2. Diaries, narratives and documents relative to the Loyalists, their expulsion from the old colonies and their settlement in the Maritime Provinces.

3. Files of newspapers, books, pamphlets, college catalogues, minutes of ecclesiastical conventions, associations, conferences and synods, and all other publications, relating to this Province, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

4. Drawings and descriptions of our ancient mounds and fortifications, their size, representation and locality.

5. Information respecting articles of pre-historic antiquities, especially implements of copper or stone, or ancient coins or other curiosities found in any of the Maritime Provinces, together with the locality and condition of their discovery. The contribution of all such articles to the cabinet of the society is most earnestly desired.

6. Indian geographical names of streams and localities, with their signification and all information generally, respecting the condition, language and history of the Micmacs, Malicetes and Bethuks.

7. Books of all kinds, especially such as relate to Canadian history, travels, and biography in general, and Lower Canada or Quebec in particular, family genealogies, old magazines, pamphlets, files of newspapers, maps, historical manuscripts, autographs of distinguished persons, coins, medals, paintings, portraits, statuary and engravings.

8. We solicit from Historical Societies and other learned bodies that interchange of books and other materials by which the usefulness of

institutions of this nature is so essentially enhanced,—pledging ourselves to repay such contributions by acts in kind to the best of our ability.

9. The Society particularly requests authors and publishers, to present, with their autographs, copies of their respective works for its library.

10. Editors and publishers of newspapers, magazines and reviews, will confer a lasting favor on the Society by contributing their publications regularly for its library, where they may be expected to be found always on a file and carefully preserved. We aim to obtain and preserve for those who shall come after us a perfect copy of every book, pamphlet or paper ever printed in or about Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland.

11. Nova Scotians residing abroad have it in their power to render their native province great service by making donations to our library of books, pamphlets, manuscripts, &c., bearing on any of the Provinces of the Dominion or Newfoundland. To the relatives, descendants, &c., of our colonial governors, judges and military officers, we especially appeal on behalf of our Society for all papers, books, pamphlets, letters, &c., which may throw light on the history of any of the Provinces of the Dominion.

THE
VOYAGES AND DISCOVERIES OF THE CABOTS.

BY THE REV. M. HARVEY, LL. D., OF ST. JOHN'S,
NEWFOUNDLAND.

THE fourth centenary of the discovery of America has been celebrated with a pomp and splendor which throw all previous celebrations of the great event into the shade. The whole civilized world has shared in the imposing demonstrations. The Old World has joined hands with the New in worthily expressing their sense of the greatness of an achievement which must stand alone in the records of time as one which can never be repeated, and which has influenced the destinies of humanity more widely and permanently than any other single deed accomplished by the courage and genius of man. In world-history the discovery of America must rank next in importance to the wondrous birth at Bethlehem.

These celebrations all pointed to one name,—the great name of Columbus—which must ever stand apart encircled with a halo of imperishable renown. In itself, his work was great in its influence on the course of human development. History has justly crowned him as the completer of the globe ; as the conqueror who threw open the gates of ocean and subjected to us mighty realms ; who scattered the dark phantoms that brooded over the watery abysses and gave us the waves for our ships and the greatest of the continents for the crowded populations of Europe. By laying open vast fields for human energy and enterprise, and giving new and exhaustless materials on which to work, he immensely widened the thoughts of man and the possibilities of human action.

Greater even than his work was the spirit in which Columbus wrought. In the depths of his own soul he conceived the great idea that by sailing westward into the unexplored abysses of ocean he would reach land. Gradually the thought rose from a shadowy possibility or a dim hope till it became a conviction, an inspiration which infused a solemn enthusiasm into his soul, before which doubt and fear vanished

A CHAPTER
IN THE
HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ONSLOW, NOVA SCOTIA.

BY ISRAEL LONGWORTH, Q. C., TRURO.

IN the early history of Nova Scotia it was customary to call new settlements after men of note, in the civil and military service of Great Britain. In accordance with this practice it is believed that the government of the day named the Township of Onslow in honor of Arthur Onslow, an English statesman, who was born in 1691 ; speaker of the Commons from January 1727 to 1754 ; pensioned in 1761 ; died 17th February, 1768 ; and after whom a county, and shire-town, known as Onslow Court House, in North Carolina, had been called. .

The erection of the township was ordered by Governor Lawrence in Council, 24th July, 1759, though the grant did not pass the great seal of the province till the time of Lord William Campbell. The formation took place upon the application of Joseph Scott and Daniel Knowlton for themselves and fifty others, of the Massachusetts Bay, for a tract of land at Cobequid. Several were of the Fort Cumberland expedition of the previous year, and were attracted to the province from what they had seen of it, and in consequence of Governor Lawrence's proclamations* for settling the townships. The fifty-two proposed grantees, with their families, were represented to number three hundred and nine souls. A grant of fifty-two shares or rights in the township to these persons passed the Governor-in-Council, 26th July, 1759.

The township was stated as being at the head of Cobequid Basin, to extend upon the north side of said Basin, and to run westerly six miles ; from thence northerly about twelve miles ; thence easterly about twelve miles ; and thence southerly twelve miles ; and thence to Cobequid Basin six miles. All to be laid out on the north side of Cobequid River.

* Governor Lawrence issued two proclamations for settling the Townships. The first in October, 1758 ; the second in January, 1759. (See Murdoch's History of Nova Scotia, Vol. II., page 358.)

RICHARD JOHN UNIACKE.

A SKETCH.

BY HON. L. G. POWER.

Read before the Society, 15th January, 1891.

INTRODUCTORY.

YOUTH looks forward with hope, age looks backward, sometimes with regret, and rarely with unmixed satisfaction, and middle life busies itself as a rule with active work, looking not very much before or after. The atmosphere of a society such as ours should therefore be more congenial to those whose footsteps are on the down-hill slope of life, than to younger men, and so it is ; but the man or the people who ignore the lessons of experience, of "philosophy teaching by examples," will have to try to clamber out of many pitfalls which might have been avoided. Hence history, particularly the history of our own country, should be, and in Nova Scotia is taught to children during their early years. The future of youth and the surroundings of middle age can be seen and understood more clearly by faculties trained in the school of the past: the "foot-prints on the sands of time" made by those who have gone before, are often useful guides for the traveller of to-day. A generation forgetful of the doings of its ancestors, is not itself likely to make much history that will be read with satisfaction by those who come after. Therefore we should treasure the memories of those dead, who in their day did good service to their country. As Mr. Howe says, in one of his most impressive poems :—

" If fitly you'd aspire,
Honor the dead ; and let the sounding lyre
Recount their virtues in your festal hours :
Gather their ashes : higher still, and higher
Nourish the patriot flame that history dowers,
And, o'er the old men's graves, go strew your choicest flowers."

Upon the narrow stage of our Nova Scotian history, some men have played their parts who, in a larger sphere, might have won the attention of the whole English-speaking world ; and they have had rivals and

SHIPS OF WAR

Lost on the Coast of Nova Scotia and Sable Island, during the
Eighteenth Century.

BY S. D. MACDONALD, F. G. S.

Read March 6th, 1884.

WHILST compiling a wreck chart of this Coast I was surprised to find figuring among the wrecks so many vessels of war, regarding the loss of which but little seems to be known. It occurred to me that an investigation into the circumstances attending such losses, together with some interesting particulars, would form a subject worthy of the attention of this Society. To this end I have from various sources such as History, Public Records, Admiralty Reports, and the Press collected some scattered fragments which I have arranged according to their respective dates. The result of my research, or at least that portion of it relating to the 18th century, I beg leave to lay before you this evening.

Under the term "lost" I have included vessels however destroyed—whether by burning, scuttling, stranding or foundering near the shore. Of course the details of wrecks are not always of a pleasing nature. But in a Society like this we have to deal with the dark as well as the bright side of history.

The first wreck of which history makes mention was one of the most terrible, involving great loss of life and property, and casting on the neighboring province of Quebec such a gloom as required several years to dispel. Unfortunately we have but very few details in connection with this wreck, as not one soul was left to tell the tale. The whole may be summed up as follows:—

Early in July, 1725, the line-of-battle ship *La Chemeau*, said to be the fastest and most thoroughly equipped ship of the French navy, left France for Quebec, having on board in addition to her full complement

LOUISBOURG:

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.

BY JOSEPH PLIMSOLL EDWARDS, LONDONDERRY, N. S.

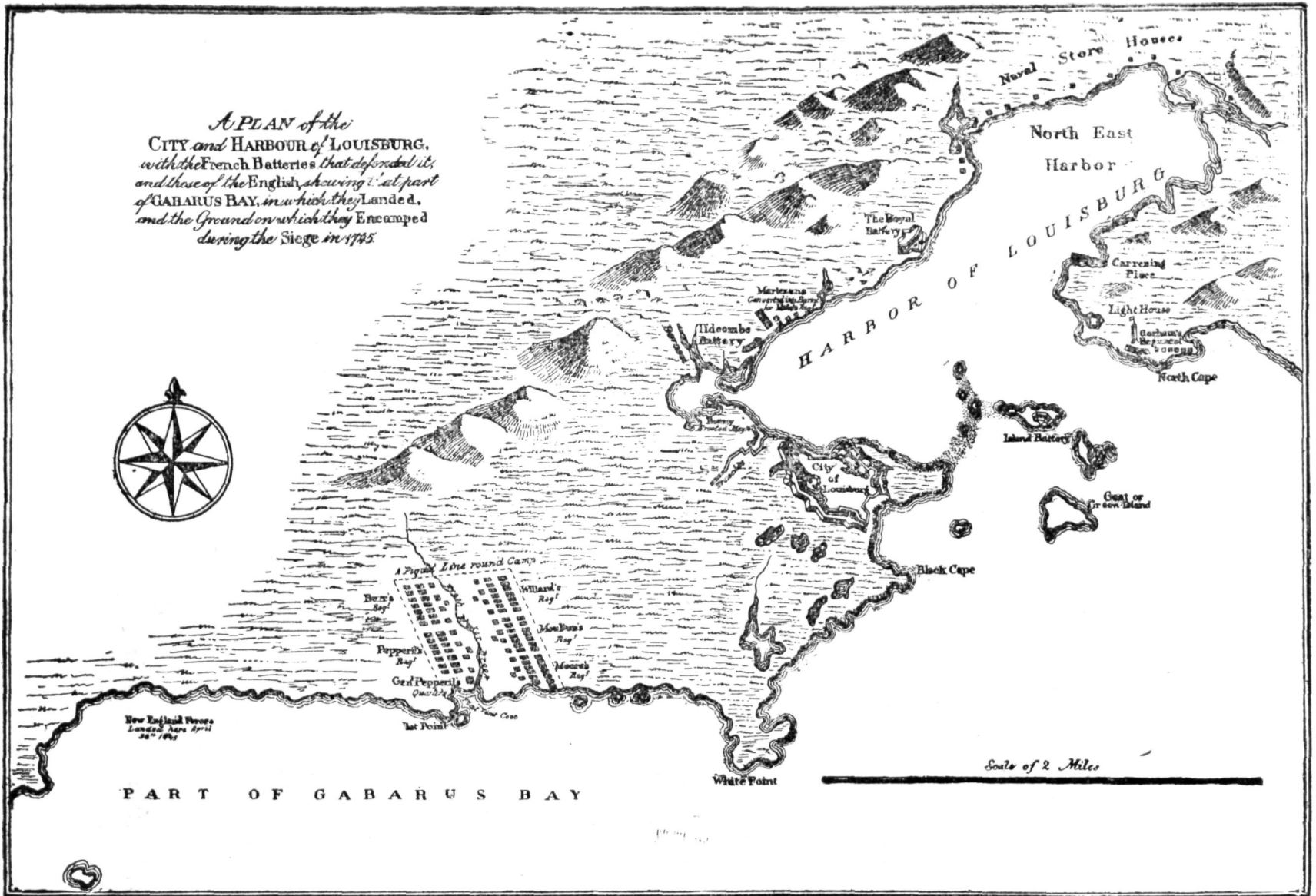
Read before the Society, 27th November, 1894.

FEW more romantic and strange episodes exist in North American annals than the story of this fortress of Ile Royale. A colony and government removed to a lonely spot on the shore of a vast uninhabited island; a city, a naval depot, and a citadel of enormous strength springing up there under the flag of the most powerful military nation in Europe, and resulting in an armed metropolis which menaced all the Atlantic coast, became one of the trade-centres of the continent, and formed one of the great bulwarks of French power in America. Suddenly and almost ignominiously it changes masters; all its costly works, buildings, and armament become the property of Great Britain. In a year or two, with equal suddenness and greater ignominy, it reverts to France, and for a few years more holds a dominant position. Again it falls; and its captors expunge the entire establishment from the face of the earth; scarcely is one stone left above another. Its inhabitants drift elsewhere, and in a few years it is apparently forgotten as if it never had been. All this within half a century—a man's short life.

But it has left deep marks on the pages of the history of North America; and while in a sense less purely Canadian than continental, it has been left chiefly to Canadian writers to tell its story with amplitude of detail. The value of these histories is enhanced in that they give us the annals of all Cape Breton from its discovery down to recent dates; yet this very comprehensiveness leaves room for a sketch confined to the fortress which made the island famous. Such I have endeavored to portray in the following pages.

Prior to that treaty which may be termed the legal beginning of Anglo-Canadian history—signed at Utrecht in 1713, Louisbourg under that name did not exist. The bay or harbour was known to the French as *Havre à l'Anglais*—to the English as English Harbour. An early

*A PLAN of the
CITY and HARBOUR of LOUISBURG,
with the French Batteries that defended it,
and those of the English, showing the part
of GABARUS BAY, in which they Landed,
and the Ground on which they Encamped
during the Siege in 1745.*



PLAN OF LOUISBOURG HARBOUR AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

In Memoriam.

THE HONORABLE SIR ADAMS GEORGE ARCHIBALD,

K. C. M. G., P. C., Q. C., D. C. L.,

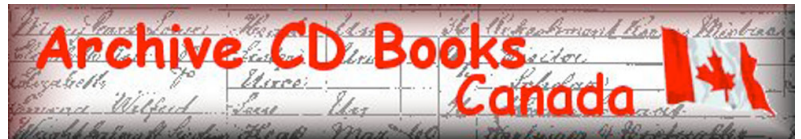
President of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, &c.

BORN AT TRURO, N. S., 18TH MAY, 1814. DIED AT TRURO, 14TH JAN., 1893.

IN the decease of the eminent statesman and scholar to whom, from the inception of this Society to the termination of his connexion with it by death, it was largely indebted for the position achieved by it, and the prosperity which has marked its progress hitherto, and who departed this life while holding office as its President, the Nova Scotia Historical Society finds occasion for the expression of its profound sorrow and the offering of a well-merited tribute to his memory.

The name of ARCHIBALD is one of historic interest in Nova Scotia, having been early rendered famous by some who bore it, and more recently illustrated by the subject of this sketch.

ADAMS GEORGE was born at Truro, in this Province, on the 18th May, A. D. 1814, son of Samuel, whose father was James, who from June, 1796, held, for the remainder of his life, the office of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Colchester, and whose grandfather, Samuel, was one of four brothers of Scottish extraction who, immigrating from the north of Ireland in 1761, received grants of land in Colchester County, and from whom numerous families now scattered throughout Nova Scotia trace their descent. Among those who have adorned this name, the Hon. S. G. W. Archibald, at the time of his decease Master of the Rolls for the Province of Nova Scotia, stood pre-eminent; and of his sons one, Sir Thomas, became a Baron of the Exchequer in England, and another, Sir Edward, for many years the British Consul at New York, was knighted for distinguished service. The mother of Sir Adams was also an Archibald — Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew, coroner of Colchester (1776), and representative of that county in the General Assembly.



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