

THE  
IMPORTANCE

OF SETTLING and FORTIFYING

NOVA SCOTIA:

WITH

A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT

OF THE

CLIMATE, SOIL, and NATIVE INHABITANTS of the COUNTRY.

By a GENTLEMAN lately arrived from that  
COLONY.

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valuable colony attended to, till in the late war the *French*, by their frequent attempts to reduce it, have shewn us how highly they priz'd it, and of what importance they knew the acquisition of it would be to them. How much then is it our interest to preserve? But of that in its place.

Next, *of its extent and soil.*

The extent of *Nova Scotia* is very great, it stretches along the sea-coast, east and west, for full an hundred leagues, and about forty leagues north and south, so that it contains many millions of acres of ground : it is the north-eastern-

easternmost of all his majesty's colonies on the continent of *America*; it is bounded on the east by *Cape Breton*, on the west by *New England*, and on the north by the great river of *St. Lawrence*.

There is no part of *North America* where they can boast of a more fertile soil, or any land that will produce grain with so little labour, even without the common labour of manuring of land.

The method by which the *French* inhabitants improve their lands is as follows: in the bay  
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of *Fundy* (where all our *French* inhabitants are settled) there is a very great flow of the tide, perhaps as great as in any part of the world; it rises full six fathoms perpendicular, which overflows a vast deal of their low lands, to prevent which they raise dikes or dams, composed of timber and clay, which effectually keeps out the sea; and upon these low lands it is that they sow their wheat, rice, oats, peas, and flax, graze their cattle, and mow their hay; and these marches extend along the shore, in some places, for seven or eight miles in length, and a mile wide; so that you have at

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one view fields of many hundred acres of grain.

When they find the land wants manure they open some of the dikes, and let in the sea ; the natural salt that is in the water, and the sea-weeds that overflows the land, enriches it greatly ; so that it is sufficiently manur'd by opening the dikes once in three or four years, and that only for a few tides.

As these lands are very fertile, the inhabitants raised much more grain than they could consume ; so that they have exported very  
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considerable quantities to the other colonies, sometimes ten thousand bushels in a year, and many thousand yards of linnen-cloth, made from their flax, and some hundred head of cattle annually ; which shews what the country is capable of producing, had it been in any other hands but those of the indolent *French*, who don't work scarce above half the year, on account of their superstitious holidays.

As they find it so much to their advantage to improve these low lands, they have not cleared a great deal of the up-land, only

just enough for their orchards and gardens for raising their roots, which exceed any in *America* both for largeness and taste; and they have some flourishing orchards, and begin to make syder, and sugar they make from the maple-juice.

In many parts of the country there are very good masts for shipping, and oak for the building of ships. In the bay of *Fundy* there are variety of coals, sufficient to supply all *America* with fuel; and there is very good reason to believe there are some valuable mines in the country, as there has been some copper ore  
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