

**A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR TOURISTS,  
MINERS, AND INVESTORS, AND ALL  
PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOLD FIELDS  
OF NOVA SCOTIA**

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A Practical Guide for Tourists, Miners, and Investors, and All Persons Interested in the  
Development of the Gold Fields of Nova Scotia by Alexander Heatherington

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**ALEXANDER HEATHERINGTON**

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# GUIDE

TO THE

## GOLD FIELDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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## INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

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IN a work intended as a Guide to its Gold Fields, one cannot justly omit some notice of Nova Scotia and Halifax, the probable starting point of the tourist; but as a good description of either would fill a large volume by itself, we merely attempt a cursory review of the history of the Province, and a sketch of those features of the metropolis which appear most striking to a foreigner, before discussing the professed subject of these pages.





# GUIDE

TO THE

## GOLD FIELDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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### CHAPTER I.

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#### OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The discovery of this portion of America is usually attributed to Sebastian Cabot, a Portuguese mariner, who sailed from Bristol, England, under a commission from Henry the Seventh, and landed here about June, in the year 1497; but if the traditions of Iceland may be credited, the navigators of that country frequented these shores early in the eleventh century.

From the date of Cabot's re-discovery, assuming that the Icelanders really knew of Nova Scotia's existence, the coast was used as a common fishing ground by the French, Portuguese, Spanish, and English, until 1604, when the then king of France, Henry the Fourth, acting upon the advice of the Jesuits, sent out an expedition under Admiral de Monts, to take possession of and colonize the country, which, in the royal warrant appointing De Monts governor-general, is styled Acadie.

It is rather singular that the first place of settlement

selected by the French should have been on the extreme west coast, Annapolis Basin—by them called Port Royal,—when so many good harbors were to be met with nearer east. They founded Port Royal in 1605 and remained in quiet possession until 1613, when a British filibuster, Captain Argyle or Argall, from Virginia, made a raid upon their different homesteads along the coast, burned their ships, pillaged their property, and sent the unfortunate settlers back to their own country. The French government does not appear to have resented this high-handed outrage, nor did the fate of the returned colonists prevent fresh departures for Acadia.

But the ownership, as well as the name of the country, remained an open question; for, under date of the 10th September, 1621, Charles the First of England made a grant of the whole Province, including New Brunswick, the Island of St. John (now Prince Edward's,) and Cape Breton to Sir William Alexander, calling the same, in compliment perhaps to its new lessee, Nova Scotia, a name it has ever since retained in English history.

The same sovereign shortly afterward instituted the order of Baronets of Nova Scotia, the title to be conferred upon persons who should assist the colonization of the province at their own expense; and in 1627 a large expedition under the new proprietor sailed to take possession; but either dissatisfied with their bargain, or unwilling, because unable, to dispossess previous settlers, they only remained a very short time.

Eleven years after the issue of Sir William Alexander's charter, the province was again formally ceded to France. The neighboring British States, perhaps encouraged by the home government, were unwilling to tolerate the French

as colonists, and whenever a new settlement was founded or began to flourish, marauding parties of British were sure to invade it and drive the industrious Frenchman from his home. Port Royal (Annapolis), the stronghold of the French, seems to have been the especial object of dislike, and in 1710, for the fifth time, was wrested from its lawful owners. By the subsequent treaty of peace, in 1713, Nova Scotia proper was returned to the English, while all French residents were compelled to take the oath of allegiance to Great Britain, or quit the country. France still retained the island now called Prince Edward's, and the eastern extremity of the peninsula where she founded and fortified the town of Louisburg.

A fresh war breaking out between England and France in 1744, an expedition was equipped the following year in the New England colonies under the command of Sir William Pepperall (ominous name!) which surprised and captured Louisburg and took possession of the rest of Cape Breton: but the aboriginal tribes were so friendly to the French that the usurpers made no progress at colonization and found their new acquisition only a source of trouble.

Two years later an armament was fitted out by France under the Duke d'Anville to recapture the French possessions in the province, but the expedition was delayed through contrary winds; many of the vessels were lost at sea, and the crews of those which arrived were decimated by scurvy. The disease was communicated to the Indians, nearly one-half of whom died from its ravages. An attempt was made to retake Annapolis, but, being defeated, the Duke d'Anville and the Comte d'Estourville, his second in command, were so disheartened that they committed suicide, and their