

COLLECTIONS
OF THE
Massachusetts Historical Society.

For MARCH, 1794.



CONTAINING

VOLUME III.

	<i>Page</i>
A Topographical Description of the county of Prince George in Virginia, - - -	85
Remarks on Mr. Webster's Calculations,	92
Mr. Webster's Reply to Mr. Mellen's Remarks,	94
Miscellaneous Remarks and Observations on Nova Scotia, New Brunfwick and Cape Breton,	<i>ibid</i>
Road from Halifax to the Gulf of St. Lawrence,	101
Governours of Nova Scotia from 1720, -	<i>ibid</i>
Description of the Atherine, - - -	102
Account of the burning of Fairfield, in July, 1779,	103
An original Letter from Gov. Shirley to the Board of Trade, respecting Fort Dummer, 1748, (<i>Continued</i>)	106

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putation made use of to determine the proportion that live to seventy years and upwards, very far from just: For the number three hundred and twelve (or three hundred and twenty-nine, as I suppose it should have been) is found by dividing $23400 \div 1300 \times 18$ (that is the product of the number of inhabitants, and the number of years for which the bills were kept) by seventy-one, the number of persons who in that time died seventy years old and upwards. Can this be a just method of determining how many live to seventy years? Has the number of inhabitants in a place any thing to do in this question? At least, should not the comparison be made between the number, which in a certain time die seventy years old and upwards, and the whole number of persons that die in the same time?

Let us see how Mr. Webster's mode of computation will apply to some other age. We would, for instance, find what proportion of the persons born (no account is here made of immigrations or emigrations) in the first and second parishes in Hartford, live to nineteen years and upwards, according to the bills which he has exhibited. The number of inhabitants $2500 \times 10 = 25000$, is to be divided by 209, the number which died at the age of nineteen years and upwards; which quotes 119 and a fraction. The conclusion then is that but one in 119 of the inhabitants live to nineteen years. But it appears by the bill that *one half* of those that died in ten years lived to the age of nineteen years. But it need only to be asked, why does not the proportion which those who die above seventy, in any given place and time, bear to the whole number who die in the same time and place, determine the probable proportion of those who live to the age of seventy years and upwards in that place. It is true, as Mr. Webster observes, that "two years are not sufficient to determine the longevity of the inhabitants in any town or country." But supposing the average proportion for seventy or an hundred years were taken, must it not be determined with sufficient accuracy? And is it not therefore just to conclude from the bills exhibited, that in the first and second parishes in Hartford, *one in nine or ten* lives to the age of seventy years?

Much less than has been suggested above, would, I trust, be sufficient to convince Mr. W. that he was guilty of some inadvertency; and induce him to correct it. That he should make the correction himself would, I suppose, be more eligible than to have it made by any other hand.

I am, Sir, with much respect,

Your humble servant,

JOHN MELLEN, jun.

Barnstable, Sept. 23, 1793.

REV. JEREMY BELKNAP, D. D.

N

Mr. WEBSTER'S REPLY to Mr. MELLEN'S REMARKS. 4

NEW-YORK, *January 22, 1794.*

REVEREND SIR,

YOUR favour of the 5th inst. covering some remarks on my communication to the Historical Society, published in Vol. III. p. 5, has been received, and has my particular acknowledgements.

In reply to the remarks, I can only say, that it is always a subject of regret, that an inaccurate or ambiguous expression should escape a writer, and lead his readers into a misapprehension of his true meaning. The sentence which is liable to exception in this respect should run thus, "a calculation gives one to three hundred and twenty-nine* of all the persons living in the given space of time, who die at seventy years old and upwards." When thus expressed, my real and *only* meaning would be obvious, and as the gentleman, in his strictures, remarks, the "conclusion drawn from the mode of calculation would have been just."

I had no materials for calculating the proportion of deaths at a *given age* to the number of souls *born* in any given period. I attempted no such calculation. Besides I adopted the *same* principles of calculation with respect to Salem and the third parish in Hartford; so that as far as it extends, the *comparison* is just, provided the premises are true. But it appears by the late census, that Dr. Holyoke's estimate of the number of souls in Salem was much too high—instead of nine thousand, the supposed number, the true number falls short of eight thousand. This will render the calculation more favourable to Salem.

If the remarks should be published, the committee will suffer this *short* reply to follow them; I am too much occupied to be more particular.

Be pleased, Sir, to assure the Historical Society of the high opinion I entertain of the importance of their undertaking, and that I anxiously wait for the period, when other occupations will permit me to indulge my inclination in seconding their views.

I am, Sir, with great respect,
your most obedient humble servant,
NOAH WEBSTER, jun.

Rev. DR. BELKNAP.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS and OBSERVATIONS on NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, and CAPE BRETON.

Supposed to be written by the Surveyor General of Nova Scotia.

MR. Bernard, the Governour of Massachusetts bay, in the year 1764, caused a survey of the bay of Passamaquoddy to be made, and proposed making grants of land, as being within his government.

* The number as published is three hundred and twelve; whether a mistake of the printer, or an error in the copy, I do not know.

The next year, Mr. Wilmot, the Governour of Nova Scotia, sent the chief land surveyor to make a survey of that bay, when upon full inquiry, it was found there were three rivers called St. Croix, emptying into that bay; that the river, called by the savages, Copscook, was anciently called by the French, St. Croix; and on examining into the original grants of Nova Scotia, it appeared that the grants made by King Charles the second, to his brother the Duke of York, in 1663 (called the Duke of York's Territory) was bounded by the river St. Croix to the eastward, and by the river Kennebeck to the westward; and on the 12th of August the same year, Sir William Alexander obtained a grant of Nova Scotia, bounded westerly as far as "the river St. Croix, and to the farthest source or spring which first comes from the west to mingle its waters with those of the river St. Croix, and from thence running towards the north," &c. All the islands in Passamaquoddy bay are included in this grant, and have ever since been deemed to belong to Nova Scotia. By the definitive treaty of peace, signed at Paris, 3d September, 1783, the eastern limits or boundaries of the United States are thus described: "East by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix, from its mouth in the bay of Fundy, to its source, and from its source, north to the high lands, comprehending all islands within twenty leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the aforefaid boundaries, between Nova Scotia on the one part, and east Florida on the other part, shall respectively touch the bay of Fundy and the Atlantick ocean, excepting such islands as now are, or heretofore have been deemed within the limits of Nova Scotia." This makes it clearly evident, that Grand Manan Island, Passamaquoddy Great Island, now called Campo Bello, Deer Island, Moose Island, and all the islands lying in that bay, whether on the southern or northern side this line drawn due east from St. Croix, should as formerly belong to Nova Scotia. Whether Scoodick or Copscook is the river the treaty fixes upon, remains with those who framed it to determine; but from the manner in which those boundaries are expressed, I should imagine that river to be the river St. Croix intended, whose source should be found farthest into the country westward and northward towards the high lands, mentioned in the treaty, being conformable to the old grants; and if my conjecture is well founded, the St. Croix mentioned in the treaty cannot be properly ascertained, until accurate surveys are made, and proper commissioners appointed to determine thereupon.

The Province of Nova Scotia, by the Governour's commission, has been (till the late division of the government took place) described as follows: "On the west, by a line drawn from Cape Sables across the entrance of the bay of Fundy to the mouth of the river St. Croix; by the said river to its source; and by a line drawn from thence to the southern boundary of our colony of Quebec: To the northward, by the said boundary as far as the western extremity of the bay Des Chaleurs:

To the eastward, by the said bay and the gulf of St. Laurence to the cape or promontory called Cape Breton, in the island of that name, including that island, the island St. John's, and all other islands within six leagues of the shores."

In the year 1784, Nova Scotia was divided into four separate governments, to wit, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, St. John's, and Sydney. The division line between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is as follows: Bounded by the several windings of the Missiquash river, from its confluence with Beau Basin (at the head of Chignecto channel) to its rise or main source; and from thence by a due east line to the bay of Vert, in the straits of Northumberland. Nova Scotia includes all islands within its limits that lie within six leagues of its coasts, except the island of Cape Breton.

Halifax, the capital of this province, was settled by British subjects in 1749. It is situated in latitude $44^{\circ} 40'$, on a spacious and commodious harbour, of bold and easy entrance, where a thousand of the largest ships might ride with great convenience and safety. The town is built on the west side of the harbour, on the declivity of a commanding hill, whose summit is two hundred and fifty-six feet perpendicular from the level of the sea. The town is laid out into oblong squares, the streets parallel, and at right angles. The town and suburbs are about two miles in length; and the general width, one quarter of a mile. It contains four thousand inhabitants, and seven hundred houses. At the northern extremity of the town, is the King's naval yard, completely built and supplied with stores of every kind for the royal navy. The harbour of Halifax is justly esteemed (by many) as the most eligible situation in British America for the seat of government, being open and accessible at all seasons of the year, when almost all the other harbours are locked up with ice; and also from its central situation, proximity to the bay of Fundy and principal interior settlements of the province. The other towns are Shelburne and Digby, settled in 1783, Lunenburg, Annapolis, New Dublin, Liverpool, Manchester, Windsor, Cornwallis, Horton, Yarmouth, Barrington, and Argyle.

The lands in general on the sea coast of Nova Scotia (except the county of Lunenburg) and a few hills of good land, are rocky and interspersed with swamps and barrens. The growth is general, an intermixture of spruce, hemlock, pine, fir, beech and birch, and some rock-maple: But its shores are accommodated with harbours, rivers, coves, and bays conveniently adapted for the fisheries; and the above timber affords an inexhaustible supply of materials for buildings, shales and staves, vessels, &c. The most remarkable land on the south shore of Nova Scotia is the high land of Aspotagoen, which lies on the promontory that separates Mahone from Margaret's bay. This land may be seen at a great distance from the offing, and is the land generally made by ships bound from Europe and the West Indies to Halifax. The summit of this land is about five hundred feet perpendicular from the level of the sea.

The Ardois mountain lies between Windsor and Halifax, about thirty miles north-west from the latter. It is deemed the highest land in the province, and affords an extensive prospect of all the high and low lands, about Windsor, Falmouth, and the distant country bordering on the Basin of Minas; and must in future time, with the rising improvements and diversified scenery, form a pleasing and variegated landscape. Cape Blowmedown, which is the southern side of the entrance from the bay of Fundy into the Basin of Minas, is the eastern termination of a range of mountains, extending for about eighty or ninety miles to the Gut of Annapolis; bounded on the north by the shores of the bay of Fundy, on the south by Annapolis river. This tract of land is considered equal in richness and fertility to any in the American colonies, producing wheat, rye, barley, oats, and every species of vegetable in perfection and abundance. The principal rivers are Annapolis and Shubenaccadie. The latter takes its rise within a short mile of the town of Dartmouth, on the east side of Halifax harbour, and empties itself into Cobequid bay, taking in its course the Slewjack and Gay's river. Other rivers of less note are the rivers which empty into Pictou harbour in the straits of Northumberland; St. Mary's river, Antigonish, Liverpool, Turket, Musquidoboit and Sissibou rivers. The principal lakes are lake Porter, which empties itself into the ocean about five leagues to the eastward of Halifax, which lake is fifteen miles in length, and an half a mile in width, with islands in it; Potawock, so called by the savages, which lies between the head of St. Margaret's bay and the main road from Halifax to Windsor; the great lake of Shubenaccadie, lying on the east side of said road, about seven miles from it, and twenty-one miles from Halifax. There is another lake of considerable magnitude, called by the original French inhabitants, Rossignol, which lies between Liverpool and Annapolis, and from Indian accounts is said to be the main source of Liverpool and Petit Riviere (so called) rivers. It has been a place of resort for the Indians, from the favourable hunting grounds about it. There are many other lakes, streams, and brooks, which water and diversify all parts of this province. The principal bays are the bay of Fundy, which washes the shores of New Brunswick on the north, and Nova-Scotia on the east and south. This bay is twelve leagues across, from the gut of Annapolis to St. John's, the capital of New Brunswick. The tides are rapid in this bay, and rise at Annapolis Basin about thirty feet. At the head of Chignecto channel, an arm of this bay, the spring tides rise sixty feet. At the Basin of Minas, which may be termed the north-east arm or branch of this bay, the tides rise forty feet. Des Barres, the late nautical surveyor of this province, has in general been correct and particular in noting the latitude and longitude of all the different towns, harbours, capes, and head lands in this province; and his charts are so publick, they can be resorted to by all who require further information on the subject.

For natural productions, Charlevoix in his *Historie Generale de Nouvelle France*, will give full information. Mr. Pernette who has been curious in observing the natural productions of this province for upwards of thirty years, speaks highly of the accuracy of Charlevoix on the subject.

The province of Nova Scotia contains eight million, seven hundred and eighty nine thousand acres; of which three millions have been granted, and two millions settled and under improvement. This province is accommodated with many spacious harbours, bays, and coves of shelter, equal to any in the universe. Its coasts abound with fish of all kinds, such as cod, salmon, mackerel, herring, alewives, trout, and from its contiguity to the banks of Newfoundland, Quero, Sable, banks, fisheries under proper management and regulations, might be carried on with a certainty of success. The southern shores of Nova Scotia, to the eye of a stranger, exhibit an unfavourable appearance, being in general broken and stony: but the innumerable islands along its coasts, coves and harbours, though generally composed of rocky substances, appear by nature designed for the drying of fish, and are clothed with materials for flakes and stages, and there is land sufficient for pastures and gardens to serve the purposes of fishermen.

As you advance into the back country, the face of it wears a far more favourable and pleasing aspect; and at Cornwallis, Windsor, Horton, Annapolis, Cumberland, Cobequid, Pictou, and along the north shores of the province, are extensive, well improved farms: and the gradual improvements in husbandry, which has been encouraged by the laudable efforts and successful experiments of the Agricultural Society here, afford a well grounded expectation of its becoming a flourishing colony; especially if a disposition for frugality, economy, and industry should prevail among us; the want of which important qualities has been hitherto the source of all our embarrassments. Nova Scotia may be compared to the rude diamond in the quarry: it only wants the polish of well directed industry, to give it beauty and increase its value.

There are mines of coals at Cumberland, and on the east river which falls into Pictou harbour. There are also lime stone, and plaster of Paris at Windsor, and in the gut of Canso; and there is plenty of bog and mountain ore in Annapolis township, on the borders of the Nictau river, and a bloomery erected there; and from some late successful experiments, there is a flattering prospect of its becoming of great public benefit. Some small pieces of copper have been found at Cape D'Or, on the north side of the Basin of Minas; but not sufficient to establish a well grounded expectation of any mine rich enough to pay for the working of it.

There are no cascades in this province, that merit distinction. The only two that have been noticed, are, one of them on a stream that falls into the head of Milford Haven, which is about forty feet high, and

one which falls into the harbour St. John, on the north-east shore of the province, about the same height.

THE ISLAND OF CAPE BRETON.] The present seat of government is at Spanish river, on the north side the island. The coal mines are situated near the entrance of the harbour; the working of which and the fishery are the chief employment of the inhabitants. This island is intersected with lakes and rivers. The great Bras D'Or is a very extensive sheet of water, which forms into arms and branches, and opens an easy communication with all parts of the island. There is a great proportion of arable land on this island; and it abounds in timber and hard wood, such as pine, beech, birch, maple, spruces, and fir. Ile Madame, which is an appendage to this government, is settled for the most part by French Acadians, whose chief employment is the fishery at Amherst, the principal harbour in said island. There are about fifty families settled; and on this island there are computed to be one thousand souls. They take about thirty thousand quintals of fish annually, which are shipped for Spain and the Straits principally by merchants from Jersey, who resort here annually and keep stores of supplies for the fishermen.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.] Bounded on the south, by the north shores of the bay of Fundy and by the river Missiquash to its source, and from thence by a due east line to the bay of Vert; on the west, by a line to run due north from the head or main source of St. Croix river, in the bay of Passamaquoddy, to the high lands which divide the streams which fall into the river St. Lawrence and the bay of Fundy; and from thence by the southern boundary of the colony of Quebec, until it touches the sea shore at the western extremity of the bay of Chaleur; then following the several courses of the sea shore to the bay of Vert (in the straits of Northumberland) until it meets the termination of the eastern line produced from the source of the Missiquash above mentioned, including all islands within the said limits.

The city of St. John's, the capital, is situated at the mouth or entrance of the river St. John, on high and rocky ground. The streets are regular and spacious; and there are many decent, well built houses. It contains about one thousand inhabitants. The town of St. Anne's, the present seat of that government, lies about eighty miles up the river. About one mile above the town is the only entrance into the river St. John, which is about eighty or a hundred yards wide, and about four hundred yards in length; and this passage is called the Falls of the river. This passage being so strait, and a ridge of rocks running across, whereon there are not above seventeen feet of water, renders it insufficient to discharge the fresh waters of the river above. The common tides flowing here about twenty feet, at low water, the waters of the river are about twelve feet higher than the waters of the sea, and at high water, the waters of the sea are about five feet higher than the waters of the river; so that in every tide there are two falls, one outwards and one inwards: and the only time of passing this place, is at the time when the waters of the river are level with the waters of the sea, which

is twice in a tide; and this opportunity of passing continues not above *twenty minutes*. At other times it is impassable or extremely dangerous. From the confluence of this river with the bay of Fundy to its main source, is computed to be three hundred and fifty miles. It is navigable for floops to Frederickton. Its general course is W. N. W. On the banks of this river are rich intervalle and meadow lands, well clothed with timber and wood, such as pine, beech, elm, maple, and walnut. There are many rivers that empty into it: the Oromocto river (by which the Indians have a communication with Passamaquoddy) the Nashwack, Madamkifwick, on which are rich intervalles that produce all kinds of grain in the highest perfection. St. John's river opens a vast extent of fine country, and takes in its various courses a number of fine rivers; on all which are rich meadow and intervalle lands, and most of them settled and under improvement. The upland is in general clothed with timber trees, such as pine and spruce, hemlock and hard wood, principally beech, birch, maples, and some ash. The pines on this river are the largest to be met with in British America, and afford a considerable supply of masts for the royal navy.

The town of St. Andrew's is situated in the rear of an island of that name, on the east side of an arm (called Scoodick) of the inner bay of Passamaquoddy. It is very regularly laid out in the form of an oblong square; but few houses, and those built on a small scale. There are but few inhabitants, whose chief employment is in the lumber trade. The common tides rise here about eighteen feet. There are three rivers which fall into the bay of Passamaquoddy. The largest is called by the modern Indians the Scoodick; but by De Mons and Champlaine who accompanied De Mons in one of his voyages thither (see their voyages, in Purchase's Collections, written and published in 1632) called Etchemins. Its main source is near Penobscot river, to which river the Indians have a communication; the carrying place across is three miles.

The rivers that fall into Passamaquoddy bay have intervalles and meadows on their banks, and must have formerly been covered with a large growth of timber, which is observable from the remains of large trunks which are still to be seen; but a raging fire having passed through that country (according to Indian accounts fifty years ago) burnt so furiously (in a very dry season) that it destroyed most of the timber on the east side the bay of Passamaquoddy, and particularly on the Magegadavick or Eastern river, which falls into the bay, where it raged with uncommon violence, and spread as far eastward as the river which falls into the St. John's, and extended northerly and westerly beyond the Dickwasset or Digdeguash river, which falls into the same side of the bay.

Merrimichi river, on the north east coast of New Brunswick, falls into the head of a bay of that name; and a little above its confluence with the bay, it forms into two branches, and runs through a fertile tract of choice intervalle land, and the land in general is well clothed with timber of all kinds. From this river they have a communication

with St. John's, partly by land, but principally by water carriage in canoes. The salmon fishery is carried on with success, and the cod fishery is improving near the entrance of the bay.

Petitcodiak river falls into an arm of the bay of Fundy, called Chignecto channel. From its confluence, after a course of some miles northerly, it takes a western direction; and the Indians have a communication from the head of it with St. John's river by a portage across to the head of Kennebecatus. Memramcook river lies a little to the eastward of Petitcodiak, and takes a northeasterly direction, and has been recommended as the most proper boundary for the division between this province and Nova Scotia.

ROAD FROM HALIFAX TO THE GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE.

Extract of a Letter from Halifax in Nova Scotia, dated October 23, 1792.

LAST evening Governour Wentworth arrived in town after thirty-four days absence, from an expedition into the woods, the chief object of which was, to open a road from the settlements at Poictou, on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to this place. Such a road has been long wanted, but thought impracticable, from the expense and the supposed difficulty of the country. Both are however overcome, and a good cart road is cut, cleared and bridged, by which the inhabitants of that populous, increasing, and fertile district, have an easy communication with the capital, and can enjoy the benefits of its commerce as well as the advantages of law and government; of which, before, they were almost wholly destitute. This work has been accomplished without any burthen on the publick, from a revenue which has always been disposed of by former governours, but hitherto not applied to such beneficial purposes. The distance is sixty-eight miles, of which eight were done before; forty are newly cut, cleared and bridged; the remainder is made very passable; and the fund is diminished not one hundred and fifty pounds currency."

GOVERNOURS of NOVA SCOTIA from 1720.

IN the year 1720, Colonel Philipps was appointed Governour of Nova Scotia, and in the year 1749, General Cornwallis was appointed in his stead; and was the founder of the present settlement of this colony.

In 1752 Colonel Hopson succeeded; in 1753 Colonel Hopson had leave to go to England, and was succeeded in the administration of government by Lieutenant-Colonel, then Lieutenant Governour, Lawrence, and in 1756, he was appointed Governour in the room of Colonel Hopson.

Governour Lawrence died in 1760, and Governour Ellis, who had been Governour of Georgia, was appointed Governour, and near left Europe; but Mr. Belcher, senior counsellor, was appointed Lieutenant Governour, and was succeeded by Colonel Wilmot in 1763, who was appointed Lieutenant Governour, and was afterwards, in 1764, appointed Governour in the place of Mr. Ellis.

In 1766, Governour Wilmot died, and the administration of government was successively carried on by Mr. Green, the senior counsellor, and Lieutenant Governour Franklin, until the end of the same year, when Lord William Campbell, who had been appointed Governour, arrived. He continued in the government until he was succeeded by Colonel Legge in 1773, who was called home in 1776. The administration of government was afterwards successively in Lieutenant Governour Arbuthnot; in 1778, in Sir Richard Hughes; and in 1781, in Sir Andrew Hammond.

In 1782, Colonel John Parr was appointed Governour, in the stead of Governour Legge. He died in November, 1791, *Æt.* 66. On his death, Richard Bulkely, President of the Council, was sworn into the administration of government. John Wentworth, Surveyor General of the woods, was then in England; and as soon as Governour Parr's death was known there, he applied for the commission and obtained it. He arrived in the spring of 1792 at Halifax, and was received by the inhabitants with great satisfaction.

N. B. It is to be observed, that since the British provinces in North America have been put under a general Governour, the Governour of each province is styled Lieutenant Governour. The general government comprehends Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, St. John's, Lower Canada, and Upper Canada. The residence of the general Governour is at Quebec.

A Short Description of the ATHERINE, two specimens of which have been lately presented to the Cabinet of the Historical Society.

THIS little fish is called by Linnæus *Atherina* (*Menidia*) *pinna ani radius viginti quatuor*, or Atherine with twenty-four rays in the fin behind the anus. It is four inches in length, is semitransparent, and has a broad silver line extended from the opening of the gills to the insertion of the tail. The tail is forked. The iris of the eye silvery. The back is marked in diamonds by dotted lines.

It is found in great abundance in the river Piscataqua, in the months of August and September. It feeds on minute aquatick insects of the *monoculus* kind, and is preyed upon by several fishes as well as shell drakes.

