

HISTORY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

SOME countries are very old. They have been inhabited by civilised people many hundreds of years, and their history extends away back into the shadowy past, until we find it hard to tell how much truth or how much fable is commingled in the story. Nova Scotia is a new country. Three hundred years ago its history had scarcely a beginning. There were then no towns or houses, cultivated fields or carriage roads; one vast forest covered all the land.

The Micmacs.— A few Micmac Indians were the only inhabitants of the country in those early times. How they came here, or who were their ancestors, nobody could tell; and they had no books or written language. The Micmacs were savages. They lived in rude, cone-shaped huts, called wigwams, formed of poles covered with the bark of trees. Their food was chiefly fish and the flesh of wild animals. They were a roving race, always changing their place of abode. They were often engaged in cruel wars with other Indian tribes, their weapons being bows and arrows,