

CHAPTER VIII.

SETTLEMENT OF HALIFAX.

A new Scene at Chebucto.— Three years have passed away since D'Anville's shattered fleet lay moored in Chebucto Harbour, and such of his soldiers as had escaped the perils of the sea were dying on its shores. And now ships are again arriving from beyond the eastern waters, and joyously those who have been borne hither are taking possession of the land. These are not French soldiers sent to conquer with guns and swords; but English people, men, women, and children, come to make for themselves a home in a forest country.

No wonder if the French had hoped to get Nova Scotia back again, for Great Britain had not seemed to prize it much. As yet few of her people had come to the country, and these were mostly at Annapolis and Canso. But now the Government resolved to send out colonists; and offered free grants of land, a year's provisions, farming tools, and other gifts, to all who would go to Nova Scotia. The Lords of Trade and Plantations, who had charge of colonial affairs, gave orders to found a new capital on the shores of Chebucto Harbour. At this place the new governor, Colonel Edward Cornwallis, arrived in the ship "Sphynx" on the 21st of June; and he was soon followed by transports bearing over two thousand five hundred colonists. The hillside on the west of the harbour was chosen as the site of the new city, which was named Halifax, in honour of the President of the Lords of Trade and Plantations.