

## CHAPTER XII.

## PEACE AND PROGRESS.

We have no wars to tell of in this chapter. It was a time of peace and progress. Many of the Loyalists who had settled in the province were educated and intelligent, and their influence on society and in public affairs tended to improvement. The people began to take more interest in the government of the country, and many of the men whom they elected to make their laws were possessed of ability, such as would have graced the legislative halls of much older countries. The historian Murdoch says of this time, that it was "one of the happy and halcyon periods of Nova Scotia."

Previous to the year 1783, Roman Catholics were not allowed to own lands or to hold public worship in Nova Scotia. These hard laws were then repealed; but still, for many years, Roman Catholics had not the same privileges as others.

In 1792, the Assembly passed the Septennial Act, which required that a new House should be elected every seven years. Before this time the Assembly was not chosen for any fixed period, but continued during the pleasure of the governor. The House elected in 1770 was not dissolved until 1785, and it is hence sometimes called the Long Parliament of Nova Scotia.

**King's College.**— As there was no college or academy in Nova Scotia, young men were accustomed to go to the United States for higher education. The Assembly, fearing they would learn disloyalty in that country, resolved to found an academy at Windsor. The institution was opened in 1789, and a few years after it obtained a royal charter as King's College. Its early bye-laws required all students to attend wor-