

It is impossible to tell exactly, how many persons altogether became exiles. All the men who had taken an active part in the war, and were consequently most hated by the revolutionists, certainly left the United States. As we know for a fact that 20,000 men fought in the regularly organized royal regiments, we may fairly estimate, that about 100,000 men, women and children, were forced to leave and scatter throughout the world. Of this number about 35,000 came to the provinces of the present Dominion of Canada. More than two-thirds of the Loyalists settled in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the remainder in the Valley of the St. Lawrence. Most of them ended their days in poverty and exile, and as the supporters of a lost cause, history has paid but a scanty tribute to their memory.

During 1783, Parr and his council succeeded in settling several thousand of the Loyalists in the countries of Annapolis, Digby, Shelburne and Guysborough, which was so named from Sir Guy Carleton who settled several hundreds of disbanded soldiers in that beautiful county. But what a host had to be attended to! The condition of the majority is thus described by Governor Parr in letters to the Home Government in August 1783. "Most wretched and helpless, destitute of everything, chiefly women and children, still on board the vessels, and he had not been able to find a place for them, though the Winter and cold was setting in very severe." Rude huts were erected during the early winter, for the temporary accommodation of these unhappy people. The British Government granted pecuniary compensation and lands to the Loyalists who had suffered for the Empire, but it took years to have these claims adjusted, and relief afforded. Many of them totally unfit for manual or farm labor, professional men, felt the keen misery of their situation in hope deferred; several writing "That this delay of justice by the British Government, had produced the most shocking results." Eventually, the exiles who made out their claims, were voted by the British Parliament—£16,000,000 cash. Many received annuities, and half-pay officers, large grants of land, and offices in the province.