

and no trace of him had been discovered when Corporal Casey and a soldier from another regiment at Halifax arrived to take charge of the prisoners.

One lovely evening in October just as the sun was setting, an immense concourse of the citizens might be seen hastening to Pownal Wharf. It was then the most fashionable evening promenade to be found in the city, but there was evidently more than the usual inducement to cause all classes to hurry there on the occasion here referred to. It was known that the deserters were to be taken on board, and it was rumoured that the missing man would be of the number. Besides, many Island merchants were leaving by this trip of "Lady Le Marchant" to lay in their autumn and winter stocks for they could not import any additional supplies from the first of December in one year until the opening of navigation in the following spring, and this sometimes did not occur before the middle of May. A trip to Halifax was then a more important event in the business life of an Island merchant than would be one at the present day to London or Paris. There was no railway between Pictou and Halifax at that time and the journey by stage frequently extended into the second day, except in midsummer when roads were good. If the passenger did not return before St Andrew's Day he had to depend upon the uncertain passage home by sailing vessel for the steamer would not sail any later.

One of the first passengers to step on board the steamer was John Roach Bourke, High Sheriff for Queen's County, who was to take passage by one of the Cunard boats from Halifax, bound to the old country; as well as Patrick Walker, John Rigg, D. McIsaac, A. A. Macdonald, Jas. Reid, of Oak Hall; Neil Rankin, James Romans, Pierce Gaul, and many other merchants followed. Their friends and families had congregated there to see them off and wish them a safe return. But the arrival of Corporal Casey and his prisoners had more interest for the bulk of the assembled crowd than any thing else. A murmur of relief passed through them when they found but the two deserters there who had been in jail.