

non-arrival of the supplies expected before the close of navigation, starvation at one time stared the little colony in the face; and, as one said who as a child passed through the experience of those dreadful days, 'Strong, proud men wept like children, and lay down in their snow bound tents to die.' Frequently had these poor settlers to go from fifty to one hundred miles, with hand sleds or toboggans, through wild woods or on the ice, to procure a precarious supply for their famishing families. The privations and sufferings endured in some instances almost exceed belief.

14.—*The Division of the Province.*

A vast impetus was given to the development of the country north of the Bay of Fundy by the coming of the Loyalists. In the course of a few months it passed from the condition of a comparatively unknown region with a mere handful of English speaking people to that of an independent province with an enterprising class of inhabitants—poor in purse, indeed; but rich in experience, determination, energy, education, intellect, and other qualities essential to the building up of a country. By their efforts, within a year towns sprang into existence at St. John, Fredericton and St. Andrews, and thriving settlements were founded at Kingston, Sussex Vale, Gagetown, Waterborough, Burton, and other places on the river St. John as well as in Westmorland county and at various points around the shores and on the rivers of Charlotte county. From these places as centres, other settlements were established. Even the North Shore shared in the benefits of the immigration. This was largely through the enterprise of William Davidson, the pioneer English settler on the Miramichi, who in 1783 engaged fifty families of loyal refugees to settle on the Miramichi and Restigouche rivers. These new settlers, with Messrs. Munro, Doyle and others at the Bay of Chaleur, and Mr. Powell at Richibucto, exer-

cised an important influence in the future development of their several localities.

More than twelve thousand Loyalists came to that portion of the old province of Nova Scotia now called New Brunswick. Many of those mentioned in Col. Morse's return as settled in the county of Cumberland* had established themselves on the Petitcodiac river and elsewhere in the present counties of Westmorland and Albert. The number who settled on the St. John river was about ten thousand. The list of those entitled to provisions in this district comprised 4,131 men, 1,619 women, 2,630 children over ten years, 1,439 children under ten years and 411 servants—9,260 persons in all; but Col. Morse in his return states that for reasons mentioned in the report of Thomas Knox, Esq., Deputy Commissary of Musters, it had been found impossible to ascertain the exact number of Loyalists mustered on the river Saint John. Mr. Knox mentions, among the difficulties encountered in his work in the immense district of country assigned to him, the fact that there had been frequent interchanges among the earlier arrivals, who, unlike the disbanded troops, were not enrolled in companies. He found that absent families were daily expected. Many of the soldiers were not yet on their lands; others had already abandoned them.

The city of Saint John was for a brief period a sort of distributing point, and at the close of the first half year of its existence the population probably amounted to six or seven thousand. But this number rapidly decreased as difficulties respecting the location of grants were disposed of and new settlements sprang into existence in various parts of the province. That portion of the present city lying to the south of Union street at first received the

*By the division of the province of Nova Scotia the largest part of the old county of Cumberland was included in the province of New Brunswick.