

Mr. Allan's store at the corner of Frederick and King Streets, was naturally the most convenient place at which to make application for marriage licences, that foundation for the courage necessary to tackle primitive nature and compel it to yield a home; the most convenient place, likewise, for application for licences to produce or sell spirituous liquor, that other solace for many another entrant on the wilderness. Thus it came about, very naturally indeed, that Mr. Allan combined in his own person and on his own premises quite a list of public offices. These were obviously discharged with honesty and efficiency, because we find practically no complaint against him on these grounds. Such complaints as arose were due to his success and the confidence reposed in him by the Executive Government. Thus did William Allan, like several of his fellow countrymen, find himself by force of circumstances a prominent member of the famous "Family Compact," the foundations of which were so successfully laid by Governor Simcoe, and the superstructure so successfully erected by its own members to be the political dwelling place and social centre of his successors. It is true that, although Mr. Allan held so many of the early public offices at York, his direct pecuniary returns from them were for a number of years very modest; indeed altogether inadequate to the time and attention required by them. It is also to be observed that most of these positions had been given up to others by the time they came to be of much pecuniary advantage. The Customs and Postal positions were resigned in 1828. The fact, however, that he held these offices, and the satisfactory manner in which he discharged them, naturally redounded to his personal credit and gained him economic advantages in other directions, especially in his general commercial business and later in certain government contracts.

Like a number of other Scotchmen in the earlier days of Montreal and York, though having strong religious sentiments, he was not of unalterable sectarian attachment. Hence, in the absence of any provision for a Presbyterian establishment, Allan, after the manner of his brother Scot John Strachan, accepted the constitutional provisions made for a Protestant church, and made the best of them. At a meeting to raise funds for St. James Church at York, on January 8th, 1803, the Hon. Chief Justice Elmsley being in the chair, Messrs. William Allan and D. Cameron were appointed treasurers for the fund, which meant that the