

steadily, nor is the time very far removed when one looking down from the Citadel over the plain and slopes to the West and North, will find his eye resting not, as now, upon broad green fields, dotted here and there sparsely with cottages and farm-houses, but upon the most beautiful sections of a compactly-built City, which, from the geographical position assigned to it by nature, and the concurrence of inevitable events in the march of commerce, will have then grown to be great, populous, and wealthy. The growth of Halifax has been so far slow. We read that so early as 1760, eleven years after the first tree was felled upon the hill-side to open a spot for the habitation of civilized man, "the three towns, Halifax, Irish-town (South suburbs) and Dutch-town, or Gottingen (North suburbs), contained about one thousand houses." At first this statement reads something very like exaggeration, and would be wholly incredible; and can only be reconciled with probability on the supposition that in the number so stated were included many huts to serve as temporary barracks for the soldiers, and quarters for the officers of the army and employees of the Government. In point of fact, such must have been the case, seeing that the "settlers" did not exceed three thousand souls in number. Haliburton, in his History of Nova Scotia, quotes from a letter addressed at that time by an inhabitant of Halifax to a friend in Boston, the following curious passage: "Halifax is now divided into three towns, Halifax, Irish-town (South suburbs), and Dutch-town (North suburbs). The whole may contain about 1000 houses, great and small. * * * The inhabitants may be about 3000, one third of which are Irish, and many of them Roman Catholics, about one fourth Germans and Dutch, the most industrious and useful settlers amongst us, and the rest English, with a very small number of Scotch. We have upwards of 100 licensed houses, and perhaps as many more which retail spirituous liquors without license, so that the business of one-half of the town is to sell rum, and the other half to drink it." In 1790, the population did not exceed 4,000,—twenty-seven years later it had increased over 14,000, from which date (1817) in an interval of forty-two years, up to the present time, it is very