



In the Halifax Public Gardens.

When the Loyalists came to Nova Scotia many of them naturally chose Halifax as their place of residence, but there are other towns in the Province that began in Revolutionary times. The chief of these places is Shelburne, on the southern coast, now for three-quarters of a century a quiet, unprogressive village with a few hundred inhabitants, but in the beginning an ambitious town, dreaming of future greatness and laying its plans to supplant Halifax as the capital city.

It was planned and built by New York Loyalists, on the recommendation, in the first instance, of Captain Gideon White, a young man from Plymouth, Massachusetts, who before the war was over went through the pleasant experience of being hung by the waist to the liberty-pole of his native town. In April, 1783, plans having all been made, a fleet of New York ships containing nearly five hundred people, with the well known Beverly Robinson at their head, set sail for the far off coast of Acadia. Arriving at Shelburne, then called Port Roseway, or *Razoir*, they at once began to plan their town, and

soon they had laid out five parallel streets, sixty feet wide, intersected by others at right angles, every square thus made containing sixteen lots, sixty feet in width and a hundred and twenty in depth. At each end of the town they left a large reservation for a common, which the engineers, with the assistance of the fatigue parties, rapidly cleared. A little later the town was divided into north and south, the streets were named, and every settler was given fifty acres on each side of the harbor, besides a town and water lot. Then new settlers began to arrive, until soon after the evacuation of New York, the population ranged somewhere between ten and twenty thousand. In 1786, says an historian, "Shelburne was a gay and lively place. Every holiday or anniversary was loyally kept and mirthfully enjoyed. On St. Andrew's day, December 11, 1786, the St. Andrew's Society gave an elegant ball at the Merchants' Coffee House to the ladies and gentlemen of Shelburne. The ball room was crowded on the occasion, and the hours of the night passed away in the most pleasing manner." In the town were