

and never sought the suffrages of his fellow citizens for public honors. On one occasion a rumor had been circulated that he was a possible candidate for a seat in the Assembly, and this suggestion had even found an echo in the general section of the *Official Gazette*. Allan at once complained to the Executive of the action of the editor in inserting this statement, maintaining that such announcement was a serious injury to his personal character and financial interests. In the end the editor humbly apologized for his indiscretion.

When Allan transferred his interests to York he did not wait for the growth of the capital to increase the value of his investments. He was one of the minority who led in the development which was to insure the prosperity of the capital. Shortly after his coming, the best wharf on the water front, known as "the merchants' wharf," with a commodious warehouse erected thereon, was provided by the foresight and enterprise of William Allan. This wharf and warehouse were constructed at the foot of Frederick Street, and thus determined for a considerable time the chief business centre of the town. Commercially this centre was the four corners of King and Frederick Streets. The occupants of the other corners were D'Arcy Boulton, John Baldwin, and Allan's former partner, Alexander Wood. At Allan's wharf alone, for a very considerable period, could the larger vessels from the lake ports find sufficient water to land safely. There, too, they found sufficient accommodation for their goods, and there they took on the cargoes of exportable produce from the gradually growing centre of "Little York."

Under these circumstances, what more natural than that Mr. Allan, eminently reliable and efficient as he had already proved himself to be, should be appointed by the Executive Government to fill the position of Collector of Customs and to provide suitable accommodation for a Customs House? He was also available as Inspector of products for export. His appointment as Collector of Customs Duties and Inspector of pot and pearl ashes and flour was made on the 25th and was gazetted on the 29th August, 1801. Moreover, who so suitable as Mr. Allan to handle the incoming and outgoing mails, and to insure the safe custody, collection, and distribution of letters and other postal matter? So Mr. Allan was appointed chief of the York Post Office, under the title of Deputy Post Master, an imperial appointment under the Deputy in Chief, at Quebec, of the British Post Master General. But the Post Office, centrally located, of course, at