

mine in Connecticut, in which thousands were imprisoned. In its varied horrors which shamed those of Siberia, its terrible severity and cruelty, several of the Loyalists, imprisoned in the hole, have left graphic descriptions.

On approaching the dungeons, the victims were first conducted through the apartments of the guards, then through trap-doors down to a prison, in the corner of which opened another trap-door, covered with bars and bolts of iron. This trap was hoisted by a tackle disclosing a deeper depth which the keepers called Hell. The prisoners descended a ladder down a shaft of about three feet in diameter sunk through the solid rock. Arriving at a platform, they descended another ladder, when they came to a landing; then they marched in file, until they came to a large hole, where a great number of prisoners were confined. The inmates were obliged to make use of charcoal, to dispel the foul air, which was only partially drawn off, by means of an auger hole, bored from the surface. Imagine the horror of this dungeon so overcrowded, full and dripping with moisture, and the prisoners lacking every necessary for existence. The mortality was frightful, and the unsanitary condition of the prison, a blot on humanity. The few released from this frightful captivity were compelled to give bonds never to return. Death was the penalty of returning to their homes.

In the anxiety to escape the merciless persecution of the rebels, the nature of the land they were flying to had not been studied. From Nova Scotia some of the Loyalists who had come to Halifax on the outbreak of the Revolution, sent back most favourable accounts. There were, they said, great business opportunities as well as the mere necessities for subsistence. Saw-mills could be erected, and a great business carried on, with the West Indies. The fisheries would develop into a great industry. In fact they were assured, they might in our loyal province quietly enjoy a comfortable life, freed from the detested tyranny of seditious and rebellious demagogues. Lured by these representations, over 29,000 left New York within a year. Some