

at the corner of the lot, that he pulled off his coat, hung it on the corner tree, and with his own hands proceeded with a heavy heart to cut down the trees and endeavour to establish for himself a home in the wilderness. Major Studholme was commandant at Fort Howe, having under him Capt. Balfour and a party of troops. Every Loyalist on his arrival was furnished by Government with 500 feet of refuse boards with which to make a shanty until they could get up log houses. With the first arrival of Loyalists, Col. Tyng came as agent, and with him Commissary Hartt. The latter occupied the house and stores of Mr. Simonds, at Portland Point, where rations were furnished to the new comers. In a despatch dated 30th Sept., 1783, Governor Parr stated to the Colonial Minister that the number of Loyalists who had arrived in Nova Scotia up to that time amounted to 18,000, and three weeks after he reported the arrival of 1,000 more, Major Studholme's account for furnishing lumber and erecting houses for the Loyalists between the 1st of June and 31st Dec., 1783, amounted to £6721.6s. 6d. But notwithstanding these and other arrangements for their comfort, great distress and misery was endured by this noble band of loyal spirits and their suffering wives and children. Many died the first winter from small pox, fever, and other diseases induced and aggravated by the want of shelter, and other privations.

In the summer of 1784, nine persons came from the United States, while many of those who had arrived the preceding year moved up the river to farms which had been allotted to them and on which they settled. The building of wharves in the harbor was commenced this year (1784). That spring a weir was built from Portland Point to York Point, and the quantity of fish taken was almost beyond belief, and on one occasion the gaspereaux lay knee-deep for three rods back from the weir all the way from point to point. The weir was scuttled in three places to let them out, yet of the immense quantity which remained a large portion