

Parr begged leave to refuse, on the score of not being well enough off, to support it, another instance of his good sense and judgment.

During 1786, the town began to look quiet. War excitement had ceased. The coming of Loyalists, was a thing of the past. The floating population had disappeared. The overcrowded streets of the past years, looked almost deserted, but our merchants were prospering and sending many vessels abroad. The province was being opened up. Great roads were laid out, and the influx of the Loyalists, many of whom were men of family and education, was in the main advantageous, although the influence they wielded, owing to their great favor in the eyes of the King, gave them a growing ascendancy, calculated to throw in the back-ground the merits and services of those families who had originally founded the British colony here, and who had largely contributed to the defence of the land in the French wars.

Still Halifax wanted change. For a long generation it had been the centre for large speculations. War, which for a space had failed, had been almost continuous since the founding of the town. It had attracted great numbers to participate in the benefits offered by the prizes brought in by the fleet and privateers, and condemned and sold by the Court of Admiralty. Vast fortunes had been made in this manner, and Halifax had become famous the world over for the success of its merchants. Its population during these times of war and peace had come and gone like the tide. If war was active, and the Court of Admiralty busy, and prize money plenty, thousands of cormorants were attracted to the plunder,—if a brief breathing spell of peace came, the population faded away like a dream, and our streets became empty. With Parr came a long peace, 1782 finished a long war. Thence on to his death in 1791, Halifax had ample time to turn a new leaf, from the feverish and turbulent activities of its past, to the more enduring work of building up and consolidating the varied interests of peace