

often avoided by the revolutionists, and \$10,000 was offered for the head of the obnoxious officer. In 1781, when attempting during war to enjoy the delights of love at the home of William Matthews, Saint John's Island, Charleston, he was tracked by the enemy, and only avoided being captured by concealing himself beneath the hoop skirts of the daughter of his host, Miss Anne Matthews, who subsequently became his wife. On one occasion, when making one of many forays, he visited a house where a wedding was about to be held, and having been furnished by the proprietor with supplies for his corps, on being invited, remained for the festivities and danced with the bride. At the close of the war he had reached no higher rank than that of major, and it is supposed that his promotion was opposed in consequence of his having exposed the cowardice of a natural son of George III, and thereby incurred the ill-will of that monarch. Lord Cornwallis, Lord William Howe, Lord Rawdon and the Marquis of Hastings exerted themselves to overcome the obstinacy of the king, but to no purpose.

In May, 1784, Major Coffin, with his wife, two children, three black men and one black woman arrived in New Brunswick and proceeded to occupy the property already mentioned, which he named Alwington Manor after the family seat in England. Here he commenced a career of usefulness which only terminated with his life. He was, at different periods, a member of the Assembly and of the Legislative Council, superintendent of Indian schools, and chairman of Quarter Sessions.¹ He imported stock and seeds and improved agricultural implements, not only for himself and his tenants, but to distribute among his neighbors. Nor were his benefits limited to the Province, for in 1821 the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture thanked him for "a fine stud horse of the light cart breed," and made him an honorary member of the association. In 1803 Col. Coffin went to England and was presented at Court, where, with his handsome face and fine figure, six feet two inches in height, he seems to have made a favorable impression upon the mind of the king.² He was offered, but declined,

¹ In the *St. John Gazette* of April 26th, 1799, is the following paragraph: "Col. John Coffin, of this Province, is appointed a Brigadier-general to command on the Newfoundland Station."

² The *St. John Gazette* of December 10th, 1803, has the following: "Among the many military promotions that have lately taken place in England, we are pleased to find the names of Colonels Coffin and Armstrong, both of this Province, who are advanced to the rank of Major-general."