

mained in the country. The New England and North of Ireland settlers, who came to the province prior to the Revolutionary War, were usually able to obtain medical aid. The missionaries, who regularly visited the sparsely settled and remote districts, had some medical knowledge. At some points the garrison surgeons looked after the sick. A few physicians came from New England and engaged in practice in the more thriving districts. Of these latter the professional knowledge and skill may not have been great, but they were usually resolute, enterprising men, and useful members of the community in which they lived.

A large number of medical men accompanied the Loyalists. They were well qualified. The majority had served as surgeons during the war, and their influence in improving the status of the medical profession was marked, owing to their number, skill, and strong personality.

The estimated population of Nova Scotia, in 1790, was about 35,000. The number of practitioners in the province at that time, as far as I have been able to ascertain, after considerable research, was thirty-five, a very large number when we consider the slender resources of the inhabitants and the limited extent of the settled area. The presence of so many practitioners at that early period is explained by the circumstances that fully one-third of the number held permanent appointments in connection with the military establishments at Halifax, Windsor, Annapolis, Shelburne, and Sydney—appointments which they had received as a partial compensation of the losses they had sustained by the Revolution. Their official duties were light, and gave them ample time for general practice. After the founding of Halifax about nine-tenths of the physicians who came to Nova Scotia came from New England and of the thirty-five practitioners in 1790 fully three-fourths were Loyalists. The latter did much to create that ingrained respect and loyalty towards the profession which is a characteristic of Nova Scotians, and this was accomplished by the individuality and force of character of those men, as well as by their professional skill. The old inscription on the tombstone of Dr. John Haliburton, in the old St. Paul's Cemetery, might not unfittingly be applied to each one of them:

“If unshaken loyalty to his King, steady attachment to his friends, active benevolence to the destitute, and humble confidence in God, can perpetuate h's memory, he will not be forgotten.”