

last long, each one setting up for himself at York. For a number of years Allan conducted a steadily-developing business on his own responsibility. He was for a time, from about 1812 to 1822, in partnership with his brother-in-law, John W. Gamble, one of the numerous family of Dr. John Gamble, a prominent Scotch loyalist coming to Upper Canada by way of New York State and the St. John river in New Brunswick. Like the Hon. John McGill, Dr. Gamble was attracted to the Upper Province through his former associations with Simcoe and the Queen's Rangers, with which he served in the capacity of assistant surgeon. Allan married his daughter, Leah Tyrer. Other marriages of the numerous Gamble family at York did much to give color to the term "Family Compact" as applied to the York group of political and economic associates.

Allan's personal character and sound methods of conducting his business naturally inspired confidence, in a situation where much was fluid and uncertain. He soon gained an extended reputation for strict business integrity, his word being as good as his bond and both scrupulously observed. The certainty with which he could be relied upon to fulfil a contract or to discharge a public duty naturally attracted those responsible for the conduct of the executive government. In this field it was not necessary for him to do more than meet opportunity half way. He therefore soon enjoyed a position of much influence in executive quarters. The same was true, as we have seen, of that other Scot, John McGill, and these with a few others, came to be recognized as having the ear of several of the early governors and administrators. They were therefore the objects of special attack on the part of an equally pronounced English group, including such restless political innovators as John Mills Jackson, Judge Thorpe, Sheriff Willcocks, Surveyor General Wyatt, and others, who, in the period before the War of 1812, proved thorns in the sides of peaceful rulers. Naturally Mr. Allan and his friends saw no occasion for radical innovation, for when one's own circumstances are fairly satisfactory, why encourage changes which may break up the established order of things, to which one has so conveniently adjusted one's personal interests? Moreover, Mr. Allan in particular, as unlike in this respect as others the group referred to, had a great antipathy to mere publicity. Although much interested and, indeed, much engaged in public affairs, he rarely took any prominent part in general public meetings