

what sums has the nursing of that ill-thriven, hard-visaged and ill-favored brat cost to this wittol nation! Sir, this colony has stood us in a sum of not less than seven hundred thousand pounds. To this day it has made no repayment. It does not even support those offices of expense which are miscalled its government; the whole of that job still lies upon the patient callous shoulders of the people of England."

He says Nova Scotia, but Halifax was then Nova Scotia.

There is an ancient, oft-repeated calumny, anent Haligonian conviviality which I have heard even in my own time. It is traceable to a New England settler, writing from Halifax in 1750, to the Rev. Dr. Siles of Boston.

"Halifax may contain about one thousand houses, great and small, many of which are employed as Barracks, Hospitals for the army and navy, and other public uses. The inhabitants may be about 3000, one-third of which are Irish, and many of them Roman Catholics, about one-fourth Germans and Dutch, the most industrious and useful settlers amongst us, and the rest English with a very small number of Scotch. We have upwards of 100 licensed houses, and perhaps as many more which retail spirituous liquors without license, so that the business of one-half of the town is to sell rum, and the other half to drink it. You may, from this single circumstance, judge of our morals, and naturally infer that we are not enthusiasts in religion."

"The business of one-half of the town is to sell rum and the other half to drink it," is a taking jingle. Haliburton in his history, and Patterson in his memoir of MacGregor have helped to diffuse it widely.

In the winter of 1762-63, the fleet stayed at Halifax and spent a large part of the rich plunder of Havana which had fallen in the previous summer, as prize-money usually was spent in those days.