



Looking Backward for a Moment.



HALIFAX, the "City of the Rock," picturesque, beautiful and interesting Halifax, is proud of its past, because it has been a continuous record of well doing, of steady growth, and of continued progress. It is an English city, conservative, but in a right way, holding fast to old-time and honorable traditions, and progressive, because it is taking to itself the best the present has to give, while retaining all that is useful of the past. Hon. Edward Cornwallis, the founder and first governor, named the city for the Earl of Halifax. It had its day of small things, and one hundred and fifty years of life has made it what it is to-day, a strong, growing, beautiful city.

Governor Cornwallis received a grant liberal in its terms, and in 1749 reached the site of his future city with 2,576 English people. The war with France was over, the country was English, but something had to be done with the troops about to disband, and they largely composed the first body of the emigrants under Governor Cornwallis. Rightly it was believed that the fisheries would be of importance, and the value of the country from an agricultural standpoint was plainly seen. The English government started in to help Governor Cornwallis found an English city, and with its aid he laid the foundation well and strongly. Aid they must have at the first, and it was cheerfully given. For a year the new settlers were supported by the government, and were assisted to procure the necessary implements for tilling the ground, and boats for fishing. The late soldiers suddenly found themselves transformed into farmers and fishermen, or it may be that, having laid aside their weapons, they suddenly and of their own choice returned to former avocations. They did not altogether cease from doing duty as soldiers. In that, to us, far-off time, white men did not possess the land, except so much of it as they won by force and held by strength and courage. The Indians were not yet conquered, and were crafty and in their way open foes. Men toiled with their muskets close at hand, not knowing when they might be called upon to use them. The Indians did not indeed venture within range of the fire from the blockhouses, built under the personal direction of Governor Cornwallis, but they could and did kill settlers who were but a short distance from the main settlement. Dartmouth was burned by the Indians and many killed. The history of Halifax at that time was that of every English-speaking settlement on this continent. The builders of cities and founders of English civilizations were forced to think less of the present than of the future, and above all were to bravely face present danger because of the possibility of a prosperous future. The advance guard of Anglo-Saxon men and women were of a sturdy, God-fearing sort.