

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. In respect to the effect of the Revolutionary War on the fortunes of physicians and surgeons, Sabine remarks:

"The physicians who adhered to the Crown were numerous, and the proportion of Whigs in the profession of medicine was probably less than in either that of law or theology. But unlike persons of the latter callings, most of the physicians remained in the country and quietly pursued their business. There seem to have been an understanding that though pulpits should be closed, and litigation suspended, the sick should not be deprived of their regular and freely chosen attendants. I have been surprised to find from verbal communications, and from various other sources, that while the 'Tory doctors' were as zealous and fearless in the expression of their sentiments as Tory ministers and Tory lawyers, their persons and their property were generally respected, in towns and villages where little or no regard was paid to the bodies and estates of gentlemen of the robe and surplice. Some, however, were less fortunate, and the dealings of the Sons of Liberty were occasionally harsh and exceedingly vexatious. A few of the Loyalist physicians were banished; others, and these chiefly who became surgeons in the army or provincial corps, settled in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, where they resumed practice."

I feel, sir, that this address bids fair to become too long, and there is still much ground to be covered. It seems, desirable, therefore, that I should present the chief remaining facts of this subject in a summary form, and for this purpose it appears best to select certain important points, and to group the facts around these dates.

1749-1790.

The first date I have chosen is 1790, as we have an estimate of the population for that year. Prior to that date the population fluctuated very considerably; afterwards it steadily increased. The estimated population of Nova Scotia, in 1790, was about 35,000. The number