

tended to St. John's, and laws made with respect to the payment of wages to the fisherman. These gave great offence to the West Country merchants, and attempts were made to set them aside which proved futile. Under his government, trade and population increased, although settlement was discouraged by him. He appears to have had a poor opinion of the island, and did his utmost to prevent cultivation and settlement. Palliser had some trouble with the garrisons of both St. John's and Placentia, and he ordered a number of houses which had been built about Fort William, to be hauled down. These houses had been looked upon by officers and soldiers as their private property, and their destruction gave great offence. Palliser, no doubt, corrected many abuses, and one of his chief acts was the limiting of places where liquor could be sold. Prowse's History quotes an old record showing that Mr. William Newman was ordered to pull down his house because it had been sold to him by "a soldier in payment of debts contracted for liquor and other unjustifiable dealings. Michael Gill's house was to remain only during his life-time; no liquor to be sold there. And Wood's house was also to remain for his life-time under the same conditions."

At this period the persons in greatest favour in St. John's appear to have been the Gills and the Keens, upon whom every kind of office was conferred. Michael Gill was Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court, Keeper of the Rolls, Public Auctioneer, Sole Sworn Broker, and Sole Notary Public. His brother Nicholas also held offices.

In 1769 the Honourable John Byron, then a Captain in the navy—the grand father of the celebrated poet, was sworn in as Governor of Newfound-

land, Labrador, Magdalen Islands and Anticosti. During his administration many changes occurred in and about St. John's. Several grants were given for property, notably to Lieut. Pringle, of the Royal Engineers, "that piece of land which lies north of a river running into Quidi Vidi from the Cascade to a foot bridge which crosses the said river and to the south of Dover's Hill." This is the piece of land which extends from the falls of Rennie's River to the King's Bridge. Robinson's Hill was then called Dover's Hill. This grant was executed on board H. M. S. Panther in 1771, and was in 1773 confirmed and recorded by Governor Shuldham.

In 1773 Governor Lord Shuldham was appointed and a more rigorous collection of taxes was enforced. As resistance to taxation by the Mother Country first commenced at Boston, so St. John's loudly protested against the introduction of further duties on the fishery which had always been almost free hence the reason why Governor Shuldham rigorously enforced the payment of duties.

The revolution in the American Colonies, which culminated in the outbreak of war in 1776, caused great uneasiness and distress in St. John's. An alarming apprehension of want prevailed and vessels were dispatched to Ireland for provisions. During this period many grants of land were obtained. Friendly Hall was granted to Alexander Dunn, Collector of Customs, and the Ellis's, Stripling's, Gill's, Keen's and Williams's estates were all obtained about this time. In 1773 Fort Townshend was first commenced, and a road from Fort William to it begun, also the King's Road, and the road to Signal Hill was laid out. Upon the breaking