

Island of St. John. The pantries were loaded with game and Christmas cheer, brought from the old land; while the kitchen tables groaned beneath the weight of the products of the new. The drawing and dining rooms, together with the halls, were festooned with wreaths of mistletoe and ivy, that was gathered by the mistress for the purpose of this occasion in her native land. The last packet from France had added to the cellars of the house a few casks of wine of the choicest vintage, which would tend to increase the enjoyment.

A few days before Christmas a big snow storm covered the ground with its white mantle, making the scene quite novel to the newly-arrived colonist; who had never seen such a fall of snow before. The Governor's guests arriving, completely filled his house, every sleeping apartment being occupied. On Christmas day, his Honour ordered his servants to keep his doors open to all the town's-people, meeting them all on a common footing. Great kegs of ale were quaffed that day at Government House; the best deer in the forests of England and the finest fish in the waters of the new land graced the profuse board. The poor of the town, though few in number, were not forgotten by Patterson in his hospitality: he ordered his servants to place his kitchens at their disposal, where their wants were cheerfully attended to; great platters, upon which were choice cuts of beef and other meats were conveyed to them, along with a cask of ale for their exclusive use. The Governor and his lady mingled freely with the citizens and their invited guests, Lady Patterson captivating them with her winsome ways and smiling face, but her husband's attentions towards the town-folks, were received by them with some suspicion. The festivities were brought to a close by a ball, which was a grand affair, all the military and civil officers attending. Rousing cheer and mirth marked the passing of the Day.

The bed-rooms being crowded, Martin Dwyre and his wife were forced to give up their rooms for the use of the guests. A small room, or in fact a large closet used for storing clothes was allotted to them, but Martin's wife, being somewhat chagrined at this shift, believing the apartment to be haunted, sought a night's lodging with a neighbouring friend.