

repair. Accordingly in June 1779 General McLean in Halifax prepared materials to fortify a fort on Penobscot river and a force of 640 men consisting of part of the 74th regiment and the 82nd left with a convoy of four men of war and landed at the mouth of the Penobscot and took possession and began to build a fort. The inhabitants feared that the country might be plundered and they, ill treated, but a proclamation reassured them and called on them to take the oath of allegiance to the king which about 500 did and others later. The next step was that an American fleet of thirty-seven sail of all sizes with 2600 troops laid siege to the place, scoured the country and did much damage. McLean and his men held out for three weeks expecting relief from Halifax but events moved quickly as on August 14th it was found that the Americans had abandoned some of their works and retreated up the Penobscot river as the king's fleet under Admiral Collier had opportunely arrived. The American ships were burned and the force retreated. Many now came in to the post and suffered much hardship for food and shelter and steps were now taken for carrying out the plan of the new province to be called New Ireland comprising the land between the Penobscot and Nova Scotia. Meanwhile complications had arisen as to the ownership of this land, the boundary line and when arrangements had been made in 1783 for the evacuation of the Loyalists they found themselves in great difficulty, obliged to leave their homes, they were warned off their proposed homes as part of it was claimed by Massachusetts. The St. Croix river had been named as the boundary line but three rivers so called empty into the bay and which was the correct one was the question. However many did settle in the disputed territory. In June 1783 Carleton wrote to the Governor of Nova Scotia that two ships had been sent to remove those who choose to go to his province. Meanwhile settlers came in and gradually the parishes of St. Andrew, St. George, St. Patrick, St. David, St. Croix, St. Stephen were formed along the water front, many of them Quakers. An Association of Quakers (Pennsyl-