

ACADIA

force lost to America by Longfellow's excursion northward—and it is a significant fact that Artemus Ward, and the rest of those who owned the Judge's influence, have all been Yankees. Possibly the Haliburton outbreak occurred just where it did as a protest of Nature against the gowned-and-banded decorum of a town that possessed King's College, the oldest university in the British Colonies, organized in 1789, and still in operation.

Halifax carries less of romance than the older towns. Halifax never had a French or an Indian magic name—although the Harbor was called Chebucto, which is Micmac for Mighty Haven. Halifax wasn't colonized by men pushed forward by the fiery soul of the explorer or the Christianizer, but was settled from England at the diplomatic suggestion of Boston, because, forsooth, it was a strategic spot and needed to be occupied by the English if it were not to be virtually handed over to the Acadian French. Lord Halifax, President of the Board of Trade and Plantations, selected between two and three thousand hand-picked colonists, and was, in turn, honored as godfather to the new town.

One spice of romance Halifax can claim, and her name was Madame de Saint Laurent, who might have been Queen of England if her friend, the Duke of Kent, had lived long enough, and if—alas—there had been a wedding-ring on her slender little hand. To be sure, Madame la Baronne is hardly as picturesque a figure as that "flashing senorita" Gregoria Reiez, who now lies in the Annapolis churchyard, but Halifax has the advantage of being the actual scene of the royal romance, and not merely the stage for its curious epilogue, as was Annapolis in the case of the one-time favorite of the Iron Duke.

It is to Old St. Paul's, however, that the searchers for the soul of Halifax had rather look. Built of oak so strong