

the opportunities for "a grate deal of plunder" no longer existed, is it at all a matter of surprise that in spite of all persuasion to the contrary, on Monday, the fifth of May, and on Tuesday, the 13th, seventy of the garrison openly left in one schooner and eighty in another, to return to their homes in New England?

This desertion no doubt left Col. Arbuthnot's garrison very weak, and about this time he appears to have given up the command of Fort Frederick, for Lieutenant Tong was in charge in July, 1760. No mention of the change in the command is made in the diary, although its compiler, according to his own story, did not leave the River St. John until the ninth of that month.

Lieutenant Tong, upon taking command, represented Fort Frederick as being greatly in need of repairs and alterations to make it defensible.

Whether Sergeant Burrell was one of those who left the fort of their own free will and accord, contrary to the expressed wish of their commanding officer, or whether he was duly transferred, the diary does not inform us. In the absence of specific information, it is only fair to give him the benefit of any doubt, and we may therefore assume that Lieut. Tong, after the arrival on "Monday ye 7th Capt. Mayners & Lieut. Demming with about 59 men for this fort in one sloupe" permitted the homesick soldier to return to "Grandfathers Humphres" at Hingham, where, he states, he found his family well as he had left them, twelve months previously.

Soldier's diaries, being a record of the daily events which nearly concern their own lives, are notably more truthful, as a rule, and are therefore of greater historical value than the possibly more scholarly and better written journals of their superior officers. So well is this fact recognized in certain countries that they are,