

intended to reach from the Penobscot River to the St. Croix, and to become the Canaan of the refugee loyalists. "Lying between New England and 'New Scotland' (Nova Scotia), it was to be christened New Ireland, perhaps," as Batchelder suggests in his illuminating study of the subject,\* "in delicate reference to Knox's own nationality." With manifest appropriateness, all of the officials of the proposed province were to be loyalists of high repute, if not in every case of experience in administrative matters: thus, Thomas Hutchinson was to be governor, Daniel Leonard, chief justice, Dr. John Caleff, one of the leading tories of Penobscot, clerk of the council, and the Reverend Henry Caner, formerly of King's Chapel, Boston, bishop. Although Hutchinson was named as one of the beneficiaries of the scheme, he wrote from London that it was a "most preposterous measure," and that but few people there thought well of it.†

However, as the measure already had the necessary official approval, it only remained to decide where the post should be located, and send out the expedition to establish it. These were important matters, to be sure, and the advice that proved conclusive in regard to them came, strangely enough, from a carpenter of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who, having arrived in England in the fall of 1777, had succeeded in ingratiating himself with Under-Secretary Knox. This carpenter of surprising career was John Nutting, who rendered valuable service in his trade to the British in Boston before the evacuation, and in Halifax afterward. In the latter place, especially, he had found opportunity to display his Yankee resourcefulness and ability as "Master Carpenter and Superintendent of Mechanics," and, despite the lack of skilled workmen, had performed the feat of erecting within a limited time "no less than ten large block-houses, each mounting sixteen guns." In England, by direct application to Lord North, he secured the appointment as overseer to the King's works at Landguard Fort in East Anglia. His

---

\*Batchelder, John Nutting, 74, 75.

†Hutchinson, *Diary and Letters*, II, 218, 290, 291.