

ing to a custom of New England, with the Assembly. But here, where a great proportion of the people have emigrated from New York and the provinces to the southward, it was thought most prudent to take an early advantage of their better habits and by strengthening the executive powers of the Government discountenance its leaning so much on the popular part of the Constitution."¹

It is possible that Governor Carleton thought that the Loyalists could be trusted to govern themselves, and since they outnumbered all others ten to one, there was little danger of their liberty becoming license. He accordingly granted a charter to St. John but reserved to the Crown the right of appointing the chief executive officers, the mayor, sheriff, recorder and clerk. "He was," however, "rapped over the knuckles" for it by the Secretary of State.

Things were different in Nova Scotia. The ruling class was in a minority. Governor Lawrence wrote of the members elected to the first Assembly in 1758 that "he hopes he shall not find in any of the representatives a disposition to embarrass or obstruct his Majesty's service or to dispute the Royal prerogative," though "too many of those chosen are such as have not been the most remarkable for promoting unity or obedience to H. M. government here, or indeed that have the most natural attachments to the provinces."² Yet in Nova Scotia greater opportunity was given to the people to express their opinions through the grand juries. The township and county officials were all appointed by the sessions from the nominees of the grand juries. The grand juries could by presentments censure public officials and ask for public works. In certain cases the justices of the sessions could not act except upon the presentment of the grand jury. Further town meetings were regularly held until 1879, though for a time after 1770, when suspicion was rife, they were suppressed.³ These and similar provisions are not found in New Brunswick. In only two Acts (and those were in the first ten years) was the grand jury required to make a presentment before the Court could act. One had regard to the altering of a road, the other to the preven-

¹ N.B. Hist. Collections, No. 6, p. 450.

² Murdoch, *History of Nova Scotia*, II. 353.

³ Ibid. II. 493.