

Preface

the tragical expulsion of the Acadians, are comparatively well known, but the hardly less tragical story of the migration of the Loyalists to Nova Scotia, and the subsequent changes in their eventful lives, is one that at last is coming to have its proper interest for the American mind.

When Howe's fleet reached Halifax in 1776, the little town founded by Cornwallis and his English emigrants only in 1749, was taxed beyond its utmost limits to provide food and the most temporary shelter for so large a crowd. When Shelburne and the adjacent country in the more southerly part of the Province was reached by the New York people in 1784, for these cultivated men and women, many of them from the most luxurious American homes, there were at first only tents and rude cabins for shelter, and the scantiest provision for the other needs of life. If the actual hardships of even a few of these Loyalist families were ever completely told, the narrative would lack few points of interest of the saddest romance.

Of many of the Nova Scotia Loyalists the names alone are sufficient to awaken deep interest in the whole story of the migration.