

Captain de Wellington Boots, his style of writing does him gross injustice. But it was the Age of Dandies, and he represents the military puppy of the period.

In 1830, he published in London, his "Letters from Nova Scotia," one of the most amusing books, unconsciously amusing, ever written. Howe scored it once in a lecture.

Moorsom notices the endemic "scarlet fever" which has always prevailed in Halifax, and some of its disastrous effects.

"Since the settlement of the town on the present site in the year 1749, its population has increased to nearly 14,000 souls. The garrison forms about one-eighth of this population, and of course materially influences the tone of society. A young officer in whose head conceit has not effected a lodgment, from the specimen of military life he may just have tasted in England, stands every chance of undergoing a regular investment, siege, and assault from this insidious enemy on joining his corps in Halifax. He finds himself at once raised to a level above that accorded to the scarlet cloth at home—his society generally sought, frequently courted, and himself esteemed as a personage whose opinions are regarded with no little degree of attention. The causes of this are various."

More than twenty years later, Lt. Col. Sleight of the 77th noted the same thing.*

"I must confess—and I do it with great regret, as one who has served for many years in the army,—that officers in the Colonies often assume the most abominable airs of self importance. Detached in out of the way localities, the red coat is a passport to any

*Pine Forests and Hackmatack Clearings; or Travel, Life, and Adventuring in the British American Provinces. London, 1853. Page 26.