

of the war. It appears from the diary which follows that the second spring fleet of 1783 consisted of fourteen vessels with a frigate as convoy, bringing probably some 2,000 Loyalists from New York and its vicinity. It is quite possible some of the vessels may have gone to Annapolis. At least two vessels in this fleet, the *Bridge-water* and the *Hope* had already visited St. John with the former fleet and must therefore have returned immediately to New York for the second voyage.

At the time of the arrival of the *Two Sisters*, June 29, only two log huts had been erected on the site of the future city, and town lots sold at from two to twenty dollars. It may be mentioned that Hannah, daughter of William and Sarah Frost, born July 30th, one month after the arrival of the *Two Sisters*, was the second female child born in St. John. The "little girl," (seven years of age) mentioned in the diary, was grandmother of the wife of the writer of this introduction.

THE DIARY.

May 25, 1783.—I left Lloyd's Neck with my family and went on board the *Two Sisters*, commanded by Capt. Brown, for a voyage to Nova Scotia with the rest of the Loyalist sufferers. This evening the captain drank tea with us. He appears to be a very clever gentleman. We expect to sail as soon as the wind shall favor. We have very fair accommodation in the cabin, although it contains six families, besides our own. There are two hundred and fifty passengers on board.

Monday, May 26.—Nothing happens worth mentioning. We lie at anchor in Oyster Bay the whole day, not having got all our passengers on board.

Tuesday, May 27.—At 8 o'clock we weighed anchor at Oyster Bay, with a fair wind, for New York. Half after eleven, we are brought to by the guard ship at City Island. Our captain was very angry that they should bring him to, but they did not detain us long. We went on with a fair breeze through Hell Gate; but as we got through, the wind and tide headed us, and we had like to have gone ashore, which put us all in a great surprise. They tried twice to go on, but at length were obliged to anchor at the mouth of Harlem Creek, where we lay that night.

Wednesday, May 28.—We weighed anchor at Harlem Creek at a quarter after six in the morning, with a fair breeze, but the tide being low we struck a rock. We soon got off, but in a few minutes struck again. At half past seven we got off and went clear, and at ten we anchored at the lower end of the City of New York, the

tide not serving to go round into the North River as we had intended. An hour later I went on shore in Capt. Judson's whale boat and went to Mrs. MacKee's, and from there Mrs. Raymond and I went to Mr. Partlow's, where we dined and spent the afternoon. We met Major Hubble there, who formerly commanded the Loyalists at Lloyd's Neck. At evening we returned on board ship, where I drank tea and spent the evening with my little agreeable family.

Thursday, May 29.—This afternoon my husband went on shore with my little son, nearly nine years old. I long to have them come on board again to hear what observations the child will make, for for he has not been in town for some years now. *Later*—He has come on board again. He pleases me very much with his discourse about what he has seen.

Friday, May 30.—Went on shore and spent the day at Mrs. Partlow's. Mrs. Mussels, Mrs. Scofield and Miss Lucretia Bates came there towards evening and gave an account of my parents' welfare and my friends in the country. I am afraid I shall not hear from them again before I leave New York. I grow tired, so I think to quit for the night.

Saturday, May 31.—I rose early, having spent the night at Mr. Partlow's; waited some time for breakfast and then went out amongst the shops to trade. In the evening came on board ship again with my husband and children.

Monday, June 2nd.—We are still lying at anchor in the North River, not having