

THE STORY OF ST. JOHN

(Continued from page 6.)

mainly strength and virtues and but for the ever present evil of "profiteering" inherited by the race from the days of Cain and Abel, there would have been one of the appalling crimes and tragedies recorded in the annals of Acadia.

First English Settlers at St. John.

IN the year 1762 arrived the pioneer New England settlers. Messrs. Simonds, Peabody, Quinton, Leavitt and others, a party of about twenty persons in all, and we may here note that to James, son of Hugh Quinton, appertains the distinction of being the first English child whose birth is recorded at St. John. He was born in the barracks at Fort Frederick, Aug. 28th, 1762, the very day on which the party arrived. The barracks, then unoccupied, furnished a shelter for Hugh Quinton, his wife and infant and several others, among the number, Miss Hannah Peabody, afterwards the wife of James Simonds.

MESSRS. SIMONDS and the rest of the company, proceeded to the site of the old French fort, at Portland Point, where they erected a house to accommodate the whole party, the fame of which was brought in their vessel from Newburyport. To this house the Quintons and others at Fort Frederick soon after removed.

CAPTAIN BRUCE's map shows the only cleared spots about the harbor at this time to have been at and near Fort Frederick and the ruins of the French fort at Portland Point.

THE Highland regiment having been withdrawn from Fort Frederick, a company of the Royal Fencible Americans, under Captain Studholm was sent to garrison the post.

THE settlers at St. John were much alarmed in the year 1765 by the conduct of the Indians who threatened to declare war against all the English settlements on the ground that the whites had interfered with their rights by killing moose, beavers, and other wild animals beyond the limits of their farms and improvements. Sentries were doubled at Fort Frederick and precautions taken against surprise. Through the instrumentality of Governor Montague Wilmot, the difficulty was satisfactorily adjusted and hostilities averted.

FORT FREDERICK was under the command of Ensign Jeremiah Meers in 1766, but two years later we find James Simonds writing to his partners in Newburyport: "The troops are withdrawn from all the outposts in the province and sent to Boston to quell the mob. The charge of Fort Frederick is committed to me which I accepted to prevent another person being appointed who would be a trader. I don't know but I must reside in the garrison, but the privileges of the fisheries on that side of the river and the use of the King's boats, will be more than an equivalent for that inconvenience."

THE fort and barracks remained in charge of James Simonds till 1774, when a corporal and six privates were installed as the garrison. The Revolutionary War was now at hand, and the folly of placing so ridiculously small a garrison at so important a post as the mouth of the St. John was soon apparent.

IN August, 1775, a party from Machias, commanded by one, Stephen Smith, came in an armed sloop of four guns to the harbor of St. John, made the small party in Fort Frederick prisoners, plundered them of everything and then burned both fort and barracks. At the same time they captured a brig of 120 tons laden with oxen, sheep, swine, poultry and other supplies procured from Margerville and intended for the British army in Boston.

THIS was but a commencement of a series of expeditions, all of which emanated from the American post at Machias, and which for several years involved the loyal settlers at the mouth of the St. John in the greatest distress. This series of piratical attacks included the visit of an armed brig in the spring of 1776, the expedition of Col. Jonathan Eddy, later in the same year and the visit of a "rebel privateer" the following spring. This last visitor proved particularly inimical to the prospects of our little colony. The inhabitants were stripped of nearly all of their possessions. From James White's store alone the enemy carried off 21 boat loads of merchandise. The settlers fled to the woods where they remained till the plunderers had departed, when William Hazen, accompanied by two Indians, crossed the Bay in a canoe to represent the condition of things to the Nova Scotia government. The war sloop Vulture came over from Annapolis with Col. Gould and a party of men, but beyond the efforts made to secure the friendship of the St. John river Indians, they did little for the protection of the settlers.

IMMEDIATELY after the departure of Col. Gould and the Vulture, the "rebel" colonel John Allan set out for Machias, with a party of soldiers and Indians in four whale boats and about a dozen canoes. They landed at a place called "Mechogonish" near the Bay Shore, whence a party consisting of two officers and 16 men, accompanied by an Indian with his birch canoe, proceeded across the neck of land to the place where Randolph and Baker's Mill now stands. Thence by means of the Indian's canoe they crossed to the east side of the river, and coming stealthily through the woods, surprised and captured James Simonds and William Hazen at Portland Point. Allan, with a few followers proceeded up the river to the Indian village at Aukpaque about six miles above Frederick, leaving Captain West and Lieut. Scott at the head of a party of sixty men at the mouth of the St. John. The prisoners Simonds and Hazen were also taken up the river. Allan remained about a month at Aukpaque, endeavouring by means of presents and specious arguments to secure the services of the Indians for the Americans in the war. This he found no easy task as the Indians had already exchanged friendly pledges with Colonel Gould the British agent.

ALLAN's instructions to Captain West were "to range the woods from Hazen's (Portland Pt.) across the river above the falls round to the Old Fort." He was to offer strenuous resistance in case any attempt was made by the British to go up the river.

A City Founded in a Day.

THE late Mr. D. Russell Jack, whose life was largely devoted to historical research, of great value to future students, has left the following memorial of the first landing of the Loyalists: "It was a bright sunny morning, the 19th of May, 1783. All about the mouth of the River St. John, shrubs, stunted trees, land and at low tide wide expanses of mud flats, with here and there a fish weir, greet the vision. Amid the dark foliage of the evergreen, a narrow patch of clearing at wide intervals, marks the location of the lonely settler. At the head of the harbor the little settlement of White and Simonds is to be seen. On the point opposite

Navy Island are visible the remains of Fort Frederick, which, had been abandoned by the British in 1768; the buildings of which as well as the tiny vessel which James Simonds was then building, were burned by the rebels in 1775.

IN the distance we see a thin column of smoke from the lime kiln which Simonds is operating. A little schooner in charge of the king's pilot comes up the harbor dips her flag to the king's colors at Fort Howe and as the salute is returned, drops anchor near Navy Island. From her deck scores of wondering eyes look out upon the strange land which is to be their home. Other vessels follow in her wake. One by one, they too, drop anchor and furl their sails, each like a sea gull settling itself down upon the bosom of the water after a long flight.

LAST of all a frigate which has been laying to in the offing, comes up the harbor and also drops anchor. The sun sinks in the west, the flags flutter down from the mast-heads, and all is quiet. Silently the white fog drifts up the bay, covering the land and sea in its cool chilling embrace. A few anxious faces appear from time to time at the taffrail of one or other of the vessels, take a swift glance into the impenetrable mist and disappear. For a week the fog continues, with only an occasional lifting not enough, however, to enable the newcomers to commence any active work. Gloom prevails amid the ship's companies, although occasionally a cheery note of an old camp fire song betokens one a little less down hearted than his fellows.

IT is now Sunday morning, the 18th of May. The fog lifts. The bright sun sheds his life giving rays upon land and sea. There are 20 vessels in the harbor. James White takes his boy by the hand, and starting from his log house at the head of the harbor follows a winding path along the steep cliff, until he reaches a high rocky promontory, the top of which would be 10 feet or more above the present clock of the old Sheffield House.

SEATING themselves upon a stone they gaze with eager eyes upon the scene below them. On board each of the vessels in the harbor unusual activity prevails. From every vessel, in small boats, men of every age, of strong arm, of stout heart and of earnest purpose, are coming to the shore. Some of them come to the Upper Cove, beneath our feet, but the greater number make for the Lower Cove, which appears to offer the more attractive landing place. With them are women and children, the youngest already christened. Walter Tisdale, born since the vessel passed Sandy Hook. As the mother steps over the side she bestows a grateful glance upon the gallant Captain Walker, who had given up his stateroom for her accommodation and for whom she had named her boy.

FROM another vessel steps Adino Paddock, the Boston coach builder, father of the renowned Dr. Paddock. He has left behind him a fine business, a stately home and a comfortable fortune. Before the war he had presented to the City of Boston, the whole of the present fine Common, to be used in perpetuity as such, today worth millions of dollars, one of the features which has made Boston what it is, a city of distinction. His grateful townsmen of Boston because he was loyal to his sovereign, have driven him from the country, and not content with his magnificent gift, have seized all else that he owns.

AMONG the motley gathering we observe the old continental dress and the well worn flint musket which the long war had taught them to handle. We hear the sound of the fife and drum. These men have come from many a battlefield, from many a post of duty and from many a weary bivouac. They have left behind them their brooms, their commercial enterprises, their comfortable homes, their churches and schools and colleges and the tombs of their ancestors. They are exiles and their homes and their lands and all that they own have been confiscated. What has brought these homeless ones hither. It was because they loved the brotherhood, they feared God and they honored the King.

MR. WHITE and his boy, James, hastened down to the beach, and the father gives a glad welcome to the new comers as they step ashore. Guilford Studholm, who is in charge of Fort Howe, is also at hand to greet them. He has orders from the British Government to do what he can to aid these homeless ones, their first act when all have landed, is to hold a thanksgiving service, and here in the open, the first service took place, Methodist, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, New Lights, Anglicans, Quakers, all uniting in thanks to Him who is the Father of all, in that he has delivered them from the perils of the deep, and brought them at last to dwell in peace within the borders of a new land. No doubt the gathering closed with the words of the Doxology.

HERE, we have an experience unique in the history of the world. The City founded in a day. Commenced with prayer and thanksgiving by men who were loyal to King and Empire, and whose influence in this Canada of ours will last let us hope, until time shall be no more. The service ended, all is activity again, tents are pitched, fires lighted, and hurried preparations made for the night. Some seek shelter within the palisades of the abandoned Fort Frederick opposite Navy Island, for the wily Indian has been noticed furtively surveying the strange scene from his portage at the Falls. Some men less thoughtful of self than the women and children, many of whom are the widows and orphans of men who have died for the cause, do what they can to aid them, and they lay themselves down to a dreamless sleep, with heads uncovered save by the canopy of Heaven.

HERE at the mouth of the river St. John they laid out a town which they called Parr town after John Parr, the Governor of Nova Scotia, which province then included the territory now known as New Brunswick. This band of emigrants were those who refused to take part against Great Britain in the War of the Rebellion as they always styled it. Hence they came to this part of the continent, then almost a trackless wilderness, many of them from homes of luxury and affluence to endure the hardships of a pioneer life, to make a new beginning and to assist in building up and maintaining, they and their seed after them, the greatest empire that the world has ever seen. After the arrival of the Loyalists, the general improvement of the country commenced with extraordinary vigor. The Government offered every protection and assistance to the new comers. They provided lumber for new homes, tools for building and agricultural work and also gave full rations for one year, two-thirds for the second year and one-third for the third year after their arrival. In some instances this general assistance was continued for an even longer period. The first care of the Loyalists was to provide shelter.

After landing they lived in tents for which temporary sheds of boards were substituted as quickly as practicable, followed by dwellings of a more substantial character. Most of the early dwellings were built of logs and the first frame building erected was for a place of worship, and was 28x36 feet in size. It was also used for meetings of the Common Council and the Courts until the year 1798.

THE Government issued thousands of free grants to the Loyalists and the soldiers of the various regiments that fought in the War of the Rebellion in the green forests up the river, St. John and its tributaries, but on the Miramichi and other rivers; the stories of the struggles and hardships endured by these pioneer settlers, if written would make a grand epic. To give an idea of their settlement the following is a partial table of their location: Maryland Loyalists, Parish of St. Marys, York. New Jersey Volunteers, on the Keswick Stream, York.

Royal Guides and Pioneers, at Bright and Queensbury, York.

King's American Dragoons, Parish of Prince William, York.

Queen's Rangers, Parish of Queensbury, York.

King's American Regt., Parish of Canterbury, York.

Pennsylvania Loyalists, Parish of Southampton, York.

DeLancey's 1st Battalion, Parish of Woodstock, Carleton.

DeLancey's 2nd Battalion, Parish of Northampton, Carleton.

The Battle at the Falls.

THE Loyalists managed to apprise the Halifax authorities of their situation and a joint force of regulars and militia from Halifax and Fort Cumberland under Bridge Major Studholm of the Royal Fencibles, and Colonel Franklin arrived at St. John June 30th at which time His Majesty's ships, Mermaid and Ambuscade with the sloops, Vulture and Hope, lay off the harbor. The English landed about 120 men "at one Peabody's at Mahogany Bay." They marched about two miles and a half through the woods, met the enemy near the Falls, and after a sharp skirmish, in which several men were killed, put them to flight. The Americans retired with such precipitation that by one o'clock the same day they had reached a point twenty-five miles up river.

CAPTAIN West and his party ascended the Orcomoto River, crossed to the head water of the Magaguadavic, which they descended to the Passamaquoddy Bay, and after a rough experience reached Machias. Allan himself retired up the river to the Indian village near the mouth of the Meductic, following the old Indian route via Chepumatook Lakes, St. Croix River, and Schoodic Lakes to the head waters of the Machias. In his flight he was accompanied by no less than 128 Indian canoes carrying a party of about 480 Indians, men, women and children. It is a difficult matter to determine the motives that controlled the Indians in this spirited with a wholesome dread of British vengeance—a natural consequence of their double dealing, since they seem with equal readiness to have exchanged pledges with either party with greatest equanimity. It is, however, undeniable that the efforts of Allan had at this time secured the good will of the Indians and their sharing his fight was probably as much a matter of inclination as of necessity. The party had a sorry time of it, the heat of the summer, abundance of mosquitoes and lowness of the streams making the passage to Machias an exceedingly arduous one.

THE severe experience of the little colony at the mouth of the River St. John rendered it necessary to provide for their future protection. Accordingly in November, 1777, a party of soldiers arrived in a transport ship from Halifax under the convoy of a sloop of war which remained in the harbor for the protection of the garrison till the following spring.

The Loyalist Idea.

THE late Rev. D. D. Currie, in an address in 1862, developed the motives and ideals of the Loyalists who, abandoned their country and sought to make new homes for themselves in a northern wilderness. The sentiment of personal loyalty to the King and throne was much stronger in our ancestors than it is today. With the present generation it is not so much the person, as the principle the person stands for, that stirs the national heart. Mr. Currie's argument was: In the Spring of 1783 a fleet of 20 vessels sailed from New York, carrying upwards of 3,000 passengers. These passengers were Loyalists, who had adhered to the British Crown during the war of the American Revolution. They were seeking a new home on British soil and under the jurisdiction of the British Government. The foremost vessel of that fleet dropped anchor in the harbor of St. John on the 10th of May; within a few days the other vessels of the fleet arrived. On Sunday 18th, most of them landed at that part of the Upper Cove which is now the Market Slip. More Loyalists came during the summer and 1,200 more in October of the same year. Loyalists also went at the same time to Nova Scotia, the Canadas and England. About 30,000 Loyalists came altogether to this new country which was then a wilderness. Perhaps as many more sought refuge in other lands.

THE coming of those Loyalists should ever be a memorable event in this Province. The story of their allegiance to God and their loyalty to the King should never be forgotten. It is well that we should not lose sight of their example. They were men of strong convictions. They had an idea that possessed their souls. That idea included a trinity of parts which in their minds became blended into a vital unity. It included allegiance to the Brotherhood, to God and to the King. They accepted the inspired counsel of King Solomon, who said: "My son, fear thou the Lord and the King and meddle not with them that are given to change." That was the Loyalist idea. Ideas are more powerful than armies, ideas rule the world. The Loyalists were loyal to their God, to themselves and to the King. Loyalty means fidelity to the Constitution and of course to the Sovereign powers representing it.

HE alluded to the coming of the Pilgrim fathers to this continent in 1620, the beginning of the Anglo Saxon history in the Western hemisphere. There the Loyalist idea in America had its birth. In the agreement the Pilgrims signed in the cabin of the Mayflower is a declaration of loyalty to the King of England. In the Loyalists of 1783 we have the legitimate successors of the Pil-

grim Fathers. The former suffered in the confiscation of their property and their hardships in the wilderness, and laid the foundations of those advantages which we are reaping today. Besides the Pilgrim Fathers, there were the Puritans that settled at Massachusetts Bay, about the year 1630. Both Pilgrims and Puritans were seeking larger liberty in church and state; both believed in the oracles of God. There were, however, great differences between them, to which he referred, the chief being that the Pilgrims were tolerant, the Puritans intolerant; the former were loyal, the latter were disloyal from the beginning. The landing of the Pilgrim Fathers is celebrated by a commemoration day, the landing of the Puritans is not celebrated at all. The great quality of the Pilgrim Fathers was their thirst for truth and their faith in it.

THE Declaration of Independence of 1776 was the crystallization of the Loyalist idea. The long struggle of the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers to preserve the connection between the Mother Country and the colonies was the development of the Loyalist idea. He referred to the worthy part acted by the colonists in the French War, which ended with the conquest of Canada in 1760. Then followed the errors of the English Ministry, and the attempt to impose taxation on the colonies without representation. The science of Government was not thoroughly understood by the kings and cabinets of that day. There were no precedents to guide the country as to the proper treatment of colonies. Civil society has two problems to solve, personal liberty and constitutional order. Sometimes it seems difficult to reconcile these two forces.

Martello Tower.

A venerable and majestic stone structure, was commenced in 1800. In 1813 it received its armament, two twenty-five pounders and four forty-eight pounders. A wooden blockhouse was built near it to hold forty men. The place was called Fort Drummond. Another blockhouse was built on the eastern side of the harbor.

ACADIA

FRANCE possessed in Acadia two great sources of strength. The first was the Missionaries. Their spiritual zeal was colored by intense patriotism. The fleur de lis was an accompaniment of the Cross. Father Thury of Penobscot (1670-80), who went with the Indians on their raiding expeditions and La Loutre at Beauséjour (1740-55), were outstanding priests; the others were but modifications of them. The writer has examined hundreds of memorials and letters of this period and he has not seen one that inculcates "Peace and Good Will," though these men were almost without exception, laborious and self sacrificing, who endured untold hardships and privations in their sacred calling. When, however, the issues were national, the Christian virtues were as absent from them as from the New England divines who bestowed their blessings and invoked divine aid on the expeditions departing in raids on French and Indians.

THE second, was the Malecite and Micmac Indians. The devotion of them to the French arose from two causes—first the teaching of the Missionaries and next their inter-marriage. Such unions bound them to the French with links of steel, which were never broken. Time and again treaties of peace were made with the English, but they were made to be broken. Probably there was no general infusion of Indian blood in the Acadian race, but whether such has been beneficial or not, is questionable. It is a matter of observation amongst travellers that a union of two races does not tend towards improvement. It is certain that original French discoverers, voyagers and colonizers were men of remarkable virility and daring, rejoicing in adventure. Along the Gaspé shores, where the Indian blood in predominant, there comes none of the old time French fighting qualities.

UP to 1710, the French held control of Acadia, undisputed except for the occasional irruption of some expedition from New England. The capture of Port Royal by a Massachusetts force under Nicholson that year, scarcely changed the pre-eminence of the French; for Port Royal was an isolated post, always threatened by parties of Acadians or Indians who traversed the country unopposed and even within gun shot of the fort, rendered the lives of the garrison precarious.

THE French government at this time had large schemes in hand; they were none the less than controlling the waters of the St. Lawrence and North Atlantic, by which the security of the North American colonies would be guaranteed, control of the fisheries maintained and the trade of a vast region abounding in natural resources be monopolized. Whereupon, rose the great fortress of Louisbourg, created at an almost incredible cost, was a walled city, two miles in circuit, surrounded by a stone rampart, thirty feet high, protected by a ditch eighty feet wide and armed with six bastions and three batteries, mounting more than 130 guns.

THIS move was diametrically opposed to the aims and ambitions of New Englanders. The fish and pelt trade of Acadia was their own preserve. When their trading and fishing vessels were seized by privateers issuing from Louisbourg, their wrath was kindled. Shirley, the Governor of Massachusetts, conceived the idea of raising a volunteer force to capture it. It was a hair-brained proposition and would not have been entertained by the General Court; but the traders and fishermen of the ports aroused, spurred the Court into action and the call to arms went forth (1745.) The farms of New England, the workshops and shipyards furnished about as unpromising a body of men to all appearances, as Falstaff's army, but their brains and determination compensated for all defects of discipline. They were commanded by a Militia Colonel, William Pettehell, who was a trader at Kittery and in later years was known as General Sir William Pettehell. He is said never before to have fired a gun except to shoot a rabbit. This force, four thousand strong captured Louisbourg in forty-nine days and despatched the prisoners—four thousand persons to France. The story is worth telling a hundred times, even in this day of "thrills"—as an evidence of the power of a force of civilians to overcome difficulties of a most redoubtable character, against professional skill and discipline.

NOW comes the contre-temps of this great victory for New England. Three years later (1748), the Crowns of England and France made a treaty of peace (Aix-la-Chapelle), and the British Government in a moment of incredible folly consented to restore Louisbourg to France—on the (Continued on page ten.)