

Before the close of the year, after the evacuation of New York, 25th November, 1783, 2000 more Loyalists arrived at Halifax and 400 Negroes from New York. Many of these were slaves, and preferred following their owners to Nova Scotia; they proved a curse to the province for generations. Parr and the Secretary Bulkeley* worked night and day, without rest, in the endeavour to meet the emergency. At this day we cannot form the faintest idea of the magnitude of the task of caring for so many helpless people, almost paralysed by despair at their changed circumstances in life and ruined prospects; but Parr and Bulkeley worked well in the completion of the enormous task which circumstances had imposed upon them in sheltering and feeding, the great multitude congregated at Halifax and Shelburne, at the close of 1783. Codfish, molasses and hard biscuit, were the principal items, only a very limited supply of meat could be obtained. Meal and molasses sustained the negroes. Codfish exported to Jamaica, by our merchants, had to be sent for and bought back to sustain life in the people but in spite of all this trouble, Halifax quietly progressed. Many houses were erected on the principal streets, replacing the old shack: which had survived the early days of the settlement, the rotten material of the torn down hovels being eagerly seized by the poor people without shelter of any kind, and re-erected on the side of the Citadel Hill. There was a large amount of money sent out from England to help the refugees. Many artisans were among the new-comers. There was a great fleet in the harbour, and large garrison of troops to be fed and clothed. Great consignments of all kinds of goods were constantly arriving and although, there was much suffering and disease, Parr writes to England, that the merchants had acquired large means, although some of them had extorted as much as £3. 10s. for a hundred weight of flour.

In the autumn of 1783, Edward Fanning arrived from London and was sworn in Lieutenant-Governor of the province, to aid

*See Collections of N. S. H. S. XII *Richard Bulkely*, by James S. Macdonald.