

even of a wooden clock. But the poor "goney," as Sam Slick calls him, was cajoled, teased, persuaded into buying. Often he rued his bargain when too late. Many of the clocks may have been and probably were defective. At least we know that the clock peddlers often had difficulty in collecting their money and tried to enforce their contracts by actions in the Courts. One case came before Judge Haliburton himself, and in this he read the plaintiff a severe lecture on the impropriety of selling the poor "bluenoses" clocks which would not keep time.

A great deal has been said about Haliburton using the Yankee dialect. This again was the most natural thing in the world. A few words on the early history of Nova Scotia will make this plain. Prior to 1755 practically all the residents of Nova Scotia, except a few at Halifax, and the Lunenburg settlers, were Acadian-French. After the Expulsion in that year settlers came in from Connecticut and Rhode Island, and to a lesser degree from Massachusetts, and occupied the vacant lands. From 1759 to 1765 this immigration went on, until those parts of the Counties of Annapolis, Kings, Hants, Cumberland and Colchester fronting on Minas Basin and the Bay of Fundy, and the rivers tributary, were colonized, and there were also settlements at Yarmouth, Liverpool and elsewhere. These were the "Pre-Loyalist" settlers or "Bluenoses." Haliburton says they were called by that nickname given to them by the Americans on account of "a potato which they produce in great perfection and boast to be the best in the world." (I remember the potato to which he refers. It was called the "Early Blue" and my grandfather was still growing it when I was a small boy.) But whether he only intended this as a joke or was misinformed, the statement is not correct. "Blue-nose" was a derisive appellation, given by the Loyalists who filtered in after the Revolutionary War, to the old settlers who had come before the war and who were not, I am afraid, entirely free from the Anti-British feeling which permeated the revolting colonies.

These "Old Settlers" as many of the writings of the latter part of the 18th Century term them, were middle class farmers, and naturally as thorough Yankees as those who remained in the Thirteen Colonies. As one of the Governors of Nova Scotia termed them, they were "Bigoted Dissenters, Great Levellers, and the best men in the Province because the most industrious." They naturally spoke, and to some extent still speak, the New England dialect, the rough homespun English of the Puritans. Deeply religious in the old Puritan Congregationalist way, yet they loved a good story, well told, and could enjoy it even if, as sometimes happened, it had a slightly racy flavor.

Haliburton, himself, belonged to this Pre-Loyalist immigration. His grandfather, William Haliburton, came from Scituate, Mass., in 1760 and settled at Douglas in Newport Township, Hants County. His father, a lawyer and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, William H. O. Haliburton, was born in Nova Scotia in 1767. Haliburton himself was born at Windsor in 1796 and here he grew up, receiving his education at the High School and at King's College in that city. Besides the descendants of the Pre-Loyalist settlers on the Windsor side of the Avon River, on the other side lay Falmouth peopled by farmers from Rhode Island. After his admission to the Bar he practised at Annapolis from 1821 to 1829. Annapolis itself had been settled by settlers from Massachusetts in 1760. Granville, the adjoining township, was colonized about the same time by settlers principally from Massachusetts, with a few from New Hampshire. In King's County, lying between Annapolis and Hants, the Townships of Horton and Cornwallis were peopled from Connecticut. Thus both his boyhood, his manhood as a lawyer, and a great part of his lifetime as Judge, were spent among as "true blue" Yankees as any in the New England States. It was the common

speech, the vernacular of these people that he wove into his account of Sam Slick. It was in great part to these people that his letters were originally directed, and if in doing so he used the talk of the plain people of New England it was because the greater part of his original audience was from a philological and racial point of view, a part of New England itself. If anyone will take the trouble to compare Lowell's "Biglow Papers" with "Sam Slick" he will see how true this is.

Thus we have, first, the chief character well known to the people of Nova Scotia, and the language of the people themselves. Haliburton put the two together and added the stories which the people loved and Sam Slick came into being. The sheer Yankeeism of these people may be exemplified by the quotation of some of the homely similes used by Haliburton, which were and are yet the common verbal currency of the descendants of the Pre-Loyalists in Nova Scotia. Let me quote a few:

"He's a regular suck-egg, a disgrace to his country.

"Says he, It fairly draws tears from me, and his weak eye took to letting off water like Statiee."

"It holds fast to all it gets, like grim death to a dead nigger."

"Felt kind of grigged at missin' my shot."

"It makes me so kinder wamblecropt, when I think of it."

(Continued on Page 12)

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