

side of the Racquette Brook at its mouth adjoining the present town of Digby, for trafficking with the Indians in furs and other articles.

Christopher Prince had, it is sad, among his early customers, James Simonds and his neighbors over the Bay. So important, inviting, and lucrative had the fishery business become in 1766, that Joseph Webber, Prince's master mariner, with his family and others from Annapolis river, determined to establish themselves at Digby, or as the place was then called, Conway. There had formerly been a large and flourishing Indian village here, which had been ruthlessly destroyed some years previously by Major Samuel Rogers and his celebrated "Rangers." About the time Conway, now Digby, was settled by Webber and others, some fishermen from the older colonies settled on Brier Island and the south-eastern side of St. Mary's Bay while two of the same class removed from Granville to Sandy Cove, in order that they might more conveniently and successfully prosecute their profitable avocation. Boston and the West Indies were the chief markets till the American Revolution, and as far as possible, throughout its progress. In consequence of the coming of the Loyalists at the close of the war the settlement of Conway was speedily transformed into the prosperous town of Digby, while the environs of Portland Point across the bay became the large and opulent city of St. John.

The infantile commerce heretofore carried on by the little settlements advanced by leaps and bounds. New branches of trade presented themselves which were prosecuted with much activity. Two sailing vessels or "Packets" were placed on the route between St. John and Digby shortly after the arrival of the Loyalists. In the year 1784, the "Sally"—one of the