

of settlers, and carried off several prisoners. The inhabitants fearing an attack, had cut down the spruce trees, around their settlement, which instead of a protection, as was intended, served as a cover for the enemy. Captain Clapham, and his company of rangers, were stationed at Block house hill, and it is said, remained in his block house, firing from the loop holes, during the whole affair. The light of the torches, and the discharge of musketry, alarmed the inhabitants of Halifax, some of whom, put off to their assistance, but did not arrive in any force, till after the Indians had retired. The night was calm, and the cries of the settlers, and whoops of the Indians, were distinctly heard on the western side of the harbor. On the following morning, several bodies were brought over—the Indians having carried off the scalps. Mr. Pyke, father of the late John George Pyke, Esq., lost his life on this occasion. Those who fled to the woods were all taken prisoners but one.*

“There was a guard house, and small military post, at Dartmouth, from the first settlement, and a gun mounted on the point near the saw mill, (in the cove) in 1750. The Transports, which had been housed over during winter, for the accommodation of settlers, were anchored in the cove, under the cover of this gun, and the ice kept broken around them, to prevent the approach of the Indians.”*

On the occasion mentioned in the above extract, a Mr. Wisdom who was engaged on the Dartmouth side, in procuring house frames, was crossing to Halifax for provisions, a short time before day, and hearing the firing, he returned to his camp, at the place now known as Creighton's Cove. Having supplied himself and his assistants with muskets, they immediately hastened to the scene of conflict, leaving in charge a colored servant man. On their return, they found that during their absence the camp had been visited by Indians—who had taken every thing,—the servant included. The latter was carried by them, to Prince Edward Island, but was subsequently ransomed, by his master. A Mr. Hall, who was pursued by the Indians, was scalped, near what is now the property of the Hon. J. W. Johnston—and strange to say, he recovered, and afterwards went home to England.

For more than thirty years, after the enactment of these sad scenes, no change of much importance, occurred in the condition of the settlement, until in the year 1784, a number of families belonging to the Society of Friends, were induced to remove from Nantucket to Dartmouth, for the purpose of engaging in the Whale fishery. A fresh start was now to be made, and in order that these new inhabitants might be enabled to commence fairly, a considerable sum of money was obtained, to assist in the erection of suitable accommodations. The operations of the fishermen, were principally confined to the neighbourhood of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where black whales were at that time, found in abundance. Sperm whales, were obtained by extending the voyages farther south. At this period, an establishment was kept on foot, for the manufacture of Spermaceti. Only eight years, however, elapsed, before a severe blow was given to the prosperity of the township, partly by

* From an interesting little work on the settlement of Halifax, by T. B. Aiken, Esq.