

THE DIARY OF SARAH FROST.

WRITTEN ON BOARD THE SHIP "TWO SISTERS" DURING HER VOYAGE
TO SAINT JOHN'S RIVER, NOVA SCOTIA, IN THE
SPRING OF A. D. 1783.

INTRODUCTORY.

The narrative of Walter Bates has supplied us with an accurate and reliable account of the departure from New York and subsequent arrival at St. John of the first fleet of A. D. 1783.

The following diary will be found to throw additional light upon the nature of the voyage with all its accompanying discomforts. It will also enable the reader in some measure to realize the trials experienced by the Loyalists in parting with near relatives and life-long friends, and give some idea of their first impressions on landing upon our rugged shores.

Sarah (Scotfield) Frost and her husband were natives of Stamford, Connecticut, and relatives of Walter Bates. After their settlement on the banks of the Kennebecasis, at what is now Lower Norton, they manifested much interest in the welfare of the church at Kingston until the erection of a church more conveniently situated. The name of William Frost occurs as a member of the second vestry, elected at Kingston on Easter Monday, 1785.

During the closing years of the Revolution a systematic guerrilla warfare prevailed between the Loyalists on Long Island and the "rebels" of Connecticut. It is quite amusing to read the widely differing estimates entertained by the opposing parties regarding the merits of certain individuals and their actions. For example, DeLancey's corps of Loyalists was heartily commended by the commander-in-chief of the British forces, who stated it "had behaved with credit, reputation, honour and courage." The "patriots" of Stamford, on the other hand, strongly protested against allowing any "unprincipled wretches who belonged to the most infamous banditti, called DeLancey's corps," to return to their homes in Connecticut.

During the war William Frost made himself exceedingly obnoxious to many of the citizens of Stamford, by an exploit which must now be briefly described: Having been driven from home, on account of his sympathy with the cause of the mother country, Mr. Frost found an asylum at Lloyd's Neck, Long Island. Thence, on the night of July 21st, 1781, he proceeded at the head of an armed party, crossed the Sound in seven boats, and with his party lay stealthily secreted in the vicinity of Stamford until the following afternoon, when they surprised and captured Rev. Dr. Mather and his entire congregation. The doctor having, in the earlier stages of the quarrel between Great Britain and her colonies, been a pronounced advocate of rebellion, was marched off in company with forty-eight of his townsmen to the boats in waiting, whence they were carried as prisoners to Lloyd's Neck. Here they found not congenial friends, but many of their life-long neighbours, whom the war had transformed into active opponents.

From the British point of view, Captain Frost's expedition was no doubt a brilliant achievement, but the Stamford local historian records it as a "sacrilegious foray."

On a subsequent occasion Captain Frost, with considerable rashness, paid a secret visit to his old home. His presence being suspected he came very near falling into the hands of foes from whom he would have received little consideration. He was, however, eventually smuggled on board a schooner, concealed beneath some hay, and returned in safety to the British lines.

The parents of Mrs. Wm. Frost espoused the side of the Revolutionary party, and her's was one of the many sad instances where families were divided by the event

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