

"having wheel carriages were called to pay tax at the excise office in Halifax."

The custom of constantly calling together the leading men, for consultation on topics of importance to the colony, resolved itself, as time passed, into the holding of levees. In the course of some years these official gatherings were held no less than nine times, and on all these occasions the streets leading to Government House were filled with the gentlemen of the powdered hair, the silk stockings, and the silver-hilted sword.

In all matters relating to the government of the town, the machinery was far from complicated. Certain taxes and fines imposed by the magistrates in session, went towards the few public works that were deemed necessary,—the constructing of drains, repairing of streets, making of gutters, and such other positively needful acts. But the general business of keeping the citizens in order was the duty imposed upon a very small force. Two or three constables, under the direction of a Chief Magistrate, constituted the staff which was to keep in awe the turbulent, and bring offenders to punishment. Yet they were not often too feeble for the duties assigned them, for the military and naval power took ward and watch over their own transgressors, and thus lightened materially the task of the civil officers. When, however, any special excitement arose, or danger threatened from housebreakers and thieves, the townsmen turned out and patrolled the streets for a few nights, until the cloud passed away. The punishments resorted to, for minor offences, were similar to those in use in older countries: the stocks for drunkenness, and whipping at the public post for theft. We find it noticed that two "were lately tried, convicted, and sentenced to receive twenty-five lashes at the public post for theft, for stealing sundry articles, \* \* \* \* and on Saturday last they received their punishment accordingly."

At a very early period a newspaper was published. It was in the month of January, 1769, that the first number of "The Nova Scotia Chronicle and Weekly Gazette," was printed and published by Anthony Henry, and edited by Capt. Bulkley, Secretary of the Province. In later years, and before the close of the century, others were published, by different proprietors and editors. They were modelled very much after the same pattern, the