

Collections of old shacks on the shores, or beach, which had sheltered the Loyalists, remnants of old tents, and spruce wigwams, on the common, which had been erected, and subsequently abandoned, as their owners were removed, to their new holdings throughout the Province, bore silent evidence of the poverty and suffering of the great multitude, which in its passage, had made our town a resting place. Still matters were not all in decay. The established merchants had been successful. Enormous quantities of fish, lumber, rum and bread-stuffs had been imported, and sold to good advantage. Many of the mercantile men were becoming wealthy.

The Scottish Guild of Merchants of 1761, had been reinforced in numbers by many Scotch Loyalists who at the beginning of the troubles leading up to the Declaration of Independence, in 1776, had for the past eight years, been gradually settling in Halifax. With Scottish prudence, they could only forecast disturbance and ruin, for many years ahead, for communities in revolt, and so came from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore to this great centre of loyal Britons, where they could find a field for their enterprise and energies. Among them was Anthony Stewart, from Baltimore, father of Hon. Jas. Stewart, for many years Solicitor-General of the Province. Anthony Stewart was a leading importer, and most enterprising merchant of our city, a man possessed of great intellectual abilities, which he devoted to the public good. With him came Charles Adams, William Shaw, William Cater, the Vieths, the Gordons, Mensons and Gibbons, the Sloans of New York, followed by the Benvies and Gordons of Boston. These Scottish merchants were all well settled here in trade, before the great migration of Loyalists in 1783, and so were in a position to advise and give a helping hand in the arrangements, for the aiding and settling of their friends crossing the border to our loyal town and province. Many of these men came with considerable funds. At the very commencement of the outbreak, they began quietly to realise on their holdings and so came to Halifax in a position to take advantage at once,