

as 1618. the fort was built on the site of the old Railway Depot. and for many years was known as Fort William. All the buildings out one have been destroyed, but there existed one stone building. prior to the advent of the Railway, which tradition said had been erected by the French, but this I very much doubt as the French never held St. John's long enough to erect any such building. In 1705 another attempt to capture St. John's was made by the French, a strong party of five hundred men under the command of Subercase, set out from Placentia and marched to Petty Hr. and having reached the latter place they made a resolute attack on the two principal forts of St. John's but were repulsed. Failing in their attempt on St. John's, they ravaged the adjoining settlements spreading their devastations as far north as Bonavista. In 1708 a French fleet under Saint Ovide, visited and destroyed the town on the first day of January; in less than half an hour Saint Ovide had taken both forts, the English having been taken so by surprise that no attempt could be made to resist the attack. The forts were dismantled and the town destroyed before the French vessels sailed for France. St. John's had but a small chance to grow in these troublesome times; with the fear of invasion by the French, the British laws prohibiting settlement, and the regulations enforced to enable the West-Country merchant to keep Newfoundland as a fishing preserve it is remarkable that so many people did make this Colony their home. In 1713 the Treaty of Utrecht was signed and the French abandoned to Great Britain all territorial rights to Newfoundland. For the next fifty years St. John's progressed a little. It was still nothing more than a

fishing station, a rendezvous for vessels going to and coming from Europe, and a depot for a small garrison, the latter subject to the officer commanding at Halifax. The building of a house of more than one story was prohibited, flakes covered the sides of the hills which slope towards the waters of the harbor, and stages lined the water front now occupied by the merchants wharves. No roads were to be seen anywhere, but many paths connected the various fishing rooms and one regular path led from Fort William to Signal Hill. In 1728 Captain Henry Osborne was appointed to Newfoundland as the first Governor and took up his residence at St. John's; shortly after Justices of the Peace were appointed in the Island. In 1741 Captain the Hon. John Byng was appointed Governor and in his ship, the *Sunderland*, of sixty guns, made reprisals on Spanish ships, for at that time England was at war with Spain and the latter's ships of war and privateers carried their depredations on British commerce, in every part of Europe and America, with great activity and boldness. Governor Byng had a squadron under his command by which means he not only most effectually protected the Newfoundland trade and fisheries but also succeeded in making very many captures from the enemy. All the prizes captured by Captain Byng's squadron were brought into St. John's, which became of such importance that a vice-Admiralty Court was established here and William Keen Esq., was appointed the first judge. Keen's fishing room was situated nearly on the southeast corner of Water Street, and what is now known as Job's Cove, that is where Parson's and Hearn's buildings stand. In July 1755 war again