

name of Parr. The town was laid out in 1454 lots, by Paul Bedell. A few favored individuals appear to have enjoyed the privilege of selecting their lots; but the great majority were drawn by the Loyalists in the usual manner, as they arrived in the country. Many who came with the intention of proceeding at once to the cultivation of their lands were compelled to remain at the mouth of the river until provision was made for the survey and allotment of their grants. The following words, written by Col. Morse eighteen months after the arrival of the first band of Loyalists, will give an idea of the situation:—

I am sorry to add that a very small proportion indeed of these people are yet upon their lands, owing to different causes—*First*, their arriving very late in the season; *Secondly*, timely provision not having been made by escheating and laying out lands, in which great delays and irregularities have happened; *Thirdly*, a sufficient number of surveyors not having been employed; but *Lastly*, and principally, the want of foresight and wisdom to make necessary arrangements, and steadiness in carrying them out.

The evils arising from mismanagement, Col. Morse affirmed, would be felt for a long time to come. Hitherto the Loyalists had been mostly employed in building towns, and by their exertions at Port Roseway and at the mouth of the river St. John large towns had been built in an astonishingly short time. These great exertions, in his opinion, would have been more profitably directed in cultivating their lands; since, besides the loss of time, they had wasted their substance in that which was unlikely to prove either profitable to themselves or useful to the country.

To add to the uneasiness of those who were awaiting their lands, information was received, in August, 1783, that fifty-five prominent Loyalists in the city of New York had united in an application for tracts of land in Nova Scotia, amounting to 275,000 acres, and that they had dispatched agents to survey the unlocated lands and select the most fertile spots and desirable situations on the St. John river. The dissatisfaction

caused by this proceeding was so great at the town of Parr that four hundred persons signed an agreement to remove to Passamaquoddy. Equal indignation was displayed at New York, where a memorial was speedily drawn up and very largely signed, and presented to the commander-in-chief by Messrs. Samuel Hake, Elias Hardy, Captain Henry Law and Tertullus Dickenson. The memorialists state:

That they had determined to remove with their families and settle in his majesty's province of Nova Scotia on the terms which they understood were held out *equally* to all his Majesty's persecuted subjects. . . . That chagrined as the memorialists are at the manner in which the late contest has been terminated and disappointed as they find themselves in being left to the lenity of their enemies on the dubious recommendation of their leaders, they yet hoped to find an asylum under British protection, little suspecting there would be found amongst their fellow sufferers, persons ungenerous enough to attempt engrossing to themselves so disproportionate a share of what government has allotted for their common benefit, and so different from the original proposals. . . . The memorialists cannot but regard the grants in question if carried into effect as amounting nearly to a total exclusion of themselves and families who if they become settlers must content themselves with barren or remote lands, or submit to be tenants. . . .

The petitioners met with a most favorable reception at the hands of the commander-in-chief, who emphatically assured them, '*No one person will obtain a larger grant of lands in Nova Scotia than 1000 acres.*' Sir Guy further stated that in his opinion no persons should be allowed to take up lands in that province but those who mean to reside in it, till the Loyalists were first served. Personally he would do everything in his power for the memorialists, and he believed they would have no cause to complain.

The situation at St. John, however, continued to be a matter of much anxiety. The Rev. John Sayre, writing to the S. P. G., in the month of October, 1783, says that he found on his arrival a multitude of his fellow sufferers at the mouth of the river unsettled, and