

greater part of the work of collecting subscriptions, paying the contractors, workmen, etc., fell upon them. Their advertisements for men, materials, etc., are found in the papers of the day. When, under the administration of Archdeacon Strachan, the church was repaired and extended in 1818, Mr. Allan was still chief custodian of the funds. Although refusing to become a candidate at elections, he sometimes officiated as returning officer, the first occasion being apparently in 1801. He acted also in 1804, and was again returning officer at the celebrated election of 1806, which resulted in the return of Judge Thorpe, who succeeded his radical friend Weeks, killed in a duel arising from the personal animosities incident to the political controversies of the day.

He took an active interest in the organization of the militia, where we first find him in the public notices as Captain of the Town Company of York. At the outbreak of the American War he held the rank of Major, and, under instructions from General Brock, led a detachment of the York Volunteers to the head of the Lake, July, 1812. This force was with Brock at the battle of Queenston Heights. He was at York also when the capital was taken by Dearborn and Chauncey and, as Major Allan, signed, with Lt.-Col. Chewett, the articles of capitulation, on the 22nd April, 1813. He was afterwards raised to the rank of Colonel.

In 1804 he was one of the commissioners appointed under Statute for the construction of the Lake Shore Road from York, running to the head of Burlington Bay. Being personally interested as a merchant in improving the highways of the district, we find him taking a prominent part in the opening of Yonge Street to the north, in 1801. For a number of years Yonge Street entered the town of York via the Rosedale ravine, and the Don Valley. Even within the town limits Yonge Street was not originally an important thoroughfare. As first laid out it did not extend below King Street, having no access to the water front. The intervening land between King Street and the water was owned by Wm. Allan, R. Ferguson, and J. Macaulay. To reach the water, traffic coming down Yonge Street passed along King to Toronto Street, and down it to the Bay. An arrangement was made by which the above parties allowed Yonge Street to be opened through their properties, on condition of receiving in exchange that portion of Toronto Street between King and the water front. In 1805 they petitioned that this arrangement