

Situated on a bay about the middle of the Atlantic sea-board; remote from the old capital, Annapolis, in the west, and from the fishing station at Canso in the east; separated from the fertile valleys to the north by a rough ridge of granite boulders and a surprising number of small lakes and ponds, Halifax was forced to look across the ocean for its trade and its people. The conservatism of the old world settled upon its military government and long resisted the reforms of the new. The struggle for self-government was more prolonged and bitter, and the victory more fragmentary in Halifax than elsewhere. St. John is a striking contrast. Situated at the mouth of a magnificent river, which drains three-fifths of the province and with its broad and deep tributaries provides an unrivalled waterway through the length and much of the breadth of the country, St. John could not fail to grow with the prosperity of the province and through its commercial interests keep in the closest touch with its agricultural and industrial life. Although Fredericton was the political capital, St. John from the first dominated the province, and its reforms became those of the province.

The American Revolution profoundly affected Nova Scotia. The struggle between the ruling and military element from old England on the one hand and the commercial and colonizing element from New England on the other had resulted in the grant of a legislative assembly and some minor reforms. The reforming party, however, suffered severely when the Revolution broke out by the departure from Nova Scotia of several of the most ardent friends of reform and by the suspicion of disloyalty which fastened upon those who remained. At the close of the war the arrival of the Loyalists immediately brought about the division of Nova Scotia into two provinces and local government for the city of St. John; but in the end it strengthened the conservative forces already at work.

The Scottish immigrants who came out to New Brunswick in timber ships between 1783 and 1812 to the centres of the lumber industry on the Miramichi, the Restigouche, and the Richibucto on the east coast, and the St. John and St. Croix rivers on the southern coast, found an established system of government which they accepted and with which they in general co-operated. The inrush of Irish immigrants between 1812 and 1850 spread prin-