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EARLY DAYS OF WOODSTOCK.

W. O. RAYMOND.

NO. 21.

During the first part of the year 1783, the King's American Regiment was encamped at Flushing Fly, just east of Newtown Creek where the 1st deLanceys lay encamped. Most of the Loyalist regiments quartered on Long Island had spent the preceding winter in comfortable huts, and many of the officers and men were joined at the time by their wives and families, who came from various quarters to seek protection within the British lines.

The last muster of the corps, in the month of August, shows that the regiment had dwindled to about half its former strength. The number enrolled amounted to only about 30 officers, 58 non-commissioned officers and 185 privates—a total of 273 of all ranks. Before the troops left New York, those who desired to take their discharge and run the risk of remaining in the country were allowed to do so. A good many of the officers went to England after the close of hostilities, to urge their claims for half pay and to obtain compensation from government for their losses in the war. The command of the regiment consequently devolved on Major John Coffin, who had not long before been transferred to the corps from the New York volunteers. Major Coffin displayed considerable forethought in regard to the proposed settlement of the regiment at the River St. John. He kept in touch with Colonel Winslow, who had gone to Nova Scotia in April, and soon afterwards sent Ensign Nase, Serjeant James Munger and Private Samuel Van Pelt to the River St. John to provide a house for his accommodation and make some arrangements for the regiment. [Ensign Nase and his companions are marked in the muster made at Long Island, June 12th, 1783, "Absent with leave in Nova Scotia."]

Edward Winslow made choice of a site for his friend's future habitation as we learn from his letter to Ward Chipman of the 7th July, in which he says, "I have taken three town lots on the west side of the river in the most delightful situation I ever saw for myself, Major Coffin and Col. Ludlow, on condition to build a tenable house on each within six months. Coffin's is already in some forwardness, and my own and Major Murray's will soon make a figure. Should our farms, in the general division, fall at a distance from this, we cannot lose by the exertion; the houses will cost but a very trifle, and those who are obliged to come without such covering prepared, will be glad to pay the expense."

About this time Major Coffin's impulsiveness led him into "an affair of honor" at New York, which had like to have changed all his plans. He fought a duel with a colonel in the British service and was severely wounded. An exaggerated rumor in connection with this affair seems to have reached Parr-town for Surgeon Adino Paddock, of the King's American Dragoons (then encamped near Carleton), wrote on the 12th August, "Poor Nase is distracted about

Major Coffin. We have a report by Campbell that he is killed; for God's sake let us know if it is true. I hope not. His house is raised. Nase is very industrious."

As Major Coffin was living at the mouth of the river in the following March, in good health and spirits, he probably recovered sufficiently from his injury to accompany the regiment to St. John. Ensign Henry Nase continued to closely identify himself with Coffin's interests. He assisted in the settlement and improvement of his Manor—a tract of 5,000 acres at the mouth of the Nerepis, purchased of Colonel Beamsley Glasier.) He also had a large share in the erection and operation of the first mills built on the Nerepis stream.

And here we may pause to remark that a good many of the half-pay officers thought to retrieve their shattered fortunes by building saw-mills and engaging in the manufacture of lumber. With very few exceptions they lived to repent the undertaking, which involved many of them in financial ruin. Ward Chipman wrote (March, 1785) to Edward Winslow, advising him not to venture the erection of a mill on the Pokioik stream. "I have talked with Mr. Hazen and Major Coffin," he says "on the business of saw-mills. They are clearly of opinion that with all possible industry and exertion it will be a number of years before the first expense of setting the mill a-going will be cleared, and that this can never be done but by a man who is on the spot himself and who will work like a horse. Coffin says his creek is more advantageously situated than any in the province, that the land about it abounds in timber, that a vessel of 50 tons can lie at the spot, that he has minutely calculated every expense attending it, and that if it were not at his door almost, where he can see to everything himself, he must sink money by it. That when he has every advantage in the stream, no dam to make or banks to level, the least expense of erecting his mill will be £200. That Nase, who will work like a horse himself, is to be jointly concerned, and that the utmost profit that can be calculated upon with all these advantages is £100 a year between them both."

Ensign Henry Nase was a very useful and highly respected man in the Parish of Westfield. He filled the positions of deputy surrogate, parish magistrate and lieutenant colonel of militia. He was also a very zealous churchman, acting as lay reader for many years while the parish was without a resident minister. He passed to his rest in 1836, aged 84 years, two years before his old comrade, General Coffin who died in 1838.

Among other officers of the King's American Regiment, who came to New Brunswick, were Captains Abraham de Peyster, Isaac Attwood and Peter Clements; Lieutenants Thomas Barker, Dugald Campbell, Stephen Hustice, David Purdy, George Cox and Peter I. Smith; Adjutant Cummings and Surgeon Alexander Drummond. The regiment embarked at Flushing early in September, sailed from New York on the 15th and arrived at Parr-town on the 27th of same month.

After their arrival some of the regiment proceeded up the river to St. Anns. Others remained at St. John and drew lots, on which they built temporary huts. Among the grantees of Parr-town we find the names of Major Coffin, Captains de Peyster, Attwood and Clements; Lieutenants Campbell, Purdy, Hustice and Cummings, and twenty-two non-commissioned officers and soldiers. Many of these lots were at the east end of St. James Street, extending from the Wiggins Orphan Asylum and Turnbull Home for Incurables

Nervous Prostration

IT IS WORRY THAT KILLS, NOT WORK

Work without worry usually tends to prolong life. On the other hand, worry, with or without work, is fatal, because it uses up what the Doctors call the "Lecithin," a phosphorized fat which is the chief constituent of the brain and nervous system—a waste which, if not stayed in time, means complete nervous wreck. The evident moral is "don't worry"—advice easy to give, and in these days of stress and strain practically impossible to take. The alternative is: find some way of replacing the wasted Lecithin—the phosphorized fat. This absolutely essential element will be found in its most perfect, palatable and assimilable form in

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"You Know what you take"

to the water. This group of lots lay directly north of those drawn by the men of de Lancey's 1st battalion and south of those drawn by the Queens Rangers. The lots of Captain Attwood and Captain Clements were in the group; the other officers drew their lots in different parts of the city. That of Major Coffin on the east side of German Street, was afterwards donated to the Corporation of Trinity church and is one of the four lots on which the present church stands. A mural tablet in old trinity church served to remind after generations of General Coffin's generosity, but the tablet was destroyed along with the church in the great fire of 1877 and has never been replaced.

The chaplain of the King's American Regiment was the celebrated Dr. Samuel Seabury, afterwards first Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in the United States. He had a closer connection with this province in the days of its infancy than is generally known. His name therefore suggest a slight digression, which may be of interest to some of our readers.

Dr. Seabury was a prominent Loyalist during the Revolution, although he accepted the situation at the close of the war and remained in the United States. He was born in 1728, graduated at Yale, and went thence to Edinburgh to study medicine. He changed his mind, however, became a clergyman and went to New Brunswick in New Jersey. At the beginning of the Revolution he was in charge of a parish in the County of Westchester near New York. In April, 1775, he was one of a large number of Loyalists who drew up and signed a spirited protest against the proceedings of the American Congress. The protest contained the following paragraph: "We the subscribers, freeholders and inhabitants of the County of Westchester, having assembled at the White Plains in consequence of certain advertisements, do now declare that we meet here to declare our honest abhorrence of all unlawful congresses and committees, and that we are determined, at the hazard of our lives and properties, to support the King and Constitution." In November of the same year Dr. Seabury was seized in his own house, carried to New Heaven and put in jail. The following year the New York Committee of safety reported him to be notoriously disaffected to the American cause. He was obliged to seek refuge within the British lines at New York, and shortly afterwards was appointed chaplain of the King's American Regiment. While he was at New York, his second daughter, Abigail, was married to Colin Campbell, Esq., attorney-at-law, eldest son of the Reverend Colin Campbell of Burlington, New Jersey. The ceremony took place on the 26th of December, 1781, the father of the bride officiating, and among those present was Dr. Charles Inglis, first Bishop of Nova Scotia, who was at that time Rector of Trinity in New York. Colin Campbell came to St. John with the Loyalists, and was the first Clerk of the Crown in New Brunswick. After Dr. Seabury was chosen by the clergy of Connecticut as their bishop, he went to England and from thence to Scotland, where, on the 14th November, 1784, he was consecrated to the Episcopal office by Bishops Kilgour, Petrie and Skinner. He did not return until the following spring, and it would seem that St. John, N. B., was the scene of his first ministrations after his consecration. This was due to the Bishop's coming to St. John to visit his daughter, Mrs. Campbell. He landed at Halifax, and proceeded to St. John by way of Annapolis. A letter written by Munson Jarvis on the 28th July, 1785, expresses the hope that the City of St. John may ere long have a resident clergyman, "For," said he, "I think there never was a place wanted one more—a large town without one clergyman in it except Mr. Secretary Odell, who sometimes reads prayers for us!" He adds, "We had Bishop Seabury here, who preached for us several Sundays."

Thus the Bishop's last sermon on English soil was preached in the city of the Loyalists, while from the walls the lion and the unicorn looked down from the Royal Arms,* and Colonel Thomas Carleton, a Royal Governor, was one of the congregation. Bishop Seabury availed himself of the opportunity, while he was in St. John, to address the following memorial to the Governor.

*[FOOT NOTE.]—This coat of arms is now in Trinity church in St. John, and is highly prized as a relic of Revolutionary days. It formerly hung in the old State House in Boston, and several offers have been made by the Bostonians for it. To his Excellency Thomas Carleton, Esquire, Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of New Brunswick:—

The memorial of Samuel Seabury, sheweth: That your Memorialist was Chaplain of the King's American Regiment during the late war, and is now desirous of obtaining his proportion of land, but finds the first allotment of the said corps fell in too unfavorable a situation for present cultivation, and that he is left out of the return made by Captain Depeyster for a Draft of the Vacant Land in the Draft assigned the Maryland corps.

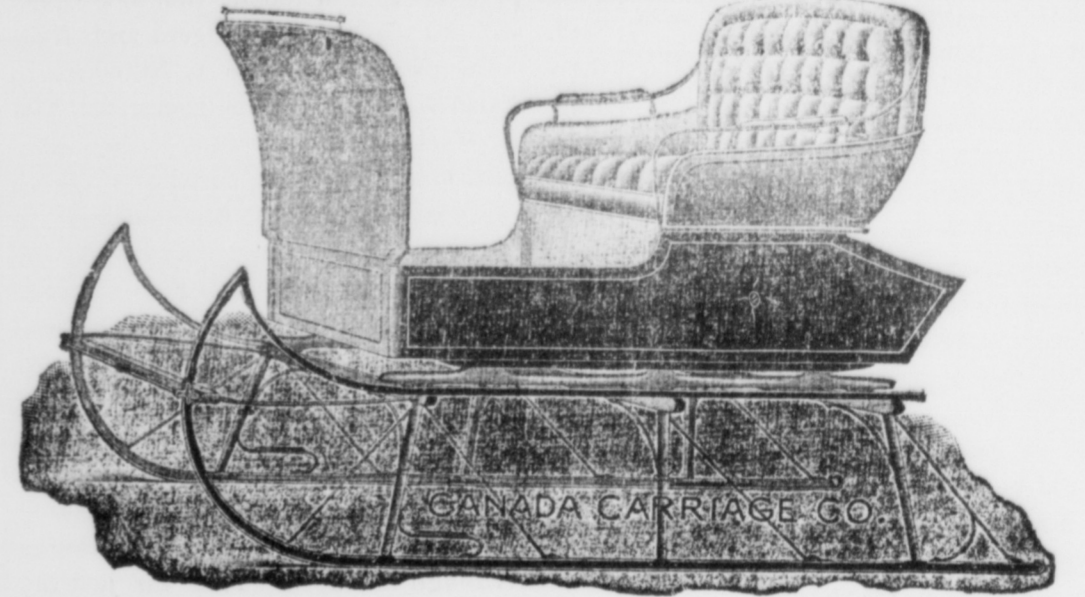
He therefore petitions that he may obtain his allotment in the draft of such lots as shall

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appear unclaimed in the lands last mentioned, or, if there should be none left, that he may then receive his proportion out of such lots as are vacant in the late draft for the Pennsylvania Loyalists and Colonel Ludlow's corps. And your Memorialist in duty bound,
SAMUEL SEABURY.
St. John, June 6th, 1785.

The lands of the Maryland Loyalists were opposite Fredericton, in Block No. 1, just below the River Nashwaak. Those of the Pennsylvania Loyalists and 2nd de Lanceys were on the east side of the river opposite Woodstock. The Governor and Council deferred the consideration of the memorial to a future date, and it is very doubtful whether anything further was done about it. At any rate Bishop Seabury never became a rate payer in the Parish of Northampton.

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