

THE STRANGE NARRATIVE

Of Walter Bates, Esquire, Subject of the King,

FORMERLY OF NEW ENGLAND

Sometime High Sheriff of the County of Kings,

BIOGRAPHER OF THE NOTORIOUS HENRY MORE SMITH.

In These Chronicles, Now Given to the World for the First Time, is Told the Tale of the Loyalists, and Their Amazing Trials Amid the Enemies of His Majesty in the Colonies.

[BROUN IN NO. 81.]

I was provided with the necessary pass from the commanding officer to General DeLancey at Jamaica (Long Island), who furnished me with a pass directed to General Smith at Brooklyn, who furnished me with a pass to Colonel Axtell at Flat Bush, who administered the oath and also furnished me with a pass to General DeLancey again at Jamaica. Here not being acquainted with customs of the army exposed me to great inconvenience. I just only prudently knocked at the same door where I had received my pass the day before. This I was informed was considered an offence and that the old General was apt to be very severe after drinking wine all night.

At length the old General came down from his chamber, and surely his face looked to me as red as his coat.

"Where is that damned rascal who has disturbed my quarters this morning? Send him to the guard house!" roared he.

This subjected me to great difficulties, too unpleasant to mention.

Yet kind providence seemed to prepare ways and means, unforeseen by me, for my escape and preservation amidst all troubles, afflictions and dangers by land and sea, and during that unhappy war there were many instances of God's mercy for which I can never be sufficiently grateful. For example in the case of my eldest brother's sickness, on Long Island, with the fever that few survived at that time, I was providentially in a situation to render him every comfort he could receive while in life, and after his death to attend to his decent burial in the town of Huntington, the 10th day of September, 1781; and soon after I was taken sick with the like fever on Lloyds Neck, where I must soon have died had not I providentially been removed to a friendly house in Huntington, where I received the kind attention of the family. It was feared that I could not survive until morning, a doctor was called late at night who administered medicine which, under providence, gave immediate relief and I was soon restored to my former health.

Shortly after this I commenced teaching a school on Eaton's Neck, where all the people were Loyalists and most part with myself, churchmen from Connecticut.

Here some of the Church clergymen came occasionally to hold divine service on Sundays.

There being none of other religion on the "Neck" we were so united the church at Eaton might be justly styled a church of Eden.

*Oliver DeLancey upon the submission of Long Island to General Howe, in 1776, was commissioned a Brigadier-General, with orders to raise three battalions of 500 men each for the defence of the Island. To raise this corps large sums of money were contributed by General DeLancey and by the inhabitants of every town on the island.

Sons of many reputable farmers and a number of respectable freetholders enlisted. The third battalion, commanded by Colonel Gabriel G. Ludlow, was composed entirely of natives of Queens county, Long Island. Colonel Gabriel Ludlow was afterwards first mayor of St. John, N.B. (A.D. 1785), also Administrator of the province for five years after the retirement of Lieut. Governor Thomas Carleton. The house in which he resided still stands, near St. George's church, Carleton, N.B.

Colonel Ludlow's battalion was stationed at Brookhaven and Lloyds Neck, on the north shore of Long Island, till the close of the Revolutionary war, when the three battalions were disbanded in Nova Scotia. A full and extremely interesting account of DeLancey's corps will be found in the History of New York during the Revolutionary War, by Judge Thomas Jones, edited by Edward Floyd de Lancy.

†Judge Jones gives an amusing account of Colonel Axtell and his achievements: "William Axtell, Esq., of Kings county, Long Island, was commissioned by the Commander-in-Chief as Colonel of a regiment to consist of 500 men, to be raised by him on the King's account, the officers to have the same rank and pay, as the other provincial corps, with this condition however, they were to be disbanded on the first day of the ensuing December. Axtell's recruits amounted to about thirty. These formed his regiment. It was in pay from the 1st of May 1779 to the 1st of December following, seven months. It was encamped in his court yard. He guarded his house, his poultry, his hogs, his sheep and his cows. No other service did the regiment do. Yet he received full pay, clothing, arms, and provisions for 500 men the whole time. His Excellency, the General, gave orders that no person whatever should pass Brookland (Brooklyn) ferry from Long Island to New York without a pass from Colonel Axtell. Not less than 20,000 people, exclusive of the military, at that time annually passed the ferry. Every one, instead of the two pence formerly paid, was obliged to pay the Colonel eight shillings, which yearly amounted to the tune of some thousands."

‡ Nevertheless, the position of the Loyalists at Eaton's Neck was not free from its trials, as witness the following, the original of which is in possession of Miss Pickett, Kingston, N.B.:

"To His Excellency, James Robertson, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New York and Lieutenant General of His Majesty's Forces, etc., etc., etc. The Memorial of John Fowler, Israel Hoyt and David Pickett, most humbly sheweth:

That having left their properties in the country and come within the Royal Lines for protection, upon application to Government for support they obtained with others a grant of Eaton's Neck, the

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The Rev. John Sayre came to attend public worship here in April, 1783, and at the same time to acquaint us that the King had granted to all Loyalists who did not incline to return to their homes, and would go to Nova Scotia, two hundred acres of land to each family, and two years provisions; provide ships to convey them as near as can be to a place for settlement where lands would be granted for support of church and school. The next day I obtained the articles for settlement (yet in my possession) from Huntington. A general meeting was held on Eaton's Neck to investigate the same together with our present and future prospects.

After we had discussed the matter it was resolved by all present, and mutually agreed to remove with all their families into the wilderness of Nova Scotia, and settle all together in such situation as we might enjoy the comforts of a church and school in the wilderness, fully relying for future support in the promises of God to His people.

I here introduce the rhymes of a young School master:

Come Loyalists all come And listen to my word; We left our country and our home And trusted in the Lord; Let us not now forsake our trust Returning back with sorrow; I fain would see the Rebels flee Like Sodom and Gomorrah, Yet think these offers very just And thank the King sincerely— Altho' the Rebels gain so much, We see not yet quite clearly; God is too wise to be unjust, Too good to be unkind, While subject to his sovereign will Our hearts are well inclined; God when He gives supremely good, Not less when He denies; Afflictions from His Sovereign hand Are blessings in disguise. For in the wilderness, we're told, God's church will comfort give, And no good thing will He withhold From those who justly live. W. BATES.

property of John Sloss Hobart, in Rebellion, but the same being applied for and obtained by James Juncy, Esquire and others, who had a mortgage on the same, your memorialists hired the same from those gentlemen at a Rental agreement. That being settled on said place upon the afore-said terms, and endeavoring to support their families by honest industry, they found themselves disappointed, and prevented enjoying the fruits of their labor by the crews of the armed vessels stationed in the Bay for their protection, who have taken their property from them without any license, pay or satisfaction.

That they have made repeated application to the commanders of said Guard Ships to prevent the ravages of their crews and to obtain satisfaction, but obtaining neither, they with their associates, applied to Admiral Digby for redress, who kindly wrote to said commanders on the subject, but without producing the desired effect; that upon the delivery of Admiral Digby's letter to Captain Steel he flew into a violent passion, threatening to try the complainants to a gun and flog them, ordering them out of the ship, and adding he would blow them to Hell if they came alongside again, telling them he would give them no redress nor protection, but would have his revenge before he left the station.

In this situation, being left remediless, they apply to your Excellency, as Governor of the Province, the Patron and Director of all Loyal subjects driven from their habitations, and humbly request that your Excellency would be favorably pleased to recommend their distressed case to His Excellency Admiral Digby, and to interpose in their favor, so that they with the others suffering in a similar situation may have effectual redress and a stop put to such ravages for the future; and that as in duty bound will ever pray, etc.

New York, 8th January, 1782.

Now were the British soldiers more forbearing than the seamen, as will be seen from the following extract from Judge Jones' Loyalist History of New York. Speaking of the conduct of the soldiers quartered on Long Island, he says: "They robbed, plundered and pillaged the inhabitants of everything they could lay their hands upon. It was no uncommon thing, of an afternoon, to see a farmer driving a flock of turkeys, geese, ducks or dangleh fowls and locking them up in his cellar for security during the night. The whole day it was necessary for a person attested case to His Excellency Admiral Digby, and to interpose in their favor, so that they with the others suffering in a similar situation may have effectual redress and a stop put to such ravages for the future; and that as in duty bound will ever pray, etc."

It was no uncommon thing for a farmer, his wife and children to sleep in one room, while his sheep were bleating in the room adjoining, his hogs grunting in the kitchen, and the cocks crowing, hens cackling, ducks quacking and geese hissing in the cellar. Horned cattle were for safety locked up in barns, stables and outhouses. This robbing was done by people sent to America to protect Loyalists against the persecutions and depredations of Rebels! To complain was needless. The officers shared in the plunder."

It seemed as if heaven smiled upon our undertaking, selecting the best ship in the fleet for our comfort, and by far the best captain. And so, with warm, loyal hearts,

§ Huntington Bay, on the north side of Long Island, is formed by Lloyds' Neck on the west and Eaton's Neck on the east, both of which project a considerable distance into the Sound. The water is deep enough for the largest man-of-war; the anchorage good, and the bay secure from almost every wind. The bay is large enough to contain the whole navy of England.

The embarkation began on Friday, April 11th, and was completed five days later. The original Manifest of the ship Union is now in the possession of William Fyler Dibblee, of Woodstock, N. B. The following is a copy:

Return of the Families, etc., Embarked on Board the Union Transport, Comsett Wilson, Master, Began Huntington Bay April 11th, and Completed April 16th, 1783.

Table with columns: Signers' Names, No. of Signers (Men, Women, Children above 10 years old, Children under 10 years old, Servants), Former Place of Abode, Occupation.

65 Signers; 35 Women; 59 Children over 10 years old; 48 Children under 10 years old; 2 Servants. Total, 209.

(Signed) A True Return Test, FYLER DIBBLEE, D. Agt. Nothing was wanting to make us comfortable on board ship, which blessing seemed providentially to attend us throughout. (To be Continued.)

His Real Reason. Satisfied Old Maid (fishing for a compliment)—Tell me, darling, why you prefer me to any of these other girls for a bride? I don't Old Bach—On my wedding tour I can't want people to think I'm a newly married man.—Chicago Journal.

Pimples, postules, rash, eczema, all humors and all diseases of the skin, piles, ulcers, sores and wounds, chapped hands, roughness of the skin, are quickly healed and cured by the use Baird's French Ointment. Sold by all dealers.—Advt.

What She Called Them. Miss Gotham—O, Miss Boston, I am making a crazy quilt. Miss Boston—Indeed! I never made one imbecile coverlet.—N. Y. Sun. Advertise in "Progress." It pays.

we all embarked with one mind on board the good ship Union, Captain Wilson, who received us all on board as father of a family. §

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