

A RECORD OF OLD TIMES.

THE STORY TOLD BY ONE OF THE LOYALIST WOMEN.

The Diary of Sarah Frost, written on board the ship "Two Sisters," during her voyage to Saint John's River, Nova Scotia, in the Spring of A. D. 1783.

INTRODUCTORY.

The narrative of Walter Bates has supplied us with an accurate and reliable account of the departure from New York and subsequent arrival at St. John of the first fleet of A. D. 1783.

The following diary will be found to throw additional light upon the nature of the voyage with all its accompanying discomforts. It will also enable the reader in some measure to realize the trials experienced by the Loyalists in parting with near relatives and life-long friends, and give some idea of their first impressions on landing upon our rugged shores.

Sarah (Scotfield) Frost and her husband were natives of Stamford, Connecticut, and relatives of Walter Bates. After their settlement on the banks of the Kennebecasis, at what is now Lower Norton, they manifested much interest in the welfare of the church at Kingston until the erection of a church more conveniently situated. The name of William Frost occurs as a member of the second vestry elected at Kingston on Easter Monday, 1785.

During the closing years of the Revolution a systematic guerrilla warfare prevailed between the Loyalists on Long Island and the "rebels" of Connecticut. It is quite amusing to read the widely differing estimates entertained by the opposing parties regarding the merits of certain individuals and their actions. For example, DeLancey's corps of Loyalists was heartily commended by the commander-in-chief of the British forces, who stated it "had behaved with credit, reputation, honour and courage." The "patriots" of Stamford, on the other hand, strongly protested against allowing any "unprincipled wretches who belonged to the most infamous banditti, called DeLancey's corps," to return to their homes in Connecticut.

During the war William Frost made himself exceedingly obnoxious to many of the citizens of Stamford, by an exploit which must now be briefly described: Having been driven from home, on account of his sympathy with the cause of the mother country, Mr. Frost found an asylum at Lloyd's Neck, Long Island. Thence, on the night of July 21st, 1781, he proceeded at the head of an armed party, crossed the Sound in seven boats, and with his party lay stealthily secreted in the vicinity of Stamford until the following afternoon, when they surprised and captured Rev. Dr. Mather and his entire congregation.

The doctor having, in the earlier stages of the quarrel between Great Britain and her colonies, been a pronounced advocate of rebellion, was marched off in company with forty-eight of his townsmen to the boats in waiting, whence they were carried as prisoners to Lloyd's Neck. Here they found not congenial friends, but many of their life-long neighbours, whom the war had transformed into active opponents.

From the British point of view, Captain Frost's expedition was no doubt a brilliant achievement, but the Stamford local historian records it as a "sacrilegious foray."

On a subsequent occasion Captain Frost, with considerable rashness, paid a secret visit to his old home. His presence being suspected he came very near falling into the hands of foes from whom he would have received little consideration. He was, however, eventually smuggled on board a schooner, concealed beneath some hay, and returned in safety to the British lines.

The parents of Mrs. Wm. Frost espoused the side of the Revolutionary party, and her's was one of the many sad instances where families were divided by the event of the war. It appears from the diary which follows that the second spring fleet of 1783 consisted of fourteen vessels with a frigate as convoy, bringing probably some 2,000 Loyalists from New York and its vicinity. It is quite possible some of the vessels may have gone to Annapolis. At least two vessels in this fleet, the *Bridge-water* and the *Hope* had already visited St. John with the former fleet and must therefore have returned immediately to New York for the second voyage.

At the time of the arrival of the *Two Sisters*, June 29, only two log huts had been erected on the site of the future city, and town lots sold at from two to twenty dollars. It may be mentioned that Hannah, daughter of William and Sarah Frost, born July 30th, one month after the arrival of the *Two Sisters*, was the second female child born in St. John. The "little girl," (seven years of age) mentioned in the diary, was grandmother of the wife of the writer of this introduction.

The Diary.

May 25, 1783.—I left Lloyd's Neck with my family and went on board the *Two Sisters*, commanded by Capt. Brown, for a voyage to Nova Scotia with the rest of the Loyalist sufferers. This evening the captain drank tea with us. He appears to be a very clever gentleman. We expect to sail as soon as the wind shall favor. We have very fair accommodation in the cabin, although it contains six families, besides our own. There are two hundred and fifty passengers on board.

Monday, May 26.—Nothing happens worth mentioning. We lie at anchor in

Oyster Bay the whole day, not having got all our passengers on board.

Tuesday, May 27.—At 8 o'clock we weighed anchor at Oyster Bay, with a fair wind, for New York. Half after eleven, we are brought to by the guard ship at City Island. Our captain was very angry that they should bring him to, but they did not detain us long. We went on with a fair breeze through Hell Gate; but as we got through, the wind and tide headed us, and we had like to have gone ashore, which put us all in a great surprise. They tried twice to go on, but at length were obliged to anchor at the mouth of Harlem Creek, where we lay that night.

Wednesday, May 28.—We weighed anchor at Harlem Creek at a quarter after six in the morning, with a fair breeze, but the tide being low we struck a rock. We soon got off, but in a few minutes struck again. At half past seven we got off and went clear, and at ten we anchored at the lower end of the City of New York, the tide not serving to go round into the North River as we had intended. An hour later I went on shore in Capt. Judson's whale boat and went to Mrs. MacKee's, and from there Mrs. Raymond and I went to Mr. Partlow's, where we dined and spent the afternoon. We met Major Hubble there, who formerly commanded the Loyalists at Lloyd's Neck. At evening we returned on board ship, where I drank tea and spent the evening with my little agreeable family.

Thursday, May 29.—This afternoon my husband went on shore with my little son, nearly nine years old. I long to have them come on board again to hear what observations the child will make, for for he has not been in town for some years now. Later—He came on board again. He pleases me very much with his discourse about what he has seen.

Friday, May 30.—Went on shore and spent the day at Mrs. Partlow's. Mrs. Mussels, Mrs. Scofield and Miss Lucretia Bates came there towards evening and gave an account of my parents' welfare and my friends in the country. I am afraid I shall not hear from them again before I leave New York. I grow tired, so I think to quit for the night.

Saturday, May 31.—I rose early, having spent the night at Mr. Partlow's; waited some time for breakfast and then went out amongst the shops to trade. In the evening came on board ship again with my husband and children.

Monday, June 2nd.—We are still lying at anchor in the North River, not having any orders for sailing, and I don't know when we shall sail but hope soon. Nothing happens worth mentioning.

Tuesday, June 3.—I staid on board all day. It being the King's birthday there was such a firing of cannons and noise amongst the ships it was enough to astound anyone. At night they fired sky-rockets.

Wednesday, June 4.—(Manuscript torn and part of the narrative missing).

Friday, June 6.—We are still lying at anchor waiting for other vessels of our fleet. My father will come on board in the morning if my husband can go and fetch him. I do so long to hear from my dear mother and my brothers and sisters. We have had a very bad storm this evening. Our ship tossed very much, and some of the people are quite sick, but I am in hopes the storm will soon abate. It grows late as I conclude for the night, hoping to see "Daddy" in the morning.

Saturday, June 7.—My husband went on shore and brought father on board to breakfast. Soon after breakfast he returned on shore, for he expected to go home in the same boat he came down in, but hearing there was a vessel coming from Stamford today, he concluded to stay and return in it, so he came on board again to dine.

Sunday, June 8.—We are still lying at anchor in the North River. We expected to sail tomorrow for Nova Scotia, but I believe we shall remain at Staten Island or Sandy Hook for some days, or until our fleet is all got together.

(To be continued.)

Billious But Not Guilty.

Judge—If you find the prisoner guilty of the felonious assault you will say so.

Foreman of the Jury—We b'leve he hit him yer o'n fast enuff.

Judge—Then what is your verdict?

Foreman—Wall, ye see jedge, we calculate the felley he hit was wusser'n he was.

Judge—Then, do you find the prisoner guilty or not guilty?

Foreman—We find him not guilty yer o'n, on the ground of a general row, and likewise his bile was riz!

A distressing cough or cold not only deprives one of rest and sleep, but, if allowed to continue, is liable to develop more serious trouble in the way of Congestion or Laryngitis, or perhaps Consumption. Use Baird's Balsam of Horehound.—Adet.

Will Regret It.

Mrs. Simpson—So your servant has run off. How foolish in her to leave a good home like this. Don't you think she will regret it?

Mrs. Sampson—Yes; my husband went with her.—N. Y. Sun.

The weakness and debility which result from illness may be speedily overcome by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. This is a safe, but powerful tonic, assists digestion, regulates the liver and kidneys, and cleanses the blood of all germs of disease.—Adet.

Monday, May 26.—Nothing happens worth mentioning. We lie at anchor in

Out at Sea.



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ELECTION CARDS.

To the Electors of the City and County of St. John.

GENTLEMEN,—

A dissolution of the House of Assembly of this Province having taken place, we, the undersigned, beg to announce that at a public meeting of electors convened for the purpose, we were unanimously selected as candidates for the representation of the City and County of Saint John in the Local Legislature, at the election to be held on Monday, the 20th day of January instant, in opposition to the present local government. We feel that every encroachment upon the principle of responsible local self-government should be strenuously resisted. That principle has been violated in this constituency by the present government. We pledge ourselves, if elected, to do all in our power to promote harbor, wharf, railway terminal and other improvements in connection with our city, which its importance demands. Careful attention will also be given to the roads and bridges of the county, and while especially looking after the interests of this constituency, we will also support and promote every measure tending to conserve the interests of the Province generally.

Respectfully soliciting your support, we are,

Your obedient servants,

A. A. STOCKTON,
JAMES ROURKE,
WM. SHAW,
HARRISON A. McKEOWN.

St. John, N. B., 3rd January, 1890.

To the Electors of the City of Saint John.

GENTLEMEN,—

Having accepted the nomination as candidates to the Local Legislature for the City of Saint John, in opposition to the Government, at a public meeting of the electors, held on the 3rd instant, we respectfully solicit your support. If elected, we pledge ourselves to promote the best interests of the City, as well as those of the Province generally. We favor harbor improvements and increased railway facilities, and shall do all in our power to accomplish these ends. The violation of the principle of responsible local self-government, in this constituency, by the present administration, should merit the disapproval of every elector. We shall avail ourselves of the opportunity—before the day of election—of addressing you on the question involved in the contest.

Respectfully yours,

SILAS ALWARD,
ALBERT C. SMITH.

St. John, N. B., January 3rd, 1890.

To the Electors of the City of Saint John.

GENTLEMEN,—

Having received the nomination of the grand mass meeting of the friends of the Local Government held this evening, we feel highly honored in accepting the nomination and confidently appeal to you for your support.

The general policy of the government having in the past received the hearty approval of the people of St. John, and nothing having occurred to cause it to forfeit the confidence of any right thinking citizen, we feel that on this ground alone we have good reason for believing that it will be triumphantly sustained by you at the coming election.

The most important question now before the electors is whether the Government will be sustained in the promise to aid this city by a liberal subsidy to carry through to completion the extensive scheme of harbor improvements which has been agreed to, and which must exercise a material influence in advancing the prosperity of St. John.

We are pledged to do all in our power to have the necessary legislation enacted to sustain the Government in giving the requisite subsidies to carry out these Harbor Improvements, and we shall, if elected, in this, and in all other matters earnestly seek to promote the interests of this city as well as the whole Province.

We are,

Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN H. PARKS,
HENRY J. THORNE.

St. John, N. B., 6th January, 1890.

To the Electors of the City and County of Saint John.

GENTLEMEN,—

The large and thoroughly representative meeting of the friends of the Local Government held this evening, having nominated us as candidates of the party in the present campaign, we have cheerfully accepted the nomination, and respectfully solicit your support.

Apart from the fact that the general policy of the government in the past warrants us in asking your confidence, we feel that you will agree with us that it is most important that candidates in support of the government should be elected at the present time in view of the liberal assistance which has been promised to the city for the purpose of carrying out the extensive scheme of harbor improvements which has been agreed upon, and the completion of which must prove of immense advantage to this city and county.

If elected as your representatives we shall, while devoting our best efforts to promote the general interests of this constituency, as well as of the Province at large, not fail to see that the roads and bridges throughout the County are kept in the same efficient state as they have been kept through the liberality of the Government during its term of office for the past few years.

We are,

Gentlemen,

Yours Faithfully,

DAVID McLELLAN,
W. A. QUINTON,
W. B. CARVILL,
H. LAWRENCE STURDEE.

St. John N. B., 6th January 1890.

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JOSEPH HORNCASTLE, Secy-Treas.

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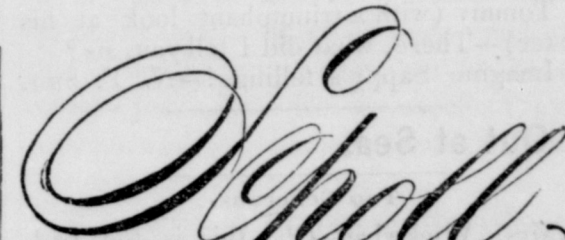
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