

At the commencement of the eighteenth century, Douglas was a mere fishing village. "As the contraband trade increased," remarks Train, "it tended to enrich the inhabitants. Adventurers who had accumulated wealth by means of this traffic generally pulled down their paternal habitations and built others on the former sites, every one according to his fancy, and more suitable to the wealth he had acquired." The town, which has become a place of considerable importance, is rapidly assuming a modern aspect; the houses are gradually beautifying, and the streets extending themselves. The population in 1851 was 9653; at the present time it is estimated at 12,000.

A picturesque edifice styled the Tower of Refuge stands on St. Mary's Rock, or Conister, in Douglas Bay. It was erected in 1832, at the suggestion of the late Sir William Hillary, Bart., by whom the first stone was laid. The object proposed by the philanthropic founder was to afford a refuge to the crews of vessels which should be driven into the bay by stress

