

could not make them more virtuous or enlightened than they are at present: neither would it make them more attached to the British government, and were we to perplex ourselves and lose our liberty in the endeavour to attain an uncertain good that lay in the bosom of futurity, and might never be realized.

colonies, in 1755; and in 1762, upon an alarm occasioned by the landing of the French in Newfoundland, about two thousand more shared the same fate. The quota destined for Pennsylvania, Eulick says, "was 415 men, women, and children. They landed in a most deplorable condition at Philadelphia. The government, to get clear of the charge such a company of miserable wretches would require to maintain them, proposed to sell them with their own consent: but when this expedient for their support was offered for their consideration, the transports refused it with indignation, alleging that they were prisoners, and expected to be maintained as such, and not forced to labour. They further said that they had not violated their oath of fidelity, which, by the treaty of Utrecht, they were obliged to take; and that they were ready to renew that oath, but that a new oath of obedience having been prescribed to them, by which they apprehended the neutrals would be obliged to bear arms against the French, they could not take it, and thought they could not be compelled to take it." No proof has ever been produced—none exists—to support the accusations against these sufferers; and no justification, but state necessity, and policy for securing the dominion of the territory, they were ordered from, has ever been offered. Tradition is fresh and positive, in the various parts of the United States, where they became located, respecting their guileless, peaceable and scrupulous character: and their petition, before alluded to, bears intrinsic evidence of the truth of its details. "We trust, say they, "that your Majesty will not suffer suspicions and accusations to be received as proofs sufficient to reduce thousands of innocent people from the most happy situation to a state of the greatest distress and misery. We have always desired and again desire, that we may be permitted to answer our accusers in a judicial way. In the mean time, permit us, sir, here solemnly to declare, that these accusations are utterly false and groundless, so far as they concern us as a collective body of people. And what was one of the hardest and greatest aggravations appears, where they represent that not long before our being made prisoners, the house in which we kept our contracts, records, deeds, &c. was invested by an armed force, and all our papers violently carried away, none of which have to this day been returned us, whereby we are in a great measure deprived of the means of making our innocency, and the justness of our complaints appear in their true light." Nothing in fact can be more