

CHAPTER II.

Alien Bill and Clergy Reserves.

But the most cruel cut of all, was the *detestable Alien Bill*. After twice fighting for British supremacy, they little thought they should survive to be called *aliens*! But they were coolly told, that when the independence of the United States was recognized, all, without distinction, domiciled in that country, became citizens of it, and aliens to Great Britain. The treaty of peace made no provision in their behalf; and the very nation for which they had fought, and whose cause they had espoused, at the hazard of life and fortune for eight miserable years, made them *aliens* with the same dash of the pen, which made the revolutionists *free*. Their hearts were wrung with an agony of feeling. But it was the just retribution of Heaven, to punish them, for aiding the cruel oppressor in enslaving the oppressed. Heaven smiled on the righteous efforts of the oppressed sons of freedom, and said, "BE FREE!" be happy and multiply; but to the oppressors, the enemies of liberty, and the rights of man, "Be thou in thy turn oppressed and humbled, and learn the difference between slavery and freedom."

The U. E.'s had long gloried in the name of British subjects; and were often betrayed into insulting expressions against the republicans as *aliens*. But if it was on their part a delusion, it was not without excuse. The government professed to regard them as of an "endeared relation;" the first governor, by proclamation, invited them as subjects; and in the 31st. Geo. III, a British act was passed in its tone, provisions and objects, beguiling them into the same credulity. Upon the faith of these allurements, they, as well as other American born similarly situated, settled in Canada; and performed all the duties and exercised all the rights of subjects, both in peace and in war.—They fought against the Americans as British subjects in

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