

The French Neutrals

IN

PENNSYLVANIA.

IN the notes to the edition of Mr. Longfellow's poem of *Evangeline*, published in London in 1853, I find the following statement. Speaking of the Acadian exiles, the annotator says :

“One thousand arrived in Massachusetts Bay, and became a public expense, owing, in a great degree, to an unchangeable antipathy to their situation, which prompted them to reject the usual beneficiary but humiliating establishment of paupers for their children. They landed in a most deplorable condition at Philadelphia. The government of the colony, to relieve itself 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 neutrals refused it with indignation, alleging that they were prisoners, and expected to be maintained as such, and not forced to labour.”