

P. MAITLAND.

The LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR thinks proper to call the attention of the House of Assembly, to a subject which he has long regarded as one of much importance to the Province, and of particular interest to a large portion of its Inhabitants.

The House of Assembly is aware that of those persons who have come to this Province from Foreign Countries, and more especially at an early period of its settlement, many had been Citizens of the United States of America, and Subjects of that Government.

Whatever difference of opinion may have formerly prevailed with respect to the Civil Rights of persons so situated, from the circumstance of the United States of America having once being British Colonies, the solemn decision of the question in the Courts of the Mother Country whose Laws we have adopted, leaves no room for doubt—And these Inhabitants of the Province are exposed to the inconvenience of finding those rights denied which they have hitherto enjoyed, but which whenever they may be questioned must be decided upon by those to whom the Administration of Justice is committed according to Law, and without regard to inconveniences which might be much regretted.

There are also in this Province a number of Emigrants from other Foreign Countries, and many discharged Soldiers of Foreign Corps, who not having strictly complied with the provisions of those British Statutes, under which they might have been entitled to the privileges of subjects, are equally by law exposed to the danger of being regarded as Aliens.

Of all the persons thus situated the greater part became Inhabitants with the knowledge of the Government, between those and others it does not appear necessary to discriminate. In the persuasion that they might all be safely received and acknowledged as subjects, with no other qualifications than those which the Legislature of this Province has from time to time thought it expedient to impose, the Lieutenant Governor has earnestly pressed the subject upon the consideration of His Majesty's Government, and has it now in his power to communicate to the House of Assembly, that he has received His Majesty's express sanction, to assent to an Enactment which may afford relief to such persons as are now in the Province, and the Lieutenant Governor doubts not, that a subject so important, will receive the early and attentive consideration of the House of Assembly.

Government House, }
15th November, 1825. }