

resting satisfied with the dividend that has been paid to them upon the awards of the commissioners. It should be remembered, that owing to the extreme difficulties of proof, from the death and absence of witnesses, and the loss of documents, the claims substantiated before the commissioners, did not, in general, exceed one-third of their actual losses; that in numerous instances, these losses constituted the all of the individual sufferers; many of whom, during the long privation of the part payment for twenty-eight years, and of the residue for thirty-six years, have endured the most painful difficulties and embarrassments. The loyalists would also earnestly submit, that the peculiar origin and nature of their claims, and the distinct recognition they have received from Parliament, entirely distinguish them from ordinary claimants, and fully justify them in seeking a complete satisfaction of what they cannot but consider rather as admitted rights, than mere claims on the munificence of the nation.

One word on the subject of economy; a consideration which, in the present state of the country, may naturally suggest itself to many minds, as an objection to the petitions of the loyalists. This objection would, it is admitted, possess great weight, if the present were a mere appeal to the bounty or the compassionate feelings of the nation. But the loyalists do not conceive themselves guilty of presumption in considering their claims in the light of a debt due to them in honor and justice from the British nation, and solemnly acknowledged as such by its Crown and Parliament. To such a claim, they humbly conceive, that even economy ought to yield, or rather, that the character of the nation cannot permit it to be set up in excuse. Besides, can the Parliament or the country forget the immense savings and retrenchments which were purchased by the nation at the expense of the loyalists, when they were sacrificed on the shrine of peace in 1783? The question then was, whether to continue the war, in order to procure their re-instatement in their possessions, so powerfully were the obligations of the nation to them then felt. But the loyalists were sacrificed to the urgent necessities of the country, and the course economical for the nation, but calamitous to the loyalists, was adopted of concluding peace, and taking into the hands of the British nation the task of their compensation; the prime minister of the day declaring, "that without one-fifth of the expense of one year's campaign, happiness and ease could be given to the loyalists, in as ample a manner as these blessings were ever in their enjoyment." And yet, to the present claimants, this happiness and ease have never, to this hour, been restored, even to the inadequate extent in which pecuniary compensation could restore them! It must never therefore, be forgotten, that if the national burdens are now heavy, it is owing to the very sufferings of the loyalists, that they are not far heavier; and if economy could ever be honourably set up as an excuse for violating engagements, there surely would be a peculiar ingratitude, and a cruel injustice in opposing it to the claims of those whose misfortunes have actually been the means of sparing to the nation ten-fold the amount of the compensation they seek.

London, April 1820.

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