

(APPENDIX H.) *See Journal page 70.*

United states, it is evident that this law had such persons particularly in view; and if it be construed to refer to the case of persons born in the United states, it presupposes them to have lost their allegiance, and that they can only become entitled by complying with the provisions of the 13th Geo. 2 Cap. 7. It is manifestly a law of purgation. British born subjects have by swearing allegiance to another state, placed themselves, at least for a time, in the situation of aliens, and may consequently, during that time, have imbibed ideas and sentiments hostile to British views and British institutions. Therefore, it was deemed reasonable to prevent them from exercising any civil rights until after a residence of seven years.

The 54th of the late King chap. 4. extended the period to fourteen years and required the candidate to be possessed of lands assessed at £40 and of other ratable property to the amount of £160, in all £200. This, which considering the situation of the colony and the way in which many acquire a settlement in it, was certainly an excellent law, and a great improvement on the former, was repealed in 1818, by 58th Geo. 3. cap. 9, which reduced the time to seven years, and the qualification to £80. This is now the law of the land, and proceeds in its provisions in accordance with the 13th Geo. 2. which must still be complied with before it can take effect. In fine, these two last statutes take their bearing from the first, which evidently points at those British subjects who had left their country, relinquished their allegiance for a time, and were now to resume it.



V. *It is asserted that American Citizens were invited into the Province.*

DURING the American Revolution, the inhabitants were divided into two divisions, those who adhered to the King, and those who joined the standard of revolt. The latter prevailed, and on the re-establishment of peace, the former, who had preserved their allegiance, sought an assylum in the colonies that remained faithful to the crown. Numbers removed to Bermuda, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and still greater numbers came and settled in this province. The provincial corps, and one or two regiments of the line, were the first to settle in Upper Canada, in the District of Niagara, and along the lower part of the St. Lawrence, between Kingston and the Point au Boudet. Soon after all the Refugee Loyalists, who had, from time to time, escaped into the Lower Province, and were living in Montreal and its vicinity, removed to this country, and were settled in the Bay of Quinte, and in the Johnstown and Eastern Districts. All these had left the colonies during the rebellion; but there were thousands who had not taken arms on either side, but yet who were strongly attached in their hearts to the King, and who could not endure to become the subjects of the United States. These made earnest enquiries to know whether they would be received if they should remove into the province. There were many likewise who had been active in the contest, but who were at first inclined to remain on account of their connexions and property, but the hostile feelings which had been excited, and the jealousy and suspicion with which they were treated by the new government, became at length so harrassing, that they determined to remove into the British dominions. These different classes with their connexions, were for many years coming into the country, as their circumstances permitted, and the British government, appreciating their loyal motives, with its usual kindness and paternal solicitude, instructed the Governor in Chief to give them an affectionate reception.

Instructions were sent to General Haldimand immediately after the peace in 1783, to give lands to the refugee loyalists, and to take measures for their comfortable settlement, with as much despatch as possible. In consequence of which, early in May, 1784, Deputy-surveyor General Collins was directed to locate such loyalists in the neighbourhood of Sorel, and steps were at the same time, taken for settling others of them along the Saint Lawrence and around Kingston.

In 1786, additional instructions were sent to Lord Dorchester, the fortieth article of which is the following:—“Whereas many of our loyal subjects inhabitants of our colonies and provinces now in the United States of America, are desirous of retaining their allegiance to us and of living in our dominions, and for this purpose are disposed to take up and improve lands in our province of Quebec; and we being desirous to encourage our said loyal subjects in such their intention, and to testify our approbation of their loyalty to us, and obedience to our government, by allotting lands for them in our said province; and whereas we are also desirous of testifying our approbation of the bravery and loyalty of our forces serving in our said province, and who may have been reduced there, by allowing a certain quantity of land to such of the non-commissioned officers and private men of our said forces who are inclined to become settlers therein, it is our will and pleasure, that immediately after you shall receive these our instructions, you do direct our Surveyor General of lands for our said province of Quebec, to admeasure and lay out such a quantity of land as you with the advice of our council, shall deem necessary and convenient for the settlement of our said loyal subjects, and the non-commissioned officers and private men of our forces, which may have been reduced in our said province, who shall be desirous of being settlers therein, &c.” This article then descends into details,