

I had the honour of enclosing you copious extracts from a letter dated the 29th May 1792, from Mr. Jefferson, secretary of state, to Mr. Hammond, minister plenipotentiary to the United States, making it clearly appear, that the negociation of the peace, on both sides well understood, that the loyalists were to depend solely on the "*recommendation of Congress to restore their estate and effects*," which Mr. Jefferson declared, "had been alienated by their laws, and that redress was therefore impossible," because a retrospect would tear up the laws in all the states, and "would be a direct violation of the constitution of several of them." He concludes, therefore, his observations; "I have by way of preliminary, placed out of the present discussion, all acts and proceedings prior to the treaty of peace, considering them as settled by that instrument; and that the then state of things was adopted by the parties."

The case of the American loyalists has been laid before a barrister of law, of the first eminence and practice, who is decidedly of opinion, "*That their claims are indisputable, and ought not to be abandoned until satisfied*." They therefore earnestly entreat to be honored with your long-promised answer to their note of the 31st January 1815; to their solicitor's note of the 17th May 1815; and to the present representations; in which, the powerful arguments adduced, will, they trust, satisfactorily establish the justice of their claims. And however circumstances may preclude you from attending to the subject during this session of Parliament, yet, they very confidently hope to receive assurances of your countenance and support, at a more favourable period.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most faithful humble servant,

R. W. Powell,

Agent for the American Loyalists,

N° 3, Salisbury-street, Strand.

The Right honourable N. Vansittart,  
Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c. &c. &c.

N° 12.—7th April 1819; Copy of a Letter from R. W. Powell, esq. to the Right honourable N. Vansittart.

Sir,

N° 3, Salisbury-street, Strand, 7th April 1819.

By the interview that you did me the honour to grant me yesterday, I observed that the only obstacle which prevents the claims of the American loyalists being attended to by Lord Liverpool is the opinion of Mr. Macdonald, "that the claims of the merchants were alike entitled to compensation," which opinion, I was persuaded, had been completely controverted and invalidated by the facts stated in my letters to his Lordship and to you, dated the 19th June 1817, pointing out the great distinction between the two sets of claimants, as was indeed declared by his Lordship and you to the merchants themselves. And in my letter to you solid reasons were given, why Mr. Macdonald, whose talents and character I have always respected long before he was a commissioner, was a very improper referee to decide on the claims of the exiled American loyalists and the British merchants resident in Great Britain, not only from his national prejudice, but that out of sixty Glasgow claims, his brother-in-law was agent for forty-four of them, amounting to £. 537,760, the commissions on which would yield him a handsome fortune.

The dissimilarity of the claims were clearly distinguished by the fifth article of the treaty of 1783, under the title of "*real British subjects*," who had not borne arms against the United States, but only held property there.

The American loyalists, in contradistinction, had borne arms when called upon, to aid and assist in their endeavours to suppress the rebellion, whereby they were banished and their estates confiscated, which penalties were confirmed by the fifth article of the treaty, that stipulated only twelve months for them to go to the United States to endeavour to recover their property; the restitution of which was peremptorily refused by that Government. Their claims are therefore founded on, and of course, sanctioned, under assurances of protection by royal proclamations and resolutions of Parliament, during the war; and by His Majesty's speech on the 5th December 1782, after the peace, "I trust that you will agree with me, that a due and generous attention ought to be shown to those who have relinquished their properties or possessions from motives of loyalty to me, or attachment to the mother country."

Address