

nor would not, thus be melted down, mixed and amalgamated." Instancing several historical examples, he added that he could not see what benefits were expected to be derived by Upper Canada, or by England, by effecting so great a change in the French Canadians as that contemplated by some gentlemen. It

fortune. A few of them had indeed joined the French forces at Louisburg; but the body of the people were only suspected of an inclination to assist the enemies of England; an accusation which they, however, most solemnly deny, in their pathetic petition to His Majesty, preserved in Walsh's appeal; (note F,) yet extirpation and transportation were the means adopted for destroying the suspected infidelity of these poor neutrals. "General Lawrence," says Entyck, "did not only pursue these dangerous inhabitants with fire and sword, laying their country waste, burning their dwellings, and carrying off their stock; but he thought it expedient to transport the French neutrals, so as to entirely extirpate a people that only waited an opportunity to join the enemy." And this was whilst they were in the King's peace, having actually taken the qualified oath of allegiance, which the compact of their cession required. But it was not the act of general Lawrence alone, it was in consequence of instructions from home, and after it had been considered by the governor and council of Nova Scotia, in conjunction with admirals Boscawen and Mordaunt. From their relative local situation, it was obvious that, if they were merely turned out of the country, and left to go where they pleased, they would have recruited the then French province of Canada with soldiers, who would immediately have returned in arms upon the British frontiers. It was therefore determined to remove and disperse the whole people, in number upwards of ten thousand, among the other British colonies, where they could be amalgamated with the other colonists. They were kept entirely ignorant of their destiny, until the moment of their captivity, and were assured, or overawed, to galley in their harvest, which they were obliged to leave behind them. That convenient moment being arrived they were called together at the different posts to hear the King's orders, as they were termed. By those orders it was declared that their lands and tenements, cattle, stock and effects, save only money and household goods, were forfeited to the crown, themselves to be removed from the province, and until then declared the King's prisoners. As some of the wretched inhabitants escaped to the woods, all possible measures were adopted to force them back into captivity. The country was laid waste to prevent their subsistence. In the district of Minas alone, 255 houses 11 mills and one church were destroyed. About seven thousand of them, being embarked at the point of the bayonet, were dispersed among the other