

STORY OF A REFUGEE.

AN aged man, rapidly sliding towards the grave, is desirous to leave behind him some notice that he lived.

At the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783, he had been resident for years at Montreal, a Refugee from the revolted Colony of Massachusetts. The Province of Quebec was at that time governed under the 14th George the Third, called the Quebec Bill—a wise and just law as related to the conquered subjects, but in no wise apt to console the loyal refugees from the United States.

Experience had taught that, to their precursor, and he set on foot a Petition to the King and Parliament, which he carried to the foot of the Throne and delivered in person to Lord Sydney, principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. That part of the Petition which affected immediately the Refugees, and remotely their descendants in Upper Canada, follows, and will speak for itself.

“ Your Petitioners look with concern on the infinite distress of your Majesty’s loyal subjects, who, expelled from their native country, driven from their estates and possessions, are early taking shelter in this British Colony.

“ Your Majesty will readily perceive that a free Constitution and a Government similar or superior to that under which they were born and lived, and were happy, will be considered by your Majesty’s injured subjects as the greatest protection and relief your Majesty can now grant, and the more so as it will be a protection and blessing, not merely granted to them, but extended to their children and posterity.