

19th March 1816; Copy of a LETTER from Germain Lavie, esq.  
to the Right Honourable N. Vansittart.

SIR,

**I**N consequence of a letter received by Mr. Powell, from lord Tyrconnel, dated the 26th January last, the committee of American loyalists have been most anxiously expecting an answer to their several representations to yourself and lord Liverpool, of the 31st January, 17th May, 5th October and 16th December, in the last year; and, fearful that any longer delay may occasion the loss of another session, they have now called upon me to make the necessary preparations for bringing their case before Parliament.

On examining the papers laid before me for this purpose, I find, that on the 3d December 1812, and pending the discussion in Parliament on the general petition of the American claimants, the loyalists presented their petition to the Lords of the Treasury, stating their distinct and separate case; and that on the 26th May 1814, they made a representation to yourself and lord Liverpool, with a view to establish this distinction.

These two papers appear to me to bring the subject forward in so strong a point of view, that I think it for the interest of these unfortunate sufferers to place them again under your eye, and I accordingly take leave to transmit you copies thereof, No. 1 and 2.

I have also, on this occasion read over the report of the committee of the House of Commons, to whom the above-mentioned general petition was referred, and I find that that report, together with the matters of the Appendix, were confined to the question of the British creditors claiming for their loss by their American debtors. And the particular case of the American loyalists does not appear to have been at all brought before that committee; indeed I am told, that all discussion on their claims was purposely avoided, which is confirmed by your letter to Mr. White, of the 10th July 1813, of which I also beg leave to hand you a copy of, No. 3.

These several papers, with the continued representations of the last year, afford such indisputable arguments in favour of the claims of the American loyalists, that I am certain His Majesty's ministers, on a full consideration of the subject, must feel themselves compelled to assent to this debt, so long owing by the country, being discharged, in such manner as may be found convenient to the public interest.

I do not know any better mode of framing a petition to Parliament, than adopting the terms and prayer of the memorial of 1812, No. 1; but if a petition be to be presented without the assent of Government (a measure of the last resort, and on which I have already given my opinion,) the prayer must be materially altered.

I have felt it my duty to bring this important subject once more before you, previous to my proceeding to execute the instructions of my employers.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient humble servant,

(Signed) *Germain Lavie,*

Frederick's Place, 19th March 1816.

The Right honourable  
Nicholas Vansittart.

#### REMARKS on the Subject and Contents of the "Note" presented by the American Loyalists.

THE object of the argument in the note is to show, that, although those of His Majesty's subjects, *not having been American loyalists*, who, by adjudications obtained from the late board of American claims, were declared as creditors to have suffered losses, to a certain extent, from the "lawful impediments," or laws and judicial practices of the United States, in breach of the 4th article of treaty of 1783, for protecting the recovery of *debts*, should not be found entitled to receive from the public the difference between the amount of those adjudications respectively, and the smaller amount of the sum distributed among them by that board; yet, such of His Majesty's subjects having, in like manner as creditors, obtained such adjudications  
and