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M Amendments made by the Commons' House of Assembly in and to the Bill, entitled, "An Act to confirm and quiet in the possession of their estates, and to admit to the Civil Rights of subjects, certain classes of persons therein mentioned."

ce In the Title—After the word "Act" expunge the remainder of the Title, and insert "to declare the law respecting the Civil Rights of certain inhabitants of this Province."

H Press, 1 line 1—After the word "Whereas" expunge the remainder of the bill, and insert "a very large portion of the inhabitants of this province is composed of persons, who have come from the United States of America, and who were either natural born British Subjects themselves or children of natural born British Subjects, which said persons have, with the knowledge, approbation, and encouragement, and in many cases, in consequence of the invitations of His Majesty's Government, come into, settled, and been received in this province, and been treated and considered as natural born British Subjects, to all intents, constructions, and purposes whatsoever, not only entitled to all the rights, privileges, and immunities, but also subject to all the duties, obligations, and responsibilities of natural born British Subjects, and have manifested the most loyal attachment to His Majesty's Government: And Whereas doubts have lately been expressed whether they are entitled to the rights and privileges of British Subjects, whereby great uneasiness is likely to be excited in the minds of the people of this province, and the honor and good faith of His Majesty's Government are liable to be impeached; and it is therefore expedient for the purpose of removing those doubts to declare the Law upon the subject: Be it therefore declared and enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the province of Upper Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of, and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, entitled "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, "An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the province of Quebec in North America, and to make further provision for the Government of the said province," and by the authority of the same, that all persons who were born, or whose fathers, or paternal grandfathers, were born in His Majesty's dominions and who have since been resident in this province, (notwithstanding they may have resided in, or been citizens of the United States of America, at or since the period when the independence of the said United States was recognized and acknowledged by His Majesty's Government,) are, and shall be considered to be, and to have been to all intents, purposes, and constructions whatsoever, natural born British Subjects, and to be, and to have been, entitled (subject to any qualifications which the Legislature of this province has from time to time thought it expedient to impose,) to all the rights, privileges, and immunities of natural born British Subjects."

(SIGNED) JOHN WILSON, *Speaker.*

Commons' House of Assembly, }
14th December, 1825. }

This amendment, or declaratory bill, was opposed by the ministerial party with the utmost vehemence. The Attorney General, in a most impassioned tone, said he would suffer death before he would consent to a measure that would confer the rights of subjects on men who, but a few years ago, had "*invaded our country—ransacked our villages—burnt our houses—and murdered our wives and children.*"

The provisions of the amendment, though plain and simple in themselves, and confined to the persons now in the colony, were misconstrued into a broad and general admission to the rights of subjects of all Americans who might hereafter choose to come in—It was also openly asserted, in doors and out of doors, that by this declaratory bill, all Americans by crossing the lines, might immediately enjoy the privileges of the elective franchise, although it contained an express proviso subjecting all persons embraced in it to the existing laws, which require seven years' residence, &c. The debate was animated and lasted for four days successively, when it closed with the adoption of the amendment, by a large majority.

This declaratory bill, after passing the House, was sent to the Legislative Council, where it was soon committed to the company of the *six repeals* of the 44th of the late king.

That the House of Assembly, however, acted correctly in passing this bill, and that these Anglo-Americans can never, with the slightest degree of justice, and without an open violation of good faith on the part of the government, be viewed as any thing but natural born British subjects, to all intents and purposes, must appear clear as the sun at noon-day, to any dispassionate mind, on reading the following communication, which lately appeared in the *Canadian Freeman*:—