

A RELATION OF THE MISFORTUNES OF THE FRENCH NEUTRALS,

As laid before the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania

BY JOHN BAPTISTE GALERM,
ONE OF THE SAID PEOPLE.¹

~~~~~

ABOUT the year 1713, when *Annapolis Royal* was taken from the *French*, our Fathers being then settled on the Bay of *Fundé*, upon the Surrender of that Country to the *English*, had, by virtue of the Treaty of Utrecht, a Year granted them to remove with their Effects; but not being willing to lose the Fruit of many Years labour, they chose rather to remain there, and become Subjects of *Great Britain*, on Condition that they might be exempted from bearing Arms against *France* (most of them having near Relations and Friends amongst the *French*, which they might have destroyed with their own Hands, had they consented to bear Arms against them). This Request they always understood to be granted, on their taking the Oath of Fidelity to her late Majesty, Queen *Anne*; which Oath of Fidelity was by us, about 27 Years ago, renewed to his Majesty, King *George*, by General *Phillipse*, who then allowed us an Exemption of bearing Arms against *France*; which Exemption, till lately, (that we were told to the contrary) we always thought was approved of by the King. Our Oath of Fidelity, we that are now brought into this Province, as well as those of our Community that are carried into the neighbouring Provinces, have always inviolably observed, and have, on all Occasions, been willing to afford all the Assistance in our Power to his Majesty's Governors in erecting Forts, making Roads, Bridges, &c., and providing Provisions for his Majesty's Service, as can be testified by the several Governors and Officers that have commanded in his Majesty's Province of *Nova Scotia*; and this, notwithstanding the repeated Solicitations, Threats, and Abuses, which we have continually, more or less, suffered from the *French* and *French Indians* of *Canada* on that Account, particularly about ten Years ago, when 500 *French* and *Indians* came to our Settlements, intending to attack *Annapolis Royal*, which, had their Intention succeeded, would have

<sup>1</sup> Broadside, in a Volume of the Pennsylvania Gazette, Philadelphia Library, Folio No. 992. As it follows the paper issue, No. 1418, of February 26, 1756, I presume that is about the date of its publication. It is proper to state that, from the absence of Mr. Reed in China, as Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States, the foregoing paper has not received his correction, in passing through the press.—T. WARD.