

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 18

PETITION OF THE WESTERN LOYALISTS.<sup>1</sup>

Copy / To His Excellency the Right Honorable Guy Lord Dorchester  
 Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Colonies of Quebec,  
 Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and their dependencies, and  
 Vice Admiral of the same. General and Commander in Chief of  
 all His Majesty's Forces in the said Colonies, and the Island of  
 Newfoundland.

The petition of the Subscribers, residing in the new settlement, in  
 behalf of themselves and the Inhabitants at large, in the respective Town-  
 ships, from Point au Baudet on Lake S<sup>t</sup> Francis Westward, as far as Nia-  
 gara.

Humbly Sheweth,

That your Petitioners impressed with the most lively sentiments of  
 gratitude, beg leave through the Channel of your Lordship, to offer their  
 sincere, and united tribute of thanks to their most gracious Sovereign for  
 the singular, and multiplied favors conferred on them ; at the same time they  
 presume that your Lordship will with your wonted Goodness, interest  
 yourself in regard to some propositions they have to make which with  
 submission, they conceive are very essential to promote the happiness of  
 the People, and facilitate the progress of the settlement ; and they humbly  
 hope, that what your Lordship cannot with propriety grant yourself, you  
 will be So condescending as to recommend to His Majesty, for His Royal  
 approbation and consent.

1<sup>st</sup> It is the confirm'd opinion of your Petitioners from the fullest  
 conviction, that if the blessings of the British Constitution was extended  
 to this infant Settlement, and their Lands granted according to English  
 Tenures, such a change wou'd produce many happy effects, among the rest  
 to augment the happiness of the People, to strengthen the bands, as well as  
 the Interest of Government, to give a Spur to Industry, to population and  
 Commerce and damp the hopes, and the expectations of their enemies ;—  
 at the same time they must confess, it is not without some degree of envy  
 that they reflect on privileges, and indulgences, granted to their fellow  
 Sufferers in Nova Scotia which they themselves do not enjoy—especially  
 when the same motives which engaged them in the Honourable and Glorious  
 cause of defending the rights of their Sovereign, and the dignity of the  
 Nation, places them on the same footing, and gives them equal pretensions.  
 but notwithstanding they rest satisfied in the hope that your Lordships  
 representation of their situation, will induce His Majesty to interpose His  
 Royal favor in their behalf, to remove all cause of Jealousy and crown the  
 happiness of your Petitioners ; the arrangement for this purpose so anxiously  
 wished for, and the arguments in support of it, are so well described in a  
 petition drawn up by Sir John Johnson and others, in behalf of themselves  
 and the Loyalists at large in this Province (and presented to His Majesty

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Archives, Q 27-2, p. 989. This is the petition referred to in the foregoing letter  
 from Dorchester to Sydney and enclosed with it.