

for the Allegiance of the Applicants before the issuing of any Warrant of Survey; they were therefore bound upon a principle of obedience to exact the Oaths at all times. But by those who can recollect the condition of this Province from the beginning of the year 1794, to the final ratification of the Treaty with the United States of America, the period complained of, when apprehensions of the most serious nature were excited in the minds of the truly Loyal among His Majesty's Subjects at the probable effects to be expected from this "*abundant population*" of questionable characters who were to occupy one hundred and fifty Townships of ten miles square, and who were all to come from a Government with whom there were daily expectations of hostility, it will be admitted that that was not precisely the period for His Majesty's Government in Canada to relax those restrictions so wisely established to prevent them from being overwhelmed by a torrent of disaffection.

On the contrary it was their peculiar duty to hold out every species of discouragement consistent with Public Justice and good faith against the inroads of such enterprising neighbours, and the Committee are disposed to flatter themselves that their perseverance in this respect by their constant admonitions was not altogether without a beneficial consequence, although they are ready to admit that in some cases this vigilance has been eluded.

But although the Committee feel no difficulty in thus explaining their motives to Your Excellency for the information of the Lords of His Majesty's Council, yet they are by no means disposed to allow that in the application of the said Orders of Council, they have dealt harshly or rigorously in any case where the party had equitable merits to disclose.

On the contrary, although they have had recourse to those Orders, as they necessarily must, in discussing the many hundred unsupported claims and groundless pre-