

with their very substantial aid the royal armies were overcome. This but intensified the feeling of the loyalists, who looked on these foreigners as their hereditary enemies.

The Treaty of Ghent, in 1783, terminated the war. Here the American Commissioner was more astute than his British confrere, and among other things in which he gained the advantage, he maintained that Congress had no power to reinstate or indemnify the loyalists. This, too, in spite of the fact that Congress controlled millions of acres of wild lands outside the State boundaries. He held that upon the separate States devolved the work of dealing with the loyalists; but undertook to urge upon the States to restore their rights and their property. Of the thirteen States North Carolina was the only one to do this act of justice. The others continued their persecutions. Yet even from that State many came to Canada.

The States now being at peace with England, many of the loyalists decided to accept the situation; some whose property had been confiscated set about making new homes for themselves. Many residing in large communities of their own way of thinking, or among neighbors whose anti-British views were not extreme, had been unmolested and retained their property. But even among these were some whose love of freedom was stronger than the desire for ease and comfort, and for fifteen years after the war ceased there was a constant stream of loyalists emigrating to Canada. 10,000 are said to have located in this Province, all passing through what was then the wilderness of Western New York. The journey from the Hudson River to this country was not then a pleasant holiday trip of a day, but occupied as many weeks as it now takes hours to traverse. There were no roads, no settlers, no shelter except what the travellers carried with them. The women and children rode horseback, in most cases the men walked, driving the cattle, when they had any. There being no roads, no wagons could come and only such things as could be packed on horses were brought. Through hundreds of miles of a howling wilderness, surrounded by wild beasts and often still more savage Indians, refined and delicate women, and children of tender years, as well as the strong, the healthy and the hardy, had to toil through mud and through forest, frequently suffering hunger in addition to their other discomforts. After all their toil, suffering and danger in reaching Canada it was a wilderness, without homes, roads, churches, schools or mills. First, then, they must cut trees and build log cabins to shelter them, living meanwhile in bark huts or in tents. The log houses when built often went for months without doors or windows, until the glass and the lumber could be obtained. I once heard an aged lady tell of the time when she, a bride of eighteen summers, settled in what is now Hamilton, in the year 1788. She said: "We had a blanket to close the opening where