

fortunate class who had unwisely chosen the wrong side. So it came to pass in the course of the first half of the present century that little was heard of the American U. E. Loyalists. By the middle of the century the name was rarely heard and its meaning scarcely understood. But about this time a champion, on behalf of the loyalist, unexpectedly appeared. It is a matter of grateful acknowledgment that this champion was a New England writer, Lorenzo Sabine, who published a work entitled "Royalists of the American Revolution." But the facts brought forth in this work were too unpalatable to the people of the States to obtain many readers among them, and, strange to say, it is scarcely known in England or Canada. The cause and character of the U. E. Loyalists were first revived and brought to the attention of Canadians by the publication of "The Settlement of Upper Canada," in 1869, which has afforded material for magazine and other writers, as well as lecturers, by which an interest in the old U. E. Loyalists has been awakened, and some knowledge of the British founders of Canada has been acquired.

Believing that the readers of THE WEEK will be interested, it is proposed to give some information relating to the loyalists who returned to England. Before the writer is an Act in the form of a pamphlet printed at London, 1783. On the front page appears the following:—ANNO REGNI—GEORGII III.—REGIS—MAGNE BRITANNIE, FRANCIE, ET HIBERNIE—VICESIMO TERTIO. Following on the next page we have—CAP. LXXX, "An Act for appointing Commissioners to enquire into the Losses and Services of all such Persons who have suffered in their Rights, Properties, and Possessions, during the late unhappy Dissentions in America in consequence of their Loyalty to His Majesty and Attachment to the British Government.

"Whereas, during the late unhappy Dissentions in America, many of Your Majesty's faithful Subjects have, in consequence of their Loyalty to Your Majesty, and Attachment to the British Government, and their Obedience to Your Majesty's Proclamations and Manifestoes, issued by Your Majesty's Commissioners, Generals, and Governors, suffered in their Rights, Properties, and Professions, inasmuch that several well-deserving Persons are reduced from Affluence to circumstances so straitened as to require the Aid of a temporary support, which has been allotted to them by the Commissioners of the Treasury, by annual allowances made, and occasional Assistance by sums of Money given to them from the Revenues of Your Majesty's Civil List, the Amount of which has hitherto been made good by Parliament; and Your faithful Commons, not doubting but that Your Majesty's most earnest endeavours will be employed for procuring from the United States of America Restitution of or Recompense for the Estates and Effects of those who have thus unhappily suffered, and intending to give all due Aid and Assistance to those who may return to America for the Recovery of their former Possessions under the Provisional Articles, and to extend such Relief to others who may, by particular circumstances, be deprived of that Advantage, as their respective cases may require, and the Publick afford; to which End, it is necessary that a diligent and impartial Enquiry should be made into the Losses and Services of all such Persons as may, within the Time hereinafter limited for that purpose, claim or request such Aid or Relief as is hereby intended to be given: we pray Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That John Wilmot, Esquire, Daniel Parker Coke, Esquire, Colonel Robert Kingston, Colonel Thomas Dundas, and John Marsh, Esquire, shall be, and they are hereby constituted Commissioners for enquiring into the respective Losses and Services of all such Person and Persons who have suffered in their Rights, Properties, and Professions during the late unhappy Dissentions in America, in consequence of their Loyalty to His Majesty, and Attachment to the British Government.

"II. And be it further enacted, that any Three Commissioners in this Act named, before they enter upon the Execution of the same, shall take an Oath before the Master of the Rolls for the time being, of His Majesty's Justices of the Court of King's Bench, Common Pleas, or Barons of the Exchequer." Then follows the form of oath.

"III. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may

be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or any three or more of them, and they are hereby authorized, empowered, and required to examine upon Oath all Persons whom the said Commissioners shall think fit, to examine touching all such Matters and Things as shall be necessary for the Execution of the Powers vested in the said Commissioners by this Act, and all such Persons are hereby directed and required punctually to attend the said Commissioners at such Time or Place as they shall appoint.

"IV. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners are hereby authorized to meet and sit, from Time to Time, at the Office of the late Secretary of State for the American Department, with or without Adjournment, and to send their Precept or Precepts, under their Hands and Seals, for any Person or Persons whatsoever, and for such Books, Papers, Writings, or Records, as they shall judge necessary for their information, and the said Commissioners are authorized to appoint and employ such Clerks, Messengers and Officers they shall think meet.

"V. And be it further enacted, That if it shall appear to the said Commissioners that any Person shall have delivered to them an Account or Claim beyond the real Loss, with an intent to obtain more than a just Compensation, the said Commissioners shall report such Account or Claim, with the Evidence taken thereupon, to the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, who are hereby authorized to make such further Enquiry upon the Case as they shall think proper; and if they shall be of the Opinion that such Account or Claim is fraudulent, then such Person shall be absolutely excluded from any Compensation or Provision whatsoever.

"VI. Provides that any one giving false evidence under Oath shall be prosecuted according to law.

"VII. No Claim or Request for Aid or Relief on Account of the loss of Property shall be received after the Twenty-fifth Day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four.

"VIII. The Commissioners shall from Time to Time give an account of their proceedings in writing to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, and principal Secretaries of State.

"IX. Provides for the payment of Clerks, et cetera.

"X. In case of Death or Resignation, His Majesty may appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

"XI. This Act shall continue in force for Two Years from the passing and no longer."

The treaty of peace had been signed without any provision for the suffering loyalists, and they had consequently taken steps to petition the King and Parliament for justice. An agency was organized in London, and a committee appointed, composed of one delegate from each of the thirteen States. As a result, the King in his Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament, alluded to the "American sufferers," and requested that generous attention be shown to them. The response to this request by Parliament was the passing of the Act above given. The Board of Commissioners divided the claimants into six classes:

First class.—Those who had rendered service to Great Britain.

Second class.—Those who had borne arms for Great Britain.

Third class.—Uniform Loyalists.

Fourth class.—Loyal British subjects residents in Great Britain.

Fifth class.—Loyalists who had taken oath to the American States, but afterward joined the British.

Sixth class.—Loyalists who had borne arms for the American States, and afterwards joined the British navy or army.

The rigid rules enforced by the Board begot the name of "inquisition." Years passed before all the claims had been adjusted. Bitter complaints were made by the claimants. The public was appealed to through the press and by pamphlets. One of those pamphlets, published in 1788, says: "This delay of justice has produced the most melancholy and shocking events. A number of the sufferers have been driven by it into insanity, and become their own destroyers, leaving behind them their helpless widows and orphans to subsist upon the cold charity of strangers. Others have been sent to cultivate a wilderness for their subsistence, without having the means, and compelled, through want, to throw themselves on the mercy of the American States and the charity of their former friends, to