

jeſty, notwithstanding their manifeſt Treasons and Rebellion, in order
 to extend His Indulgence towards them, and if poſſible to reclaim and
 reduce them to His Obedience, was moſt graciously pleaſed, by His
 Royal Inſtructions to the Governors of this Province, to declare that
 the ſaid *French* Inhabitants ſhould have the peaceable Poſſeſſion of ſuch
 Lands as were under their Cultivation, *Provided*, That they the ſaid In-
 habitants ſhould within *Three Months* from ſuch Time as ſhould be
 thought proper by the Governor, take the Oath of Allegiance appoin-
 ted to be taken by the Laws of *Great-Britain*, and likewise behave
 themſelves as became good Subjects: And altho' ſeveral Proclamati-
 ons had hitherto been iſſued by His Maſteſty's Governors of this Pro-
 vince, requiring their Oath of Allegiance, yet ſo far were they from o-
 beying the ſame, that by a general Deputation of their principal Men,
 before His Maſteſty's Governor and Council, they abſolutely reſuſed to take
 the ſaid Oaths ſo required of them, but on the contrary did ſtill continue
 to aid, aſſiſt, and join with His Maſteſty's Enemies, and *Five Hund-*
red of them were found in Arms, within the Fort of *Beaufour* when
 the ſame was ſurrendered, and many of them, in Company with the
 Indian Savages, did frequently commit many horrid and barbarous
 Murders on His Maſteſty's Proteſtant liege Subjects, who were endea-
 vouring to ſettle themſelves on the Lands within this Province, whereby
 the Progreſs of the Settlement of this Province, with His Maſteſty's Prote-
 ſtant Subjects was retarded, and the Crown put to an exceſſive great Ex-
 pence, to defend and protect them; and alſo by ſuch their treacherous
 Practices, His Maſteſty's moſt gracious Deſigns, as well towards them,
 as alſo towards His ſaid Proteſtant Subjects, were fruſtrated; and had
 they not been timely removed by the Prudence and Vigilancy of His
 Excellency the preſent Governor, from the ſaid Lands and Territories,
 into other His Maſteſty's Dominions, this invaluable Province, during
 the Courſe of this War, muſt inevitably have fallen into the Hands
 of His Maſteſty's Enemies the *French*.

And *whereas* ſince the Removal of the ſaid *French* Inhabitants, His
 Excellency the Governor, in order to make an effectual Settlement in
 this Province, and to ſtrengthen the ſame, has been pleaſed to make
 Grants of Townſhips to many ſubſtantial and induſtrious Farmers Pro-
 teſtants, His Maſteſty's Subjects of the Neighbouring Colonies, in which
 Townſhips are contained ſome of the Lands formerly occupied by the ſaid
French Inhabitants; and as many other ſubſtantial and induſtrious Far-
 mers, Proteſtants, are daily applying for Grants of Townſhips, wherein ſuch
 Lands will be comprehended: And as ſome Doubts have ariſen among the
 ſaid Perſons intending to ſettle the ſaid Lands, concerning the Title of the
 ſaid *French* Inhabitants to any of the ſaid Lands, that may fall within
 their Townſhips: And altho' the ſaid *French* Inhabitants have not,
 nor ever had, any legal Right or Title to the ſaid Lands, derived from
 the Crown of *Great-Britain*, yet in order to remove ſuch Doubts,
 and to prevent any troubleſome or vexatious Suits of Law that may