

(APPENDIX H.) *See Journal page 70.*

General Simcoe had previously explained to some of the leaders, as appears from a letter written by his private secretary, Major Littlehales, dated 20th May, 1795, addressed to Jacob Watson, a gentleman then residing in New-York, the description of persons to be admitted, and his views in settling the province. The following paragraph from this letter, which appeared, it is believed, in the newspapers of the day, bears so completely on the present enquiry as to merit particular attention. Major Littlehales informs Jacob Watson, "that no person but a British subject of course, can hold property in Upper Canada, nor is the rapid population of the country by any means so equally desirable as that its subjects should be honest and faithful to the union with Great Britain." This policy has never been changed on the part of government; and no public encouragement has at any time, been held forth to American citizens, other than loyalists, much less any invitation given them to come into the province; and on the part of the loyal inhabitants, no feeling in their favour has ever been entertained, nor is now entertained, except for those who, during the late war, manifested their fidelity to the country of their choice. It is not however contended, that a rigorous investigation was always had; there is no doubt but much carelessness prevailed at many of the land boards, and that under every administration, citizens of the United States came into the province through family connexions, cheapness of land, easiness of settlement, a spirit of enterprize, &c. &c. who were by no means of the description marked in His Majesty's instructions, and who, instead of feeling attached to our laws and government, were rather hostile, or totally indifferent as to what form of government they lived under, provided it suited their views.

From all which the committee are entitled to infer, that every American citizen who has come into this province, and who has not conformed to the 13th Geo. II. has come in entirely at his own risque; but the number of such is very few compared with the mass of population, and may be aptly divided into two classes. 1st. The friends and connexions and acquaintances of loyalists, who were followed by their neighbours and kins-folks, so as to produce a sort of continued stream, more or less rapid, from 1784 to 1812. 2d. Those who came in merely from speculation, or fled from the laws of the United States which they had offended.

The former class, though not numerous, contains the most valuable, and those of them who were born since 1783, may be naturalized at any time under the provisions of the 13th Geo. II. cap. 7, which requires the performance of no difficult or revolting conditions, but are infinitely more delicate and easy of performance, as has been already proved, than the conditions demanded of a British subject before he can be naturalized in the United States.

The second class were numerous previous to the late war, and though neither class obtained, or could obtain, land from government, unless under fraudulent pretences, by which its vigilance might be deceived, yet by purchase from individuals, many became permanent inhabitants. Of American citizens coming in and purchasing lands, and settling upon them at their own peril, the local government could not take cognizance, unless on regular complaint, which was not likely to be made while they continued quiet and peaceable, and while the intercourse between the two nations continued friendly, as was the case during the administration of General Washington and President Adams; but when the hostile disposition of Mr. Jefferson's administration began to manifest itself, the attention of the loyal inhabitants, as well as of the colonial government, began to be directed to the state of emigration from the United States. As matters between Great Britain and the United States became more alarming, the question of admitting American citizens acquired greater importance; and although, on account of the smallness of their number, no serious apprehensions were entertained, yet a general feeling against admitting a greater increase became to prevail. This feeling became more general when it was found, after the declaration of war, that the enemy expected to conquer the province by the assistance to be derived from the citizens of the United States, who had settled among us.—"Raise not your hand against your brother," said General Hull in his proclamation to the inhabitants of this country. "Many of your fathers fought for the freedom and independence we now enjoy; being children, therefore, of the same family, and heirs to the same heritage, the arrival of an army of friends must be hailed by you with a cordial welcome."

Many of the second class of American emigrants, believing with General Hull that the conquest of the province was certain, threw off the mask, and were so far from contributing to its defence, that they forsook their allegiance on the first favorable opportunity, and not only retired into the territories of the enemy, but returned with his armies, and wrecked their ruthless vengeance upon the loyal inhabitants. Yet we are told by some that American emigrants generally behaved as well, and even better, than the rest of the inhabitants. Is this assertion to pass uncontradicted in the face of the most notorious facts to the contrary? That there were many among them who vied with their brethren in arms in gallantly defending the soil, is fully granted; but in proof that many openly displayed their disaffection, can it be denied that a part of the London district, where American speculators were most numerous, was for a time in actual revolt? And did not, in other parts, many of them throw themselves under the protection of the American generals to avoid serving in the militia? And further, has it not been deemed the greatest benefit accruing to this province from the war, that it has been purged from such dangerous characters? The prevailing feeling of the settlers in this province who had been avowed citizens of the United States, was not loyal during the late war; but as such disaffected persons, fortunately for us, almost all deserted, or disappeared, it is but reasonable that those who remain should be marked with honour; and, as they united with us in the day of danger, that they should become partakers with us in all our rights and privileges, so that henceforth the inhabitants of Upper Canada may be entirely one peo-