

that subject, and there is no necessity for you to withhold such Bill for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure. *unless it shall pass in such a shape as may make you doubtful of its expediency.*"
(TRUE COPY.) (Signed) G. HILLIER.

On receiving this despatch, which left it altogether at the discretion of the Executive whether or not the measure should be submitted to the colonial legislature, His Excellency immediately communicated it to both Houses, recommending them to pass a law to meet the case. With this view, he called upon the Attorney General to draft a bill to be submitted to the honorable Legislative Council, in strict accordance with this despatch. Instead of informing his Excellency that this legislature had no power, according to our constitution, to confer on aliens the civil rights mentioned in the despatch, and recommending the Executive to refer the measure back to the imperial legislature, this legal adviser of the crown sat down and drafted the following bill—the greatest anomaly in legislation—the deepest laid snare against the rights of the people—that ever appeared in any country on earth—purporting, on the face of the preamble, to give all the civil rights of natural born subjects, thus extending the boon beyond the power of a colonial legislature, but, in all the enacting clauses, slipping in the two particles "SO THAT" no estates, &c. shall be vested in his Majesty, or titles impeached—thus by a nice legal turn coming up to the original design of depriving every Anglo-American in the colony of the elective franchise:—

AN ACT to confirm and quiet in the possession of their Estates, and to admit to the Civil Rights of subjects, certain classes of Persons therein mentioned.

WHEREAS many persons have become resident in this Province who having been formerly citizens of the United States of America, and being subjects of the Government of those States, have been naturalized as British subjects by any Act of Parliament; *And Whereas* there are also in this Province many persons who came from other foreign countries, and many reduced Officers and discharged Soldiers of foreign corps late in His Majesty's service, but not being subjects of His Majesty by birth or naturalization; *And Whereas it is expedient that all such persons should be confirmed and quieted in the possession of their Estates, AND SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF SUBJECTS*, with such exceptions as have been from time to time provided by Acts of the Legislature of this Province with respect to persons having been resident in the United States of America, or having taken the Oath of Allegiance to their Government; *And Whereas* His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major General commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, has been pleased to signify by Message to both Houses of the Legislature, that he has received His Majesty's express sanction to assent to the passing of such enactment as may afford relief to such persons being now in this Province: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain entitled an Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's Reign, entitled, "An Act for making more effectual provision for the Government of the Province of Quebec in North America, and to make further provision for the Government of the said Province," and by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act all persons who at the time of the passing thereof are resident inhabitants of this Province, shall be deemed, adjudged and taken within this Province, to be His Majesty's natural born subjects, to all intents, constructions, and purposes as if they, and every of them, had been or were born within this Province, **SO THAT** no Estates of what nature or kind soever, heretofore purchased by them or any of them within this Province, or to which they or any of them shall have become, or may become, in any manner entitled, shall be liable to seizure into the hands of His Majesty, His Heirs, or Successors, or their titles thereto be otherwise impeached by reason of their making the said purchases, or becoming otherwise entitled, any Statute, Law, or thing whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all persons who have been at any time heretofore resident inhabitants of this Province and become possessed of real estate therein, other than and except such as have been, or hereafter may be under any express provision in the Statutes of this Province declared or found to be Aliens, shall be deemed and taken to have been natural born subjects of His Majesty, **SO THAT** neither their title to any real estate within this province, nor the title of any persons claiming under them, shall be in any manner impeached by any proceeding on the part of His Majesty, His Heirs, or Successors, or otherwise howsoever by reason of their having been Aliens.