

**REPORT &c.
ON
CIVIL RIGHTS.**

P. MAITLAND,

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR thinks proper to call the attention of the Legislative council to a subject, which he has long regarded as one of much importance to the province and of particular interest to a large portion of its inhabitants.

The Legislative council is aware, that of those persons who have come to this province from foreign countries, and more especially at an early period of its settlement, many had been Citizens of the United states of America and subjects of that government.

Whatever difference of opinion may have formerly prevailed with respect to the civil rights of persons so situated from the circumstance of the United States of America having once been British colonies, the solemn decision of the question in the courts of the mother country, whose laws we have adopted, leaves no room for doubt. And these inhabitants of the province are exposed to the inconvenience of finding those rights denied which they have hitherto enjoyed, but which, whenever they may be questioned, must be decided upon by those to whom the administration of justice is committed, according to law, and without regard to inconveniences which might be much regretted.

There are also in this Province a number of Emigrants from other foreign countries, and many discharged soldiers of foreign corps, who, not having strictly complied with the provisions of those British Statutes under which they might have been entitled to the privileges of subjects, are, equally by law, exposed to the danger of being regarded as aliens.

Of all the persons thus situated the greater part became inhabitants with the knowledge of the government; between those and others it does not appear necessary to discriminate. In the persuasion that they might all be safely received, and acknowledged as subjects, with no other qualifications than those which the Legislature of this Province has from time to time thought it expedient to impose. The Lieutenant Governor has earnestly pressed the subject upon the consideration of His Majesty's government, and has it now in his power to communicate to the Legislative Council, that he has received His Majesty's express sanction to assent to an enactment which may afford relief to such persons as are now in the Province; and the Lieutenant Governor doubts not, that a subject so important will receive the early and attentive consideration of the Legislative Council.

Government House, }
14th November, 1825. }

P. MAITLAND,

The Lieutenant Governor thinks proper to transmit to the Legislative Council, an extract from Earl Bathurst's despatch, as it may the more clearly show the disposition of His Majesty's government, on a subject respecting which the Governor has already communicated with the Legislative Council by message.

Government House,)
22nd. November, 1825. }

Extract of a Despatch from the Right Honourable the Earl Bathurst to His Excellency Major General Sir Peregrine Maitland, dated Downing Street, 22nd July, 1825.

"I have had under my consideration the representations which I have had the honour of receiving from you, on the subject of Aliens who have become settlers in the province of Upper Canada, and I regret that it arrived at a period of the Session too late to admit of any measure being proposed to Parliament.

“I am of opinion, that it will be advisable to confer by a Legislative enactment, the civil rights and
“privileges of British subjects upon such citizens of the United States, as being heretofore settled in Canada,
“are declared by the judgment of the Courts of Law, in England, and by the opinion of the Law Officers,
“to be Aliens; and of including in the same enactment the disbanded Officers and Soldiers of foreign corps,
“which were in the British service, and such other foreigners resident in Canada, as are in truth Aliens,
“although they have hitherto enjoyed, without question, the rights of British subjects.”