

duced to take the Oath of Allegiance, pleading in Excuse, that if they bound themselves to take up Arms in defence of the *English* Government, they should be exposed to be made a Sacrifice to the Ravages of the *Indians* in the *French* Interest: Upon this Plea General *Phillips*, then Governor of the Province, permitted them to stay there for some Years without giving this Test of their Allegiance; but at length, to bring them to comply, he indulged them, (though without being authoriz'd, as appears, by the Crown,) with an Exemption from bearing Arms upon any Occasion whatever; they were likewise not only allowed the public Profession of the *Romish* Religion, but suffered to be supplied with *French* Missionaries from *Canada*, who under the Bishop of *Quebec* exercised Rule over them in secular as well as spiritual Matters, enforcing an Obedience to their Decisions and Mandates by the Infliction of Ecclesiastical Penalties; whilst the only, or at least principal Act of Government exercised by the *English* Governor among them seems to have been, the Appointment, or rather Allowance from time to time, of Deputies chosen by and among themselves for their several Districts; and even those frequently behaved in the Execution of their Office, as if they thought themselves scarcely accountable to the *English* Government for the Exercise of that Authority.

By this means, though these Inhabitants became *English* Subjects by Virtue of the Treaty
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