

province; various circumstances occasioned many to remain in the United States long after the peace, and it was at length thought necessary by the government to issue a proclamation, requiring all such claimants upon the royal bounty, to present themselves here before the year 1798, which was no less than 15 years after the peace. All persons of this description, however, it is clear, whenever they did present themselves, were entitled, beyond question, to be regarded as British subjects. They could not, upon any principle of law or reason, be considered as having forfeited their allegiance, and lost their consequent rights, by the establishment of American independence, which they had openly, and by all means in their power, resisted at the hazard of their lives, because upon the same principle, General Simcoe himself, or any British officer or soldier who served throughout the contest, might as well have been considered to have been deprived of his civil rights, by merely removing into that country after the peace. But it was not very likely that emigration from the United States to this province, which borders upon it through so long a line of frontier, would be confined entirely to such persons as could prove their loyalty to our government during the rebellion, or to such, indeed, as had in truth adhered to it. On the contrary, there is no doubt that the inducements of family connexions, and the means of speculation and facility of settlement, which a new country like this presented, attracted many to this province, who were by no means of that description, but who were, many of them probably, indifferent, at least, as to what form of government they lived under.