

individuals and inhabitants of that country, to join in the revolt, early and urgent applications were made to His Majesty's ministers, during the negotiation for peace, by the principal creditors, stating the immense amount of those debts, and the necessity of laying a precise ground for just claims of indemnification, by a strict and special stipulation in the treaty against the operation, after the peace, not only of laws already made, by the ruling powers of that country, to defeat the recovery of British debts, but of those which they had good reason to apprehend, would afterwards, in time of peace, be made by the new republic for the same dishonest purpose.

By the fourth article of the treaty, it was accordingly provided, that "creditors on either side should meet with no *lawful impediments* to the recovery of the *full value*, in sterling money, of all *bonâ fide* debts theretofore contracted." But, notwithstanding the skill and ability with which the comprehensive terms of this short article were adapted to the object, including, by anticipation, every sinister practice of judges, juries, or ministerial officers, which might be made to bear a *lawful form*, or rise evasively out of legal proceedings, as well as positive acts of those various independent and licentious legislatures, in which practising attorneys were the ruling statesmen, the peace was no sooner concluded, than the previous determination to aid and shelter the dishonest debtor to the British subject, and to retain the money in the country, began to operate in the most flagrant manner; and all that had been anticipated was more than realized, in manifest breach of the article.

The sufferers under this gross infringement of treaty (placing them in the order of the extent to which they were respectively interested,) may be stated as having consisted of the following descriptions of persons, viz. :—

First, of *British merchants*, who had been long in the practice, not only of shipping goods from London, Bristol, Liverpool, Glasgow, and other parts of the British dominions, to traders, planters, and others, in the American colonies, but also of making large advances in money, by the acceptance and payment of bills, on the credit or expectation of adequate consignments of tobacco, or other produce; or who shipped goods to a large amount for the supply of *retail stores*, established by them in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia, (this description of merchants belonging chiefly to Glasgow,) to be in that manner sold in their colonies, on their account, by partners, agents, or clerks, who were in general sent out by them for that purpose.

Secondly, of persons who were settled in those colonies, including a great variety of different descriptions, such as the heirs or representatives of the great original proprietors, or holders of paramount territorial rights, under royal grants at the first establishment of the colonies, to whom arrears of quit rents, duties of tonnage, &c. were due; clergymen with benefices, having also arrears due to them; colonial merchants and traders by wholesale or retail; planters, land dealers, money lenders, lawyers and others, who had either constantly adhered (some with much zealous and active loyalty,) under every form of proscription and persecution, to their native allegiance; or, after a temporary defection, (of which, however, the instances were few,) had returned to that allegiance, and were "on the side of His Majesty" at the peace. To all of whom, with reference to the merits and fidelity which, in different degrees, they had displayed, the appellation of "*American loyalists*," alluded to in the question, was under the operation of an Act of Parliament in their favour, to be mentioned in the sequel, afterwards applied.

And, Thirdly, of subjects of His Majesty in different parts of the world, having debts due to them in the United States, who did not come within any of the above descriptions.

Every individual of those different descriptions of sufferers appeared, in the character of British creditor, to have an *equal* right to the protection of His Majesty's Government, against the consequences of this grievous injury; but the British merchants whose money, to the amount of millions, was thus iniquitously detained, stood forward as the leaders of those measures which gave His Majesty's Government an adequate view of the hardship they all endured. Committees were formed at London and at Glasgow, from whom jointly such statements and representations proceeded, as did not fail to make the strongest impression. Certain military posts, which by the treaty had been agreed to be delivered up, were in consequence retained; and at length, but not till after a period of nearly ten years had elapsed during which many of His Majesty's subjects, thus aggrieved, had fallen in the utmost indigence and distress, a sure foundation appeared to be laid

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