

Conversation between
Mr. Wm. Smith and
Mr. Vansittart in the
House of Commons,
5 June 1818.

35. P.S. 6 June 1818. In reply to a question put by Mr Wm. Smith last night in the House of Commons to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as to his intentions respecting the Claim of the *American Loyalists*, Mr. Vansittart said, that he could have no disinclination to attend to Claims founded in justice, but that the Claimants had already participated in the relief afforded by the Country to the general Claimants, for remuneration for Losses sustained in consequence of the American War; and that as he now viewed the *Case of the Loyalists*, he could not see a sufficient distinction between their situation and that of the *American Merchants* and others, with whom as he had before mentioned they had in some degree participated, to warrant him in holding out to those *Loyalists* the hope that he should be able to recommend a further grant to be applied to their use."

Remarks

It is to be observed, that the Claimants have received nothing on account of these Claims "from the Country," and only part payment of the sums adjudged to be due to them, out of the £500,000, paid by the American Government, as stated in § 19. and that when the abovementioned conversation took place, Mr. Vansittart had not seen the foregoing Abstract; which was then in the hands of the Printer unfinished. The Claimants trust, that after an attentive consideration of it, he will see the manifest distinction, the total dissimilarity that exists between the Claims of the *British Merchants* trading to America before the War, (erroneously styled by Mr. Vansittart *American Merchants*) and those of the *American Loyalists*; and that, as the only obstacle he has ever offered to their Claim, is clearly shown to be founded in error, he will now, as an act of national and necessary justice, extend his patronage and support to the Claimants in obtaining for them the compensation they are entitled to.