

our public buildings in Lord Elgin's time, as the cause. Besides these misfortunes the investigator in Wentworth will learn that there is a lamentable absence of records which belong to the office of the Clerk of the Peace, in marked contrast to the careful preservation in the Eastern part of the Province. It is our duty to preserve what evidences we have, in the trust that at some later date, a more diligent search may be more productive. The Loyalist Claims Commission which sat in Quebec, Montreal, and points adjacent, in 1789, has preserved much of the history of the first settlers, but those who had settled so far west as the head of Lake Ontario could not attend their deliberations for reasons which would have been sufficiently obvious to us, had we lived under the hard conditions of those heroic pioneers. Their posterity, therefore, must lament that the prayer of their petition, that the Claims Commission might sit at Niagara, was not heeded.

Fort Niagara, a British post covering five acres, had been a City of Refuge for many loyalist families who had left prosperous homes in the Mohawk valley, and elsewhere, during the revolution. The assurance contained in the treaty of peace (Article V.) that Congress would urge the various states to the end that these expatriated loyalists should have their estates restored to them, we know was never acted upon, and although the western posts, Detroit, Michilimackinac, Fort Erie, Niagara, Oswego, Oswegatchi, Point Au Fer and Dutchman's Point in Lake Champlain, were held by Britain as security for the performance of this among other conditions, the posts were given up after thirteen years of fruitless waiting in 1796. (Can. Ar. Rep., 1891, xxxii.).

Ten thousand loyalists had come to Upper Canada when the first Parliament at Newark met in 1792. These, with 2,000 other settlers, and the Indians, constituted the entire population. Besides a settlement of French families near Detroit, the settlements consisted, in 1795, in a very considerable colony along the Niagara River, a few farms on the creeks which run into Lake Ontario from Niagara up to its northern point at Burlington Bay: in an insignificant beginning of a settlement in Toronto, and at Kingston, and extending along the banks of the River St Lawrence to the boundaries of Lower Canada, the most populous of all. (De Rochefaucault, 239.)