

the improved farms in the Province, are now held under these Anglo-American titles, and must stand or fall together.

At every succeeding election of Parliamentary Representatives, freeholders of this description personally, and upon such freehold qualifications, have enjoyed and exercised the right of suffrage: and I believe every succeeding House of Assembly has contained members of this description, and almost every member, has been elected by the votes of such electors.

The militia laws have considered them to be subjects, and as such, have required them, under penalties, to serve in the militia, and they did, in fact, during the late war, serve in defence of the Province against the United States.

If, after all this, they should now, by a retrospective and reversing interpretation of the laws, be condemned as *intruders*, *usurpers*, and *aliens*, it would be the grossest breach of public faith, that ever disgraced a civilized nation. It would, at the same time, amount to a declaration, that the whole proceedings of the British and Provincial Governments, relative to them, have been founded in ignorance and ill-faith. It would imply a censure upon the illustrious Pitt, and the other great men, who were the authors and advisers of those measures. It would particularly cast reproach upon General Simcoe, the sincere and zealous promoter of the settlement of the Province, whose name instead of being reproached, ought to be held in grateful remembrance.

Why should the proposed Act in one clause, declare this, "very considerable portion of the population of the Province," to be aliens, and, in the end, confer on them the rights of subjects? That would be passing sentence of condemnation on them, in order to have the satisfaction of pardoning them. It would, indeed, be killing them wantonly, for the sake of bringing them to life again.

If the existing Acts of recognition or naturalization of these inhabitants be not sufficiently explicit, let one be framed, in more definite and explicit terms, declaring them to be subjects, entitled to the civil rights and capacities, which they have long possessed and now enjoy, under the qualifications already imposed by law.—Such a legislative declaration or acknowledgment may set at rest any just apprehensions or doubts entertained on the subject; and it is fairly within the Lieutenant Governor's recommendation and authorized offer of the Royal Sanction. His Excellency has candidly expressed his persuasion that these inhabitants may be safely "*acknowledged as subjects, with no other qualifications than those which the Legislature of the Province has from time to time thought it expedient to impose.*" Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the premises leading to such a conclusion, I trust every loyal and patriotic mind will concur with His Excellency in the conclusion itself, that it is safe to acknowledge them as subjects, entitled to civil rights and capacities, subject only to the qualifications now required by law. These qualifications are a residence of seven years, to be capable of voting as electors or eligible as members of Assembly, and the perpetual ineligibility of those of them, who have held official situations in the United States. Although I feel no doubt that they are now subjects, entitled to all civil rights thus qualified; yet, to set at rest forever all apprehensions and doubts existing in any quarter on this delicate subject, I hope such a Bill of acknowledgment may pass both Houses, and receive from His Excellency the proffered Royal Assent.

#### ANGLO-AMERICANUS.

The Speeches of Messrs. Reclph, Bidwell, Beardsley, &c. in favour of the declaratory bill, were clear, argumentative, and convincing: but as this sketch is only intended to fill one sheet, no extracts can be given from them. All, however, was unavailing with the ministerialists—the amendment did not forward their favourite and long desired object, and it could never meet with their approbation.

The ministerial party, enraged by disappointment and despair, and finding a large majority of the House inflexible in their determination to support the rights