

## (1.) PAPERS RELATING TO

for the technical obstacle which opposed the receipt of their petition by Parliament, to which His Majesty's ministers then assented,) the loyalists indulge a confident hope, that on perusal of the accompanying paper, and on reconsideration of the circumstances of their case, His Majesty's ministers will be pleased to accord their assent to their proposed application to Parliament. Should the loyalists however, be deprived of the countenance and support of His Majesty's ministers, a circumstance which they would deeply regret, they feel that they cannot, in justice to themselves, any longer delay seeking at the hands of Parliament, the fulfilment of those solemn engagements on which their claims are founded.

As the period for the receipt of private petitions by the House of Commons is so short, the undersigned respectfully request the favour of a reply to their communication, at the earliest convenience of His Majesty's ministers.

14 Queen Street, May Fair,  
1st May 1820.

*R. W. Powell.*  
*Lee Thornton.*  
*Matt<sup>w</sup> White.*

The Right honourable Nicholas Vansittart,  
Chancellor of His Majesty's Exchequer, &c. &c. &c.

## Summary of the Case of the uncompensated American Loyalists.

It is well known that, from the earliest appearances of revolt in the American colonies, the British crown and Parliament spared no stimulus or encouragement to induce the colonists to take part with the mother country in the contest. The proclamations of Government and its official agents, the debates and resolutions of both houses of Parliament, from that period down to the conclusion of the peace in 1783, exhibit a succession of the strongest and most solemn assurances of protection and indemnity to all such as might suffer in their property or fortunes, by preserving their loyalty to the British Government; at the same time, all those who favoured or assisted the British cause were declared guilty of high treason by the American revolutionary legislature, their persons attainted, and property confiscated. Thus, the loyalists who adhered to their allegiance, on the faith of British pledges and professions, abandoned every prospect in their native country, and encountered the severest miseries of persecution and confiscation, rather than league themselves in rebellion against their Sovereign.

On the first breaking out of disturbances in the colonies, the House of Commons resolved, "That all His Majesty's subjects residing in the said colonies, who have manifested their desire to comply with, or assist in carrying into execution, any acts of the legislature, relating to the said colonies, have acted as dutiful and loyal subjects, and are therefore entitled to, and will assuredly have, the protection of the House of Commons of Great Britain." A similar resolution was passed by the House of Lords. The disturbances having ripened into open and avowed rebellion in the year 1775, his late Majesty published a proclamation, stimulating the loyalty of his American subjects in the following words: "To the end, therefore, that none of our subjects may neglect or violate their duty through ignorance thereof, or through any doubt of the protection which the law will afford their loyalty and zeal." It then proceeds to "charge and command all obedient and loyal subjects to use their utmost endeavours to withstand and suppress such rebellion." Peace was at last concluded; but, acceptable as it was to the nation at large, the fate of the exiled loyalists was a melancholy damp to the general satisfaction; every one deplored the cruel sacrifice it involved of their property and their happiness. So strongly were their merits felt, that our negociators even hazarded a continuation of the war, in urging the restitution of their property, confiscated in the rebellion; but the government of the United States were long resolute in refusing them any consideration; and at last only agreed to an article, stipulating, that congress should recommend the restitution to the state legislatures; a recommendation which has been made, and has proved, as was expected, almost entirely fruitless.

In the discussions on the treaty in Parliament, the peculiar hardships of the loyalists situation afflicted every mind. Amongst numberless expressions of the profoundest sympathy, Mr. Wilberforce said, "when he considered the case of the loyalists, he confessed he there felt himself conquered; there he saw his country humiliated, he saw her at the feet of America; still he was induced to believe that congress would religiously comply with the article, and that the loyalists would obtain redress from America; should they not, this country was bound to afford it them,