

mouths.' You would be shocked to see the impudent demands from the States, and says at least two hundred thousand pounds sterling have been claimed by owners of privateers against us. They think such claims a good speculation in which they may gain and cannot lose." This letter was read to the whole Commission, and received their cordial assent and support.

South Carolina restored the confiscated property of certain Loyalists, and they withdrew their claims. But in many cases the property was so injured or destroyed that it was of little value. The Commissioners protected those whose property had been confiscated, on the pretence of debt. People who returned after the peace, were mobbed and driven away. It was most pitiful to read of the women whose husbands died in prison. To give food to a Loyalist brought a heavy fine. Slavery was common through all the States, but particularly in the State of New York. The slavery of those days was for domestic service, and most every land owner had one or two—some a larger number, but few had eight or ten. The treatment to which women were subjected was barbarous in the extreme. Sarah Slocum appears among the claimants; she testifies that her husband was killed in 1777. He was shot by rebels at his own door—one of the witnesses testifies that Slocum was murdered by one Babcock, for his loyalty. Another witness testifies that the Sheriff was a violent rebel. There was money in the house which Mrs. Slocum was accused of forging and issuing for rent. She stood half an hour in the pillory; had her ears cropped and her cheek branded. She was the mother of ten children at the time of her husband's death. Mr. Slocum had two hundred sheep, six or eight oxen, about sixteen cows, and a negro. His son was being seized, and he was killed by a pistol shot. The money she was accused of using, was forged Congress money.

The early settlers suffered from the suspicion which their treatment of the U. E. Loyalists during the Revolution brought upon them. The U. E. Loyalist brought with him the memory of wrongs to himself and family which even time has not effaced. Obligated to flee from his home, or be imprisoned, his property confiscated and sold for a trifle, to buy the arms and support the soldiers of the enemy. His wife and children treated with the greatest inhumanity, the only thing they brought with them was their life, and a memory of cruel treatment.

When peace was declared in 1783, one of the stipulations was that imprisoned Loyalists should be released, twelve months given to recover their confiscated property, and that confiscation should cease. Unfortunately these provisions were not kept. Annoyance and persecution continued, and the only alternative that remained was an exodus to the