

making their peace with the new States; for those States had condemned them to die, and the British government, by acknowledging their sovereign powers, had ratified the unjust sentence.

Besides, this distinction is founded in an assertion which is not true, that "Great Britain has only relinquished or abandoned the confiscated property of the Loyalists, and did not cede it." Upon examining the facts, it will be found that the British forces remained in the possession of New York, Long Island, and Staten Island, and all the fortifications on the lakes, with more than one half of the territory ceded, long after the treaty; and that in those districts much of the property confiscated remained in the actual possession of the Loyalists at the time it was given up, in pursuance of the treaty*. It is also

* Georgia had not only been recovered out of the hands of the insurgents in 1779, but the province was put at the peace of the King by his Majesty's Commissioners, and the King's civil government restored, and all the loyal inhabitants required by proclamation to return to their settlements, and an assembly called, and actually subsisting, and all the civil officers in the exercise of their functions, when orders came in 1782 to evacuate the country, and deliver it up to the rebels, which was done accordingly without any stipulation in favour of the attainted Loyalists, or their confiscated properties, although the force of the rebels in that country was so inconsiderable, that

also a fact which can be proved, and what the Minister will candidly confess, that the confiscated property was, by a mutual contract, given up to the United States, as a consideration and satisfaction for, and in discharge of the damages done by the seizures and desolation of the property of the American citizens, alleged by them to have been committed by the British forces, and as a part of the purchase and price of peace. Do these facts shew a single feature of a country merely abandoned? or do they not prove that all the property confiscated has been actually ceded?

When we look into the treaty itself, we find that the words and sense of the parties confirm the same truth. His Majesty "acknowledges" the people of the territory, who were before bound to him by the most sacred obligations of allegiance, to be "free, sovereign, and independent States." By this acknowledgment, and thus treating with them, he in law pardoned their offences against the Crown, released them from all their political duties to the British State, and confirmed their usurped rights of government over the territory, and with them the acts of attainder that the Loyalists offered to the King's General to preserve the province for his Majesty, if he would leave them a single regiment of foot and the Georgia Rangers to assist them.

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