

HOW CAREFUL EVERY EUROPEAN STATE, that has colonies in America, has been of preserving the advantages arising from them wholly to their own nation and people, is obvious to all who will consider the policy & conduct of the Spanish, French & others in relation to theirs respectively and the several English Acts of Parliament provided in the like cases as fully on their part evince the same. By these not only no foreign vessel is allowed to trade or come into their ports, but it is absolutely required, that the master & at least three fourths of the mariners of all British ships shall be of his Majesties natural born subjects and the owners or some of them must swear that no foreigner directly nor indirectly hath any part share of interest in them.

Yet at the same time these acts subsist in force, methods are taking that may not only endanger the trade of these colonies, but even their obedience & subjection to the British Crown, which is humbly represented as follows.

About the year 1710 a Company of religious people called Menists from the Palatinate of the Rhine, transported themselves into the Province of Pennsylvania from Holland in British shipping, and purchased lands at low rates towards the River Susquehanna. The terms & reception they met with proved so encouraging, that they invited diverse of their relations and friends to follow them. In the succeeding years the numbers of those, who from the account they heard of the country, had the same inclination to remove so considerably increased that one Shipload after another of all professions were transported, till several thousands were settled in that Province. Last winter it was reported there, that a thousand more were to go over thither this past summer, and accordingly five ships arrived there in the space of one month loaded with these people first from Rottersdam and then clear'd in England. . . .

All these men young & old who arrived since the first, come generally very well armed many of them are Papists, & most of them appear inured to war & other hardships. They retire commonly back into the woods amongst or behind the remoter Inhabitants, sometimes

purchase land, but often sit down on any piece they find vacant that they Judge convenient for them without asking questions, menacing those afterwards who offer to disturb them in their possessions.

Few of them apply now to be naturalized, . . . nor do those who have been longer in the place commonly prove the wills of their deceased in the public offices, but as they appear to affect neither the English nor their laws or rules, they generally even in these points adhere to their own customs. The part of the country they principally settle in is that towards the French of Canada, whose interest, it may be apprehended, diverse of the late comers (since several of them speak their language) would as willingly favour as the English, and it is not doubted, but at this time there are as many of these people in Pennsylvania, as on any quarrel with his Majesties natural subjects, could on a sudden rising with the arms they now have subdued that whole Province. It is hoped therefore that nothing need be added to shew the present necessity of putting a stop to that augmentation of their strength which if not prevented, may even in one year more be depended upon. . . .

That such a general provision against all foreigners may be necessary will further appear from this particular consideration. There are now, & have been, ever since the Reign of Christina, a considerable number of Swedes settled on both sides of the River Delaware, who have four churches & ministers for them duly sent over every eight or ten years by the Government of Sweden, the former ministers on the arrival of the new being recalled. These preach to & instruct their people & perform all their worship in the Swedish tongue. Few of them intermarry with any others than amongst themselves, but carefully keep up a national Distinction. In the Swedish maps geography & State of Sweden that country is called Succia Nova.

Questions

1. What do the petitioners find objectionable about non-English migrants to Pennsylvania?