

however, although humiliating to confess it, human greed, mere mercenary motive, was the base, ruling principle which influenced them to leave their homes, and fight in a cause to which personally they were indifferent. Some few enlisted from higher motives, or from personal considerations; and as it was in 1861, and following years, so it was in 1775. There were many who engaged in the American rebellion from motives anything but patriotic and noble, and who—when the war was over and they found themselves enrolled in the annals of American fame—were far more astonished, and certainly gratified, than they would have been had they found themselves treated as rebels. We are by no means singular in this opinion, as the testimony of a few distinguished Americans, and the statements of one of our own Canadian writers—who has studied the subject very carefully—show.* The Congress which met in Philadelphia in September, 1774, professed allegiance to His Majesty's person and throne, and their willingness to be governed by British laws so long as those laws suited their own views and interests! These loyal men agreed upon an address to His Majesty King George III., together with a circular letter addressed to the British people and to the Canadian Colonists. The same Congress, while denouncing the liberal measures of the British Ministry and Parliament granted to the Province of Quebec, were nevertheless anxious to secure the co-operation of the poor, benighted Quebecers in assisting them to obtain far more liberal measures. The people of Canada not having the same private interests to serve, and having little or no confidence in the professions of their sharp, designing neighbours, refused to repudiate their first obligations and allegiance to a government which had given them all they could in reason desire.

This refusal to co-operate in their rebellious schemes produced surprise and indignation. Remonstrance, blandishment, professions of patriotism and love of freedom were tried upon the inhabitants but in vain; then followed hostile attacks upon Canadian outposts, most of which were poorly manned and consequently scarcely defended. Ticonderoga was first taken by surprise, and soon after Crown Point, the garrison of which numbered a Sergeant and twelve men. Our business is not to narrate the consecutive events of this period, as though we were writing a history, but to touch upon the leading facts and principles of action more especially as they affect our *Royalists* and *Loyalists*. In dealing with historical facts it is our duty to state them fairly; and if we must take the facts such as fair, credible testimony furnishes, both direct and collateral, we shall have to draw inferences, however anomalous it may appear in a work of fiction, which will contradict the fiction of professed facts. It has been so

* "We may easily imagine the surprise which many experienced in after days when the war had ended and their independence was acknowledged—to find themselves heroes, and their names commemorated as fathers of their country; whereas, they had fought only for money or plunder, or smuggled goods, or because they had not office. In not a few cases it is such whose names have served for the high-sounding fourth of July orators; for the buncombe speaker and the sycophant editor to base their eulogistic memories upon. Undoubtedly there are a few entitled to the place they occupy in the temple of fame; but the vast majority seem to have been actuated by mercenary motives. We have authenticated cases where prominent individuals took sides with the rebels because they were disappointed in obtaining office, and innumerable instances where wealthy persons were arrested ostensibly on suspicion, and compelled to pay large fines, and then set at liberty."—*History of the Settlement of Upper Canada* (Ontario). By Wm. Canniff, M. D., M. R. C. S. E., &c.