

Stephen Bovyer, Loyalist.

By A. Irwin.

IN the year 1776, when the war of Independence, as the Colonists termed it, or the American Rebellion, as King George's soldiers called it—had been fluctuating for some time, it happened that one fine morning in the month of May, Stephen Bovyer—a sturdy yeoman, who had come to Massachusetts from Chelsea, England, several years before,—was sauntering through one of the fields which formed part of his fine farm fronting on Boston Harbour.

From Chelsea had come many immigrants to the State of Massachusetts. To one of the New England towns they had given the name of their native city; and many of them had remained more staunchly loyal than the colonists in other parts of the state. Some, as was only natural, and these comprised many of the young men of the community, had become inoculated with that spirit which is imbibed with the air of a young and fine country; and were inclined to show in their speech and conduct, when discussing King George and his treatment of the colonies, a spirit of independence which shocked, not to say angered, their older and

and more Conservative relatives and neighbours.

In the case of Stephen Bovyer, loyalty to his King was a sentiment that animated the old man as strongly as his religion. Even if in his heart he was forced to admit that his sovereign's treatment of his over-seas subjects was not right, his loyalty forbade his uttering the thought aloud, or permitting others to give expression to such sentiments in his presence.

So on that Spring morning he walked abroad, pondering upon the course events were taking. He had seen Boston beleagured; the King's veterans replaced by the Continental militia, yet withal he held sturdily loyal to his conviction that the King should be held in honour. The local Committee of Safety had approached him several times to inquire his intentions and to endeavour to enlist his elder sons, but against them the old man had held out; nor were his boys less loyal than he. This conduct would have been bitterly resented, had it not been that in his neighborhood, the patriots, as they called themselves, were all sincere and faithful friends of Bovyer. But many changes had lately