

## PREFACE

American insurgents saw in George their chief danger, and he became forthwith a target for their weapons. Such were not without expert instruction. Wilkes, Francis, and Tom Paine in England were the exemplars of Jefferson in penning the Declaration of Independence.

America—it cannot be too often emphasised—had no real quarrel with the King; therefore the King, whose honesty, benevolence, and virtue so impressed Franklin, must be pilloried as the incarnation of tyranny and oppression—the object of their distrust and anger. As such George the Third figures in the famous Declaration. But all the people were not always deceived. Washington, Hamilton, and Jay spoke of the King with respect. John Adams has given us a narration of a personal interview with George which is one of the best tributes to the King's qualities and motives extant. Just as the people were not all deceived, so it was the passionate loyalty of a minority, not to the Mother Country, not to the British Legislature, but to King George the Third, that kept them steadfast, and sent them forth at the close of the war into the northern wilderness to found there a new British realm. This fealty sustained them in all their vicissitudes, and the knowledge that the chief of their race held them dear brought to many all the solace and reward they were destined ever to know.

The question which I have set myself in these pages to answer may be resolved thus: Was the confidence of the United Empire Loyalists misplaced? Were their vows bestowed and their blood