

as soon as we have had supper, I can show you a field-path that will cut off quite a piece of the journey."

"I am agreeable," said the stranger. So without further ceremony the two started: as they were going along, the stranger observed,—

"I suppose this is your native place."

"No, Sir," said Ronald; "I was born in Pennsylvania."

"Why you are a young *Loyalist*: what age are you?"

"About nineteen, Sir."

"And your height is?"

"I am about six feet four inches without my shoes."

"Well," said the stranger, "you will be a very fine, muscular young man in a year or two more, if nothing happens unfavorable. What business do you follow?"

"I am a carpenter by trade, Sir, but I help our folks on the farm. My brother and my two sisters, and sometimes my mother, work at weaving, and so I have to attend to the cattle. We have a small freehold here, that has belonged to my mother's family a great many years. My brother Joseph is one of the best young men in the country, but he is rather delicate."

"And your father."

"My father is dead, Sir; he died when I was about fifteen; they say I take after him, but I guess it will be a good while before my shoulders are as broad as his were; but I am quite as tall."

"I suppose your father would take part in the American War?"

"Yes, Sir, he was one of the first volunteers from our part of the country; he joined General Howe at New York, and I've often heard him say, that if General Howe had been allowed his own way, he'd have snuffed out the rebellion soon after the taking of New York."

"I have no doubt about that," said the stranger, "but, we never have had any war more thoroughly mismanaged,—I ought to say botched, than the American. *Divided counsels at home*, indecision, and misplaced sympathy for rebels, because they were our own countrymen by descent, were the real causes of our repeated defeats, and the triumph of rebellion. Of course we had other wars to divide our energies and tax our strength, for, besides our colonies, our war against France with her confederates, Spain and Holland, we had to keep a sharp look-out for the *Armed Neutrality*, which means, simply, that Russia, Sweden and Denmark were watching for an opportunity to attack us at any unguarded point."

"I've often heard my father talk about these things," said Ronald, "more especially about the cowardly action of the French in offering assistance, and aiding the rebels to throw off their allegiance to the British crown."

"Well they've suffered for it, but it's hard to say whether they will profit by it or not."

"Yes," said Ronald, "they've suffered, but who can sympathize? My father said 'he never could forgive Louis XVI. for his treachery; but he signed his own death-warrant, and very likely that of the ancient monarchy of France, as he found to his own cost. My father was a great stickler for the Hanoverian succession, and used to say, 'I was born under the Georges, and I'll live under their rule.'"