

ROYALISTS AND LOYALISTS.

An Historical Novel.

By the Author of "OCCASIONAL PAPERS," "WHAT SHALL WE DO?"
"WAR SKETCHES," "THE TWO NEIGHBOURS," &c.

"I can tell you a tale, Sir, that will both interest and affect you; that will sometimes make you laugh, and perhaps cry too;—but bless you, Sir, it's only like life itself, every where; it's made up of lights and shadows, the world over. My tale is about Royalists and Loyalists, just as you like to call them, for they are not always the same; sometimes there is a wide difference between them."

THE OLD FARMER.

CHAPTER I.

THE JUMPING MATCH.

It was after sunset of a summer's day, towards the end of last century, that a pedestrian stranger entered the village of Dingle-dale in Cheshire. The foot traveller was a man of massive, powerful frame, great breadth of shoulder and depth of chest. His build was such that, although six feet in height, from a cursory glance, few persons would have thought so. His dress, which bore marks of travel over dusty roads, bespoke nautical service; his trousers were wide and flowing from the hip; he wore a rough, loose jacket, and a cloth cap, the latter indicating the un- dress of a naval lieutenant, or at least a travelling modification.

The evening was very fine, and as might be expected, the young men and boys were out in large numbers on the village green, playing at the various games then common, or exercising themselves in such gymnastics as leaping, running or wrestling. The maidens rarer to the houses skirting the common, were also enjoying themselves at such feminine pastimes as suited their respective facies. The old men, and in many cases women also, were sitting at their doors smoking and chatting, quietly enjoying the scene which reminded them of former days. These were the elders, the grandfathers and grandmothers of the village. The middle-aged men were chiefly collected in groups, discussing the news of the day, and talking over those startling events which were agitating both Europe and America.

While things were progressing in this way, the general attention of old and young was attracted by loud shouts and angry altercation among a number of young men who had been jumping.

The excitement was so great and continuous, that the other players ceased their games and ran to the scene of dispute. These were soon followed by a number of the men, who were anxious lest their