

But Struthers and Wilcocks over-estimated their own power and that of the Americans, and underrated the loyalty of the majority of their fellow-citizens, and the strength of the British forces then in the country. Struthers was a sort of relative or rather connection of Bradford's; and soon by means of his eloquence and arguments made the latter one of his most ardent supporters. Thus Bradford's house had become known as a head-centre of rebellion in its incipient stage for that section of the country, which, as the war became more and more assured, came to be regarded seriously as a possible point of invasion, as it was on a part of the lake where the enemy might land with impunity. Here it was that Struthers, as Wilcocks' lieutenant, stayed when visiting the community, and it was in connection with this very matter that Etherington had been despatched to Castle Monmouth.

Struthers, like all schemers and plotters of this nature, had local agents, who aimed to carry their theories into practice, and such a man was Silas Fox, to whom we have already been introduced in a former chapter of this history, and who was his most active assistant in this district. This man, for purposes of his own private ambition, desired the possible change. He had several schemes in his crafty brain to carry the matter locally to a head and convert the result to his own private advantage.

The Bradford place was a plain, square, timber-built dwelling, larger than common, and having roof windows facing the water, with an addition running out at the back containing the kitchen, some upper rooms and the