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ROYALISTS AND LOYALISTS.

An Historical Novel.

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

CHAPTER III.

OLD MEMORIES AND NEW ACQUAINTANCE.

The interior of the cottage presented that comfortable pleasant appearance for which England's rural homes are justly celebrated. The furniture was of ash or oak and with constant rubbing rivalled the polish of the more costly productions of the Cabinet manufactory. The wide stone floor and hearth had been scoured and swept and the polished fender reflected the glow of the bright cheerful fire.

For, although the evening was so beautiful, there was sufficient chill in the atmosphere to render a pleasant fire desirable. On the round kitchen table stood a candle, by the light of which Ronald's mother, a comely dame of fifty years, was reading; all the rest of of the family were absent, so that when the door opened, taking it for granted that it was one of her children, she did not change her position, even so much as to look up from her book until Ronald spoke.

"Mother," he said, "I have invited this stranger to take a little refreshment with us at supper; I cannot tell you his name, but he stood my friend to night on the green, and I was right glad when he consented to come with me."

The mother with a very hospitable smile said, "you are very welcome, Sir, to such things as we have. We are very plain folks at our house, but we try and make everybody comfortable when they come to see us.

"You cannot do better, and I am sure you mean all you say," said the stranger, "I am as your son observed, quite a stranger in