

ROYALISTS AND LOYALISTS.

An Historical Novel.

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

CHAPTER IV.

BORDER WARFARE.

During the rebellion of 1745, many families of respectability, owning small landed estates, became involved in the rising in favour of the Pretender, James III. represented by his son Charles Edward Stuart, the 'bonnie Prince Charlie,' the hero of so many Jacobite songs. Among others, there was a family called White; the eldest son of which, more from the persuasion of his friends, than any political bias, joined the ranks of the Pretender in Edinburgh and marched with the army into England.

On reaching Manchester, White visited some relations, who succeeded in persuading him to desert the forlorn ranks, already meditating retreat. His own opinion, privately formed while marching through the various towns on the route, favoured this advice, so laying aside his regimentals, such as they were, he started for home disguised as a pedler: his expedition was such, that he was passing through Westmoreland as the rebels entered Derby.

When he arrived at home, it was deemed advisable that he should leave the country before the prosecutions, sure to follow defeat, were commenced. Acting upon this suggestion, he succeeded in getting away to France, where he had hopes of obtaining some military employment. In this he was much disappointed but at length succeeded in 1746, in getting an appointment in an expedition going to Nova Scotia.

On the third day of May, 1747, they were intercepted by a British fleet under Admiral Anson and Rear Admiral Warren, when out of a fleet of six large men of war, six frigates and four well equipped East Indians not one escaped.

A large portion of the transports, numbering thirty merchant vessels, escaped in the darkness, and fortunately for White, he was on board one of these which landed him at Quebec, from whence he was sent, soon after his arrival, to Crown Point, on Lake Champlain. Here he made the acquaintance of an adventurer, named Bent, in company with whom he joined an expedition sent to surprise one of the English posts. In this the French were unsuccessful, and from some cause or other, much blame was thrown on White for the part he took in the attack, some going so far as to openly charge him with indifference, if not with down-right treachery.