

sections where the independence party were in the majority and where certain lewd fellows of the baser sort were in the ascendency. In Hildreth's History of the United States we read: "Very serious, too, was the change in the legal position of the class known as Tories, in many of the States a large minority, and in all respectable for wealth and social position. This loyal minority, especially its more conspicuous members, as the warmth of political feeling increased, had been exposed to the violence of mobs and to all sorts of personal indignities, in which private malice or a wanton and insolent spirit of mischief had been too often gratified under the disguise of patriotism. The barbarous and disgraceful practice of tarring and feathering and carting Tories—placing them in a cart and carrying them about as a sort of spectacle—had become in some places a favorite amusement. Having boldly seized the reigns of government, the new state authorities claimed the allegiance of all residents within their limits. Those who refused to acknowledge their authority, or who adhered to their enemies, were exposed to severe penalties, confiscation of property, imprisonment, banishment, and finally death."

A vivid picture, truly, of the reward of loyalty and granting equal rights to all men. But listen to some more: The Convention of the State of New York resolved, "That any person being an adherent to the King of Great Britain shall be guilty of treason and suffer death." Again, the same Convention resolved, "That, as the inhabitants of King's County have determined not to oppose the enemy, that a committee shall be appointed to enquire into the authenticity of these reports, and to disarm and secure the disaffected, to remove or destroy the stock of grain, and, if necessary, to lay the whole country waste."

The pages of history teem with similar proofs of the harshness and cruelty with which the loyalists were treated; their enemies bearing witness. Need we wonder that some of them forgot justice and mercy when they had an opportunity to retaliate? Is it surprising 35,000 native Americans served in the royal army during the war, or that 100,000 loyalists sailed from the port of New York alone, for more peaceful homes? Before the Declaration of Independence Washington's army numbered 27,000 men; immediately afterward the loyalists began to leave it, some returning to their homes and many joining the British army, so that within a few months Washington's forces had dwindled to 4000.

For one hundred years the French and the Spaniards had striven to destroy the English colonies and to drive them into the sea. They would have succeeded had not England poured out her blood and her treasure in helping the colonists to defend themselves. Now, however, Congress allied itself with those powers who were eager to break up the British Empire, and