

British uniform and standing in line of battle beside the professional soldiers, then, indeed, have loyalists and their descendants reason to be proud of the manly assertion and military service of their ancestors. "The total exceeded in number the troops enlisted [by Congress] to oppose them." The most trustworthy Provincial regiments came from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania. New England furnished comparatively few. The Southern colonies put a number of excellent battalions in the field. Colonel John Hamilton, of North Carolina—"such is the testimony of his foes"—"was the very crest of tory organization at the South," and "he was engaged in nearly every action in the three Southern colonies. Glory to him and his troops!" Strange to say, Sabine mentions that the whig, Alexander "Hamilton's own sympathies were at first on the royal side, as he himself admits in his reply to Wilkins; and his biographer relates that a visit to Boston [that pestilent hot-bed of disaffection] changed the current of his thoughts"—I may add, the whole course of his life." Ferguson—certainly unsurpassed in his judgment of soldiership—chose New Yorkers and New Jerseymen to compose his famous flying-column, which was nearly annihilated at King's Mountain. There is scarcely a battlefield of note during the last four years of active hostilities on which loyal American blood was not poured out like water. In many instances the loyalists fought with halters around their necks. In the Carolinas they were seldom admitted to quarter until the cruel instincts of fratricidal conflict, and a savage thirst for vengeance, had been slaked in blood. If an individual holding a commission from Congress actually gloried in having washed his hands in British blood at Saratoga, how much more bitter was the feeling displayed toward Provincials everywhere, but especially at the South.

Pierce, however, as was the code applied to the loyalists, still