

representatives, and though I am not blind to faults and petty tyrannies of some of their officials, I merely meant to warn you, to help you. Your secret is safe in my keeping, though I doubt if it is a secret in these parts by now."

"How can such information have leaked out, and have been carried so far and so soon?" asked the young officer, in amazement, and abandoning his reserve in the presence of this man who knew so much, and whom he believed to be at least kindly disposed and, so far as he could judge, loyal, "I left York but two nights ago."

"By means of spies, sir, spies, and false friends. Not all of His Majesty's enemies are outside of his councils. At a time like this, when the whole country is threatened, when the common people are speculating on which side will win, can you wonder that there are men, even in high places, who, without any principle, are anxious to be safe with President and States, in case the King's cause should go down. Then in a country like this, where every man travelling past a door is either a post or regarded as one, where there is little to observe or occupy the attention save the silent ways of nature, men become keenly alive to all that goes on in the life about them, and they grow quick to draw conclusions."

"This is inconceivable," returned the young man, warmly. "But you, sir, what do you think of the present serious situation? You travel this country widely, do you not? What do you think will be the outcome, and how stands the loyalty of the people?"

"You have a right to question, you hold the King's