

large proportion, in all probability, more than a large majority were loyal subjects cannot be questioned, and the very fact that over 23,000 men were embodied to fight for the Crown proves this beyond all possibility of controversy. There were at least twenty-five battalions organized besides a number of independent companies and corps, as for instance, Col. Archibald Hamilton commanded in New York at one period seventeen companies of loyal militia. As a fair representation of the feelings of the mass of the people there is a body of troops equal to the greatest number the rebels could bring together opposed to them; so that all Samuel Adams' aptitude for treachery and falsehood with Franklin's astuteness and duplicity, were required to bring about a severance of the connection between the Mother Country and her Colonies. In fact all, both rebels and loyalists, were born under and had grown up as subjects of a Monarchy; the great majority in Congress did neither wish nor want a separation, and the rebel leaders there denied that independence was any part of their original plan; that their sole object was to obtain concessions from England and continue the connexion, while John Adams honestly confesses what must have been the sentiments of many others when he says, "*There was not a moment during the Revolution when I would not have given everything I possessed for a restoration to the state of things before the contest, provided we could have had sufficient security for its continuance.*" The testimonies of Franklin, Jay, Jefferson, Washington and Madison are all to the same purport, and the student of the history of this contest must arrive at the conclusion that the intrigues of the English Whigs had engendered in the minds of the second Congress feelings of distrust which were skilfully manipulated by another and much smaller, numerically and intellectually, knot of intriguers in Congress, leading to the belief that personally every member was liable for acts of overt treason already done amenable to justice for violence offered to life and property by the mobs their acts called into existence, and that every principle of right as well as wisdom taught the lesson of separation as the source of safety. To this was added French intrigues,—powerful because a portion of the educated members of Congress had imbibed the principles of the infidel philosophy of the Voltaire school, which was then sapping the foundations of law and order in France, and preparing the people for that overthrow of Church and State, which appalled the world by its atrocities for years later. Those elements were aided by the efforts of the Puritan clergy, who looked to a return of the times when the *saints* should govern, and used their power to convince and prepare the people for the change which was foreshadowed. All those causes combined, with the ill management of the British Generals, and the encouragement received from the Opposition in the British

Parliament emboldened the violent minority in Congress to press forward the declaration of independence, as on that depended the alliance with France. It is now understood that the majority by which it was carried was simply *one*, and that individual declared that he never had a day's peace of mind afterwards, and died within a year.

All the facts go to prove that the declaration of independence was obtained, as Livingston says, by fraud, treachery, and deceit, and that almost up to the last moment before Howe landed on Staten Island a strong party in Congress were willing to rescind it if security could be given that their supposed wrongs, which amounted to commercial restrictions and no more, should be redressed. Unhappily the Howes were not armed with the necessary powers, and had to deal with Franklin, the most unscrupulous man of his age. His own representations and that of his colleagues have not been published, but they were designedly prepared to make reconciliation impossible. It may be asked, why did not the Colonists seek redress for their grievances in a constitutional manner? why did they not petition Parliament and await the results. It is true they did so in a measure, but it was when Congress had usurped legislative and administrative functions, and Franklin, with Silas Deane, were in the confidence of the Republican leaders, sent to England to seek redress, did it after their own fashion—one of them going to Holland for the purpose of employing incendiaries and pirates to burn down English seaports and prey on her commerce, while the other endeavored, with a curious admixture of cunning and bullyism, to hoodwink the British House of Commons.

There can be very little doubt that the guilt of bloodshed in this quarrel, rests on the Colonists, especially the people of Boston and particularly on their leaders. That those men hounded on their followers to deeds of violence, resisting the law for purposes of paltry gain accruing to themselves, and that they have incurred the guilt of rebellion and murder with no higher or holier object in view.

Any one who will take the trouble of studying the characters of the leaders in this extraordinary contest will find that the primary cause of action was either fear of loss of property, a desire to avoid payment of just debts, and a petty ambition for selfish purposes, pre-eminently distinguished the fathers of the American Revolution.

A REMARKABLE FAMILY GATHERING.

On last Queen's birthday, at the residence of Mr. Solomon Wardell, in the township of Haldimand and County of Norfolk, about twelve miles from Fort Byerse, there was an entertainment which, from its peculiar character, has never before been equalled in this province or perhaps in the Dominion. On that day, for the first time in their lives, Mr. Orrin Wardell of this city, the well-

known auctioneer and commission merchant and his sixteen brothers, besides several sisters, met together for the purpose of enjoying a family re-union. Seven of the brothers reside in Toronto, three are at home, and the others are scattered far and wide in different parts of Canada and the United States. Ten of them are married, and their wives and children accompanied them to their father's, besides the husbands and offspring of the married sisters. Altogether about 500 persons were present, more than three-fourths of whom were relatives or connected by marriage. Four generations were represented; and the grandmother of the Messrs. Wardell here is 109 years of age. The grandfather came to this country 84 years ago and was a United Empire Loyalist, while his son, Mr. Solomon Wardell, is also of a ripe old age and fought at the battle of Lundy's Lane during the war of 1812-13. The old gentleman was desirous of meeting all his kinsfolk on Tuesday last, and suitable preparations were made for their reception. Two triumphal arches, gaily decorated with flags and evergreens, were erected across the road leading to the house and the gateway was adorned in the most tasteful manner. Everything was done in fact to give all possible *eclat* to the occasion. During the morning the visitors continued to arrive in large parties and from all quarters; and in the afternoon they sat down to a dinner provided for them on a five acre lot outside the orchard, where a number of tables were placed together in a line running from nearly one end of the lot to the other and loaded with all manner of eatables and beverages. Old Mrs. Wardell was elected to preside on account of her patriarchal age and being the oldest member of the family, and ably fulfilled her duties. Speeches were afterwards made by Messrs. Solomon and Nathaniel Wardell, Tilman, Fry, Dr. Fry, Rev. Isaac Tolman and others—the former gentlemen strongly advising his numerous descendants to remain faithful to their Queen and country, and said that the Wardells alone, headed by himself, would be able to drive back all the Fenians who would dare to venture their worthless lives on this side of the border—a declaration which was loudly applauded by all present. In the evening a display of fireworks took place and the proceedings of the day came to a close. Old Mr. Wardell has lived in that section of the country for about half a century, and is well known and esteemed by his numerous friends and neighbours. Tuesday last was decidedly a red letter day in the old gentleman's calend, and though it is probable that he will never again see but comparatively few of his descendants we trust that he may yet live for many years to witness the continued prosperity of the country of which he and his father were amongst the first pioneers and in defence of which both fought nobly and well.—*Toronto Leader.*

The Chicago Fenians to the number of a hundred, have been threatening a raid on our camp at the Sault. They came up in a steamboat, but the alarm was given, Col. Bolton and many of his officers were called away from the pleasures of the dance at the house of Mr. Simpson, M.P., to prepare to meet the enemy; and all necessary precautions were taken to guard against any attack. The Fenians, however, in view of the preparations to give them a warm welcome, thought it better not to assume the offensive, and the propeller having them on board is said to have proceeded to Duluth.