

(ORIGINAL.)

JEREMIAH DESBOROUGH; OR, THE KENTUCKIAN:

A CHAPTER FROM AN UNPUBLISHED CONTINUATION OF

"WACOSTA."

BY THE AUTHOR.

OUR Canadian readers doubtless bear in mind the spot called Elliott's Point, at the western extremity of Lake Erie. Some considerable distance beyond that again, (its intermediate shores washed by the silver waves of the Erie,) stretches a second, called also, from the name of its proprietor, Hartley's Point. Between these two necks, rise three or four farms; one of which, and adjoining Hartley's, was, at the period of which we treat, occupied by an individual of which, unfortunately for the interests of Canada, too many of the species had been suffered to take root within her soil. For many years previous to the war, adventurers from the United States, chiefly men of desperate fortunes, and even more desperate characters, had, through a mistaken policy, been suffered to occupy the more valuable portion of the country, to the exclusion of the natives themselves. Upper Canada, in particular, was infected by these people, all of whom, even while taking the customary oath of allegiance to the British crown, brought with them, and openly professed, all the partialities of American subjects. By the Canadians and their descendants, French and English, they were evidently looked upon with an eye of distrust, for, independently of the fact of their having been suffered to appropriate, during pleasure, many valuable tracts of land, they had experienced no inconsiderable partiality on the part of the government. Those who believe in the possibility, not merely of attaching a renegade to the soil of his adoption, but in converting him into a servicable defender of that soil in a moment of need, commit a great error in politics. The shrewd Canadians knew them better. They maintained, with bitterness, that at the first appearance of war, they would hold their oaths of fealty as naught, or that if they did remain, it would only be with a view to embarrass the province with their presence, and secretly to serve the cause of their own countrymen. The event proved they knew their men. Scarcely had the American Declaration of War gone forth, when numbers of these unprincipled wretches, availing themselves of their near contiguity, abandoned their

homes, and embarking all their disposable property in boats, easily succeeded in gaining the opposite coast, under cover of the night. Not satisfied, however, with their double treason, they, in the true spirit of the dog in the manger, seemed resolved others should not enjoy that which was no longer available to themselves, and the dawn that succeeded the night of their departure, more than once broke on scenes of spoliation of their several possessions, that it required one to know these desperate people well, to credit as being the work of their own hands. Melancholy as it was, however, to reflect that the spirit of conciliation had been thus repaid, the country had reason to rejoice in their flight; for, having thus declared themselves, there was nothing now, beyond their open hostility, to apprehend. Not so with the few who remained. Alike distrusted with those who had taken a more decided part, it was impossible to bring any charge home to them, on which to found a plea for compelling them to quit the country, in imitation of the example of their fellows. They had taken the oaths of allegiance to England—and, although ninety-nine had deliberately violated these, there was no legal cause for driving forth the hundredth, who still kept the "sound of promise to the ear," however he might break it to the hope. Not that, on this account, the hundredth was held to be one whit more honourable or loyal. It was felt and known, as though it had been written in characters of fire upon his brow, that if he did not follow in the steps of his predecessors, it was because his interests, not his inclination, induced his pursuing an apparently opposite course. It is true, those who remained were few in number; but scattered, as they were, in various isolated parts of the country, this only rendered them greater objects of suspicion. If the enemy became apprised of any of our movements, for the successful termination of which it was necessary they should be kept in ignorance, it was at once taken for granted their information had been derived from the traitors Canada had so long nourished in her bosom; and as several of them were in the habit of absenting themselves for days