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ties, comprised the majority of the people from the very beginning to the end of the conflict—certainly, one-third, according to the admission of John Adams himself—and they could alone have subdued the rebellious element had there been any unity among themselves at the commencement of the struggle, or had they been led by a man like Sir Guy Carleton when they were formed into loyal regiments. It is said that at least twenty-five thousand Loyalists were inactive service during the war. One excellent authority\* is of opinion that there were actually from thirty to thirty-five thousand, at one time or other, enrolled in regularly organized corps, without including the bodies which waged a general warfare in South Carolina and elsewhere, or the bands of associated Loyalists in New York. These figures include, however, the regiments which were organized in Canada under Haldimand as well as in the southern division, which extended from Nova Scotia to Florida. It is

safe to say that upwards of twenty-five thousand Loyalists fought within the limits of the rebellious colonies.

The revolutionary party, even during the first phases of the controversy, treated their loyal opponents with extraordinary vindictiveness. The records of many families, who settled in the Canadian provinces, show to what a shameless degree some of the rebels carried their animosity. Churches were desecrated and clergymen insulted, because they refused to cease praying for the King and all legally constituted authorities. It is well to remember that the majority of the most influential Loyalists did not even sympathize with the ill-judged measures of the Imperial Government, but looked upon the controversy as open to argument, conciliation and compromise, and not to be best settled by mob violence, destruction of private property and defiance of law. At last, when the battle was fought between the English soldiers and the "minute-men" at Lexington, the revolutionary party became truly formidable, and the Loyalists, who had argued so long and fairly for a settlement on principles of compromise, had no other alternative than to follow the flag which was always for them the symbol of their allegiance to the Crown and the Empire.

The articles of peace, which were signed in 1783, afforded no adequate protection to the men who had fought and suffered for King and country. The weak Congress, which then nominally governed the feeble confederation, had no real influence over the States when the question arose of carrying out the provisions of the treaty and granting an amnesty to the people who wished to be restored to their homes and estates, or obtain at least some compensation for them. The legislatures of these States were animated by a purely revengeful spirit, and few, if any, estates were given back to their lawful owners. In many places men were tarred and feathered, and even

\* Reverend W. O. Raymond, of St. John, N.B.—the able author of several pamphlets on the Loyalists—in a letter to the writer.