

THE  
LOYALISTS.

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INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

Abate the edge of Traitors, gracious Lord,  
That would reduce these bloody days again,  
And make poor England weep in streams of blood!

SHAKESPEARE.

**T**HOSE who have but an indifferent banquet to offer, are not usually inclined to discourage their guests, by a repulsive bill of fare; yet surely, when a public invitation is given, there is honesty, and prudence too, in simply stating the kind of regale we are going to spread, lest a palled and sickly appetite should expect stimulants, or a perverted taste should pine for foreign luxuries and modern cookery, when we have nothing