

**STUDIES IN HISTORY, ECONOMICS AND
PUBLIC LAW; EDITED BY THE FACULTY
OF POLITICAL SCIENCE OF
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY; LOYALISM IN
NEW YORK DURING THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION, VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 1**

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ALEXANDER CLARENCE FLICK

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[Number 1

LOYALISM IN NEW YORK
DURING THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BY

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CHAPTER I.

RISE OF THE LOYALIST PARTY.

LOYALISM, as believed and practiced during the American revolution, had both a religious and a political side. It was based upon the fundamental teachings of Anglicanism, which made loyalty to the ruler and obedience to law religious duties.¹ This did not mean abject submission to acts looked upon as blunders, or as being unjust. It was not "non-resistance and passive obedience," for none upheld and used with more telling effect than the loyalists the sacred right of petition and remonstrance.² Only when the issue came to be one between submission to the will of the king and parliament, as expressed in law, and resistance by rebellion or revolution, did religious duty enforce obedience. The political science of Anglicanism was, therefore, a fundamental principle in loyalism.

¹ Dr. Myles Cooper, the President of King's College and the recognized clerical leader of the loyalists in 1774, set forth this phase of loyalism best. God, he said, established the laws of government, ordained the British power and commanded all to obey authority. *American Querist*, etc., queries 90-100. "The laws of heaven and earth" forbade rebellion. To threaten open disrespect to government was "an unpardonable crime." *A Friendly Address*, etc., 5. "The principles of submission and obedience to lawful authority are inseparable from a sound, genuine member of the Church of England as any religious principles." That church had three homilies on obedience and six on rebellion. Its members prayed to be made loyal. The church was ashamed of those who disregarded these sacred principles. *Ibid.*, 45-49.

² Dr. Myles Cooper asserted that subjects might remonstrate against unjust laws forced upon them. *A Friendly Address*, etc., 5, 43. Other loyalists took the same position. Chandler, *What Think Ye of Congress Now?*, 44-48.