

1741, as follows:—"On Friday, September 25, 1741, the Committee appointed by this Lodge waited upon the Hon. Mr. Belcher, &c., and made the following speech:—"Thrice Worthy Brother,—We being a Committee by the Mother Lodge of New England, held in Boston to wait on you, take this opportunity to acknowledge the many favors you have always showed (when in Power) to Masonry in General, but in a more special manner to the Brethren of this Lodge; of which we shall ever retain a most grateful remembrance. As we have had your protection when in the most Exalted Station here, so we think it's incumbent on us to make this acknowledgement, having no other means to testify our Gratitude but this; and to wish for your future health and prosperity which is the sincere desire of us and those in whose behalf we appear; and permit us to assure you we shall ever remain, Honored Sir,

"Your most affectionate Brothers and Humble Servaats,

"PETER PELHAM, Sec.,

"In behalf of the Committee."

To which was received the following answer:

"Worthy Brothers;—I take very kindly this mark of your respect. It is now thirty-seven years since I was admitted into the Ancient and Hon. Society of free and Accepted Masons, to whom I have been a faithful Brother, and a well wisher to the Art of Masonry.

"I shall ever maintain a strict friendship for the whole Fraternity, and always be glad when it may fall in my power to do them any services.

"J. BELCHER."

This statement of Brother Belcher's carries back his initiation in 1704 thirteen years before the revival of Masonry and the organization of the first Grand Lodge in London. So far as is known he was the earliest made Mason resident on this continent.

Fleet's "Pocket Almanack," published in Boston in 1784, in place of the usual list of St. John's Lodges, has the following paragraph:—

"The Records of the First Grand Lodge in Boston, Right Worshipful John Rowe, Esq., present Grand Master, being carried away by the Secretary, at the time the British Troops evacuated the Town in 1776, a particular list of the several Lodges in North America, who received deputations from, and are under its jurisdiction, cannot at present be obtained. They are in number about thirty. Those in Boston are: "St. John's or 1st. Lodge, and 2nd, now united in one."

Then follows a list of "Lodges under the jurisdiction of St. Andrew's Lodge, in Boston, John Warren, Esq., present Grand Master," numbering twenty. Among these last were: St. Andrew's