

CHAPTER I.

Introduction.—Sons of Liberty.—Moral Influence of their exertions on the Revolution.—Effect on subsequent Revolutions in Europe.—Birth and Parentage of JOHN LAMB.—Early Occupation.—Characteristics.—Opposed to ministerial aggressions.—A Leader of the SONS OF LIBERTY.—The Stamp Act.—Early Action of the South and East.—Opposition of the Continental Colonies.—Of Jamaica.—St. Christopher.—Stamp Distributors.—Burnt in Effigy at Boston.—Rebuked at New Haven.—New York aroused.—Lieut.-Gov. Colden makes preparation for enforcing the Act.—Repairs the Forts.—Colden burnt in Effigy.—Destruction of Private Property not intended.—Gen. Gage's forbearance.—Colden delivers the Stamps to the Corporation.

The three last centuries have produced more important events than any which have occurred in the same period of time which has preceded them. Neither the Jewish nor the Roman empire, ever made such rapid strides to power, as that nation founded by the descendants of persecuted exiles, who sought refuge in another hemisphere, from the tyranny and misrule of the mother country.

From the proscriptions begun by Elizabeth, and continued by her successors, the Puritans were forced to seek in the wilderness, the freedom of conscience which was denied them at home. And although resentment of their many wrongs, at first produced in them the same intolerance towards dissenters from their particular creed, as that under which they had suffered; yet as the Colonies increased in population by the influx of emigration, the fanaticism which had grown up among them, yielded to a more generous sentiment, while the trials to which they were subjected preparatory to the great effort of the Parliament to reduce them to vassalage, had produced a more extended intercourse, which assisted to form a national character, peculiarly adapted to sustain them in the Revolution which followed, and in the subsequent establishment of their Constitutional Government.