

that in the year 1775, the Grants had as efficient a civil government as any of the colonies ; and, assuredly, no colony had a more thorough military organization. In the light of these well authenticated facts, the evidence bearing upon the question before us must be considered. It is obvious that they will exercise considerable influence upon its solution.

With few exceptions, these settlers were New England men—attached to her institutions, intrenched in her habits—warm disciples of the doctrine of self-government. The same fuel which fed the fires of liberty in Faneuil Hall was abundant on the Grants. We shall see hereafter that the call for resistance to oppression nowhere met with a more hearty, unanimous response than from the pioneers among the Green Mountains.

\* It was to such a people, *thus organized*, that John Brown, of Pittsfield, came, late in February, 1775, on his way to Canada. On the 15th of that month, the Congress of Massachusetts, impressed with the necessity of keeping the Canadians and Indians neutral, if they could not be won to the popular cause in the struggle which they knew was near ; by resolution, directed their committee to open a correspondence to that end. The committee sent Mr. Brown upon the mission, and furnished him with letters and documents to promote his success. Pittsfield was not a half day's ride from Bennington, where Allen lived and the Grand Committee held its sessions. It was the principal town upon the great route of emigration to the Grants. Its patriotic minister bore Allen's name, and was his friend. Communication between these two towns was frequent, and the condition of affairs upon the Grants must have been well known to Brown and his neighbors. He acted promptly upon that knowledge. He delayed long enough to visit Albany, and put himself in communication with Dr. Young, and then took the shortest route, across the Grants, to Canada. It was a part of his business to "establish a reliable