

Hooper stood guard on each side with their bayonets threatening instant death, if he tried to run the schooner aground in the darkness, or speak so loud as to be heard on shore. In such guise, the lightless *Flying Fish* slipped down the harbour before the north wind between McLean's battery on the starboard hand and George's to port, past all the works on Point Pleasant, past Sandwich Point and Thrum Cap unchallenged, to the open sea and safety. Seldom, indeed, has fickle Fortune so signally favoured daring and desperate men. Within an hour of digging themselves out of prison, they had captured a vessel and were bowling along straight for home and freedom.

Squint suspicion always clings to an *alias*. That the same man should call himself at one time James Reed and at another William Stanton clouds all his narrative with a doubt, but this is the tale he told "repeatedly" in the presence of Rachel Chandler and Mary Hambleton of North Yarmouth, on Great Chebeag Island. His five comrades heard his repeated story and agreed in the details. The sworn testimony of the two ladies is confirmed by the affidavit of Jacob Curtis of Great Chebeag and by Greenwood's petition. Stanton seems to have been a talkative person, and, therefore, apt to say more than he knew. In his affidavit, he poses as Greenwood's friend by minimizing the violence used in seizing his schooner and tells chiefly what took place after they got clear of Halifax.

According to his account, nothing of importance occurred until the *Flying Fish* had flown some thirty marine leagues "up along to the westward." She would do at least her five or six knots an hour; therefore, it was probably the next afternoon that Greenwood steered her into an unnamed harbour, which must have been at Ragged Islands, that nest of American sympathizers. Still he ran no risks. Stanton swears that he "took every prudent measure to prevent our being discovered. . . . He went on shore while our vessel lay aground and never discovered us to the inhabitants." Stanton believed that "the said Greenwood might have taken said