

hanged as a traitor. On the 23rd July, 1778, he escaped from what he calls "that town of horror" and with great difficulty arrived on Long Island again on the 30th of that month.

On the 3rd of August he was seized with a severe fever which nearly proved fatal, and on his recovery from it went to sea for several months, and his health by this means was re-established. He returned to New York and entered into a mercantile business.

By commission dated the second day of February, 1780, he was appointed by James Pattison, Esq.,* Major General of His Majesty's forces, Commandant of New York, etc., etc., etc., to be second lieutenant of Company No. 22 of the City Militia, of which company Willett Taylor had been appointed Captain. On the 9th March, 1780, Mr. Stone received a captain's commission to command a company of militia, and commanded the same until the king's troops left New York, without receiving any pay or compensation whatever.

In reference to his services generally in behalf of his king it may be of interest here to quote a certificate subsequently given by General Lym, who was, we believe, at one time Governor of the State of New York:

"I do certify that Mr. Joel Stone came into the king's lines at New York from the colony of Connecticut early in the American War—was employed in recruiting the provincial corps, and conducted himself as a faithful, loyal subject—therefore particularly recommend him to the consideration of Government."

"Given under my hand in Upper Grosvenor Street, this 23rd of January, 1784."

Nor must we judge only of Mr. Stone's loyalty by the services he rendered to his king but also by the sacrifices which he made. We have already seen that on the night on which he made his escape every lock in his house was broken and all the property which could then be discovered was seized. But his enemies were by no means satisfied with their actions or with having driven him from the colony, and steps were taken to confiscate his estate.

It would appear as regarded personal property, that by the statute law of Connecticut the "select men" of any Township from which any person absented and joined the British army were directed to represent such person and the state of his property to a Justice of the Peace, who then had power to issue a warrant to a constable to seize and hold all the absentee's goods and chattels and make returns to the County Court which was to adjudicate in the matter, and might issue an order to the said constable to sell the property so seized for the use and benefit of the State. By another statute, provision was made for the sale of real estates of such absentees.

Upon the representation of select men of Woodbury in the County of Litchfield, to Daniel Sherman, Esquire, a Justice of the Peace, for the said County, against Joel Stone, showing that he was inimical to the States of America and did sometime in the month of December then last (1776) join the army of the King of Great Britain, and had ever since continued under the protection of the said King's chief commander at or near New York, and that he had an estate in goods and chattels in said Woodbury

*The letters of Gen. James Pattison, while he was commandant in the City of New York, appeared in the volume for 1875, of the New York Historical Society.