

At length, in the year 1776, Joel Stone discovered that it was perfectly impracticable for him any longer to conceal his sentiments. The agents of Congress having peremptorily urged him to declare without further hesitation whether he would immediately take up arms himself against the British Government or procure a substitute, he could no longer avoid giving a positive reply. His resolution not to take the step which was required of him was unalterable, both because he detested to do so, and because what was required of him had been repeatedly deemed an act of rebellion by the public proclamations of General Howe. Having received his reply the leaders of the party to which he was opposed informed him that his conduct would undergo the strictest scrutiny and that he might expect from those in authority and an incensed public the utmost severity to his person. In consequence he determined in his own mind to withdraw as soon as possible from Connecticut and go to New York, designing upon his arrival there to join the British forces and use all his influence in favour of his king. Before he could carry his design into execution a warrant was issued for his apprehension by order of the agents of Congress, and he having become apprised of this, and that men were actually on their way to his house, packed up his books and bills and delivered them to a friend to secrete, and leaving a sister who had lived with him for some time in charge of his household effects, took flight upon horseback, and the night being a dark one had the good fortune to elude those who were searching for him and escaped. The party seeking him was attended by a tumultuous mob who surrounded the premises, and vented their resentment upon his sister. Using language the most opprobrious, they broke every lock in the house and seized all the property they could discover.

Mr. Stone made his way to New York, which was then in the possession of the British forces. When or how he arrived there we cannot tell, but it became his residence for a period of several years. From his own statement it would appear that he took up arms and served the king from the 20th June, 1777, until the evacuation of New York. He first became a volunteer in Governor Wentworth's command, and his service as such appears to have been purely of a gratuitous character, for he received no remuneration, nor indeed did any of the volunteers in that command, until after he had ceased to be attached to it. By a commission or warrant bearing date the 15th day of April, 1778, he was authorized and empowered by Gabriel G. Ludlow, Esquire, Colonel of the third battalion of Brigadier-General Delancey's Brigade to recruit able-bodied men, not less in number than fifty-four (including those recruited by the subalterns in his company) to serve His Majesty in that battalion for "two years or during the present rebellion in North America," under the command of his Excellency, Sir William Howe, or under the commander-in-chief of His Majesty's forces for the time being, and was further authorized and empowered to inform the men that upon their being mustered and approved they should receive five dollars bounty, and the same pay, clothing, provisions, and other necessaries as the British troops then had. Having gone to Huntington, Long Island, to recruit men he was surprised, while asleep, on the 12th May, 1778, by a company of whale-boat men and carried to Fairfield, Connecticut, and there committed to close custody upon a charge of high treason. While in prison he was subjected to abuse, being informed that he should be