

ton. He promised to return a person, that is, an escaping American, in exchange for the borrowed hand.

In the spring he was at Halifax instead of home in Massachusetts, a fact that was afterwards used against him. The potatoes, which he and, no doubt, other thrifty fishermen had raised and kept through the winter, were surplus stock and specially valuable as being out of season. His reasons for trading with "the enemy" were obvious. Oppressive Britain paid not in depreciated paper, but in good solid gold and silver. Besides, those "moving things called wife and weans" would lead him to bring his goods to the best, nearest, and safest market. Now history finds William Greenwood at a definite place and date with all this experience behind him.

Whatever may have been passing through his mind, as he sat with his mate in the cramped cabin of the *Flying Fish* that April night, he could hardly have had any inkling that he was on the eve of his greatest and most unpleasant adventure. He could not know that on the wharf outside in the darkness, six grimy, desperate American soldiers were scrutinizing the little schooner with anxious eyes, and, in stealthy whispers, were planning her capture. They were Thomas Hooper of Beverley, William Forbes (or Forbush) of Salem, one Jarvis, one Jenks, and a Scot whose name does not transpire. The sixth man, their leader, called himself at one time James Reed, but the name he gave in his affidavit was William Stanton. He had been swept up by "the enemy" at Stoney Point on the Hudson, and as that post was carried by the Americans under Wayne on July 15th, 1779, he must have been captured prior to that date. They had all been confined for "some months" in Halifax and that very hour, between eight and nine, they had succeeded in digging a tunnel out under the jail, and now they were looking for a vessel to escape in. They were still in the greatest danger. The place swarmed with red-coats. The main guard was next the jail. Patrols, sentries, batteries were everywhere. If they did not escape by water, they were sure to be discovered and haled back to prison. Now, by the greatest good luck,