

on a branch of the mercantile trade, travelled to several places in North America, and returned in about three months with a considerable property. So great had been his success that he was induced with his father's consent, in 1774, to enter into a partnership with a merchant named Jabez Bacon, of Woodbury, in the County of Litchfield. From a copy of the partnership articles, which has been preserved, it would appear that Jabez Bacon and Joel Stone "joined themselves to be co-partners together, or traders in company, in the business of Merchandising and all things thereto belonging; and, also in buying, selling, vending and retailing of all sorts of goods, wares and commodities whatsoever, which said co-partnership is to continue from this First day of February, 1774, for and during unto the full end of six years from thence next ensuing." The partnership did not expire by effluxion of time, for long before the end of the six years the Revolutionary War had broken out and the Junior partner had found employment of quite a different character from that for which the partnership was formed and carried on. But while the business continued it appears to have flourished for Mr. Stone in his narrative says: "I soon had the happiness to discover myself in the confidence and esteem of my neighbours and the public in general. By dint of an unwearied diligence and a close application to trade I found the number of my friends and customers daily increasing and a fair prospect of long happiness arose to my sanguine mind in one of the most desirable situations beneath the best of laws, and the most excellent government in the Universe."

It is quite unnecessary in a narrative such as this to enter upon the causes or discuss the events which led to the revolt of the colonies and the declaration of their independence as the United States of America. We only have to do with them in so far as they affected the subject of our memoir, and he appears soon to have experienced their effects. He says:

"But alas! the dreadful commotions that commenced about this period quickly involved that once happy country in all the dreadful horrors of an unnatural war, and filling the pleasant land with desolation and blood removed all my fair prospects of future blessings; yet amidst all that anarchy and rage I was fixed in my resolves, rather to forego all I could call my property in the world than flinch from my duty as a subject to the best of sovereigns; sooner to perish in the general calamity than abet in the least degree the enemies of the British Constitution."

Entertaining such sentiments as those above stated and with the public mind in the state in which it then was, it may be readily supposed that his life became a disturbed one.

In the year 1775 being suspected of unfriendliness to the provincial or continental party he was cited to appear before a Committee and was accused of having supplied the people whom they called "Tories" with sundry articles of provisions, and with having supported and assisted the British prisoners confined in Connecticut. It was with much difficulty that he at that time escaped a very severe prosecution at the hand of the emissaries of Congress. His aged father appears to have occupied much the same position as Joel for we are told that he was repeatedly imprisoned, threatened, and harassed "for his steady perseverance in maintaining with all his ability the true liberty of his country and just cause of his rightful Sovereign."