

occasion required. It is matter of much regret, that more ample materials do not remain, to do justice to these and others of the fraternity.

Of the many who earliest embarked in the Revolution, and staked their lives and fortunes on the result, none were more active and conspicuous than JOHN LAMB, the subject of this memoir. Of an ardent temper, yet cool in the formation and execution of important designs; of undaunted courage and indomitable perseverance, he entered with the enthusiasm of his nature into the stormy scenes of that period, and exerted all his physical and mental faculties to further the cause of emancipation.

His father, Anthony Lamb, was a native of England, from whence he emigrated to this country, and married in the city of New York a lady of Dutch parentage, named Ham; of which marriage the subject of this history was born on the first of January, 1735. Anthony Lamb was the most celebrated and skilful optician, and maker of mathematical instruments, in this country of that day, and carried on those occupations with great success. In early youth, the son followed the occupation of his father. But he did not long continue in those pursuits, for about the year 1760 he commenced the business of wine merchant; and through the troublesome times which preceded the war, was largely engaged in the liquor trade.* About the period of his majority,

* Previous to the year 1762, Mr. Lamb had commercial relations with an individual named Cairns, who was for some time located at Havana. Shipments were made to him from time to time, and wine and other commodities received on account. Cairns, after suffering the balance against him to amount to four thousand pounds, embarked for Liverpool in England. The vessel on board which he had taken passage, foundered at sea; and the crew and passengers, taking to the boat, escaped to the shore. On arriving at Charleston, S. C.; Cairns despatched letters, ante-dated at Havana to New York, requesting that insurance to a large amount should be made on property to be shipped on board the vessel then about to sail. It so happened that in the same mail, in which these letters were transmitted, an account of the loss of the ship was sent, but