

and the events which preceded the capture, *has not been cited by any of the numerous writers upon this subject*. A surprising omission, in view of the fact that his account was published when there was a half regiment of living witnesses, shortly after the event, and before any controversy in relation to it had arisen. It is found in Allen's "Vindication," as it is called, published in 1779, only four years after the capture.

This account not only throws light upon the question we are discussing, but it also proves the spontaneous loyalty of the Vermonters to the cause of liberty. It points out their vital interest in the coming revolution, for their controversy with the New Yorkers had just been submitted to the king and Privy Council, with every prospect of an early decision in their favor. It refers to their frontier, extended to the Province of Quebec, exposed to an enemy in possession of this fort and Crown Point, with a vessel of war upon the lake. "The battle of Lexington," says Allen, "almost distracted them, for interest inclined them to the royal side of the dispute, but the stronger impulses of affection to their country, impelled them to resent its wrongs;" and "the ties of consanguinity, similarity of religion and manners to New England, whence they had emigrated, weighed heavy in their deliberations." Moreover, they "believed the cause of the country to be just," and that "resistance to Great Britain had become the indispensable duty of a free people;" in short, he declares that their interest and their patriotism were directly opposed. He states that, "soon after the news of Lexington battle, the principal officers of the Green Mountain Boys, and other principal inhabitants, *were convened* at Bennington, and attempted to explore futurity, which was found to be unfathomable, and the scenes which have since taken place, then appeared to be precarious and uncertain;" but after consideration, it was "resolved to take an active part with the country, and thereby annihilate the old quarrel with