

Government took her up amongst others for the conveyance of troops to America, where the war had commenced. He had on board nearly a whole Regiment with General Howse (in command of the troops), who was ordered out to supersede General Gage, at Boston. The vessel arrived at Boston, on the 15th of June, Mr. Coffin landed the Regiment immediately under Bunker's Hill, and the action having already commenced (17th June, 1775), he was requested by the Colonel "to come up and see the fun;" the only weapon at hand being the tiller of his boat, he immediately (to use a nautical phrase) unshipped it, and with equal determination commenced laying about him, and shipped the powder and belt, and musket of the first man he knocked down, and bore an active part during the rest of the action. In consideration of his gallant conduct, he was presented to General Gage after the battle, and made an Ensign on the field; shortly after he was promoted to a Lieutenant, but still retained the command of his ship. Sir William Howes had promised Mr. Coffin, on his arrival at Boston, the command of 400 men, if he would go to New York and raise