

recommended that the several churches in the province should set apart a day of fasting and prayer on account of public affairs." The Governor and Upper House, as it seems, were in sympathy with England. A committee of the town of Falmouth applied to Mr. Wiswall to announce this day of fasting; but he refused, as it had not been authorized by the Legislature in due form. He told them that he could not co-operate in any fasts except those appointed by his Church and those recommended by lawful authority. He was further requested by the town to take a collection for the sufferers in the town of Boston. This, too, he refused to do, because, as he said, such contributions would go to support people in resisting the laws of the parliament of Great Britain. This gave great offence to the town, and to a number of the members of his own congregation, some of whom withdrew from his church. In contrast with his own course he says:—

"Many of the dissenting ministers support their own popularity by encouraging the people in the tumultuous proceedings. . . . To recommend submission to authority and obedience to the laws by a quiet and peaceable behaviour in the station in which I am placed, is what I think can, as times go, be prudently done, to check the torrent of political enthusiasm; but even silence is now censured by the people as evidence of what they call tory principles. . . . I expect to suffer, I already do suffer in my temporal interests on account of these disturbances; but better so than betray the cause I am in honour and in duty bound to support, as a servant of Christ and a minister of the Church of England."

On the 17th of April, 1775, the revolution, which Mr. Wiswall called the rebellion, broke out with great violence in Falmouth. As his father and grandfather, both intelligent men who had occupied prominent positions, had spent their lives in the colonies, the son was able to trace from its beginning the growth of resistance to British control in the colonies, until it culminated in the revolution. He knew that Rhode Island and Connecticut existed under charters which made them practically independent; that they elected their