

## SAMUEL SALISBURY—A BOSTON MERCHANT IN THE REVOLUTION

BY CHARLES L. NICHOLS

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SAMUEL, son of Nicholas and Martha Salisbury, was born in Boston in the year 1739. His father died in 1748, and after finishing his studies under the famous schoolmaster, John Lovel, the young man began his business life in 1757 as a hardware merchant in his native town.

In the earliest account book preserved, are to be found two entries of interest, the records of a London Adventure and those of a Bristol Adventure, showing that he had risked the purchase of English goods in these two places and that his ambition was to become something more than a local merchant as his father had been during the son's boyhood. The success of these ventures confirmed him in his efforts to found an Importing and Commission House.

When his younger brother, Stephen, born two years before his father's death, came of age, he was taken into partnership, a branch house was established in Worcester and the young man placed in charge of it.

Samuel Salisbury builded better than he knew, for, when evil days came to Boston, this branch not only saved the business but brought a steadily increasing income to the firm until the Boston house could once more be established on a paying basis at the close of the war.

The correspondence between the two brothers has been largely preserved and is now in our Ms. collections and that which relates to the stirring times of the American Revolution in Massachusetts contains many letters of interest and some of real importance.

An advertisement of this partnership, printed about 1767, announces the firm of:

S. & S. SALISBURY,

Importing from London, Bristol, Birmingham and Sheffield a large assortment of Hardware goods, which they sell very cheap, by Wholesale and Retail, at their shop in Boston, two doors southward of Dr. Silvester's in Marlborough Street and at their shop in Worcester upon the west side of the Bridge near the Goal.

It further states that the goods in Worcester will be sold as cheap as at Boston, thus saving the good people of Worcester the cost of transportation. This argument was so potent that, on January 11, 1767, Stephen wrote his brother Samuel, that he was to send down £80. in gold, with more soon to follow, and urged him to forward the list of goods enclosed, which he could sell if delivered at once. It should be stated here that only those parts of these letters are quoted which relate directly to the course of this narrative, the remainder being filled with business details.

The early letters of Stephen show little experience in business matters, his handwriting even being boyish and irregular, and are in sharp contrast with those of a few years later which had rapidly developed him in every way.

At the outset he naturally complained that his hours were long and tiresome, even his evenings being occupied at the store until late. To one of these Samuel wrote in reply on Nov. 10, 1767: "Your letter read and note contents. Am glad that you are well employed about this world; but hope you wont forget the other to which we are all hastening."

This is unusual from a man of 28 to his brother of 21 in the midst of business cares but it shows the strong character of the elder and his earnest wish that his younger brother might take a high stand in his new and untried surroundings. Another matter of interest, in connection with these letters and in contrast with the present day custom, is the final sentence in nearly

every letter written by Stephen, "Give my Duty to my Honored Mother."

At the end of his first year, Stephen was approached by Clark Chandler, for many years the esteemed Town Clerk of Worcester but later compelled to expunge from his records sentiments unfavorable to the Patriot cause. His family had a shop of English goods, dry goods and hardware and, fearing that the new firm would sell other goods than hardware, he urged the new merchant not to interfere with their old established trade. Relating this incident, Stephen, on Nov. 19, 1767, wrote Samuel: "I told him that our business was quite a different branch from his and, if he would send away his hardware, I did not doubt, if they kept a full assortment of dry goods and we of hardware, it would in time result in a great advantage to us both by keeping people from going to other towns to buy," and within a month the matter was settled agreeably to the interests of both parties.

The promulgation of the Act of Parliament imposing a tax on paper, tea and other importations into the Colonies, aroused the indignation laid at rest by the repeal of the stamp act. On Nov. 18, 1767, Samuel's letter says: "The Duty takes place on Friday. Some Gentlemen say that they wont pay it. What will be the consequences I cant say. If there is any disturbance I shall give you a particular account"; and on the 26, he wrote: "The Duty upon Tea I expect to pay but as we shall be on the footing with our Neighbours we must not complain. I am very glad you now enjoy a Good State of Health which, I pray God, may continue and that you may be suitable thankful for and improve it to the Glory of him from whom you receive it."

On Dec. 9, he wrote: "In Boston we are going to leave off drinking Tea. Mr. Cushing's family began this week and others are doing so. A number of people of fashion wont taste a drop."

In spite of these clouds which were gathering, the Worcester branch seemed to thrive and Samuel wrote

many times of his satisfaction at the progress made and the great help in meeting his importing obligations which the frequent consignments of money from Worcester gave him.

In 1770, Stephen had outgrown his small quarters and erected a house on the north side of Lincoln Square, still called Salisbury Mansion and a notable example of Colonial architecture, which was in part used as his store, the rest being occupied for his residence. He was already well acquainted with the best people of the town and his new home, one of the most pretentious then erected, placed him on a firm footing in a social way as his shop had already done in the business world.

In every village and town of those days, as of today, there was a social aristocracy, the lines of which were drawn far more closely than in the cities of the present time. In Worcester, the Paines, the Chandlers and the Putnams were leaders of fashion and as John Adams, when a schoolmaster in Worcester twenty years before, had been welcomed among them so Stephen Salisbury was taken freely into their homes and became one of their number.

All this was rudely shaken by the news contained in the letter of his brother dated, March 13, 1770, and the social bonds and friendships which he had made began to divide and become established along political lines, as the next few years urged the people forward to a yet unknown and un-charted goal.

On that date, Samuel wrote: "By the papers you will see the dismal Tragedy acted here last week. This day week I did not know whether I should ever see you again. The 29th Regiment is all gone to the Castle, the 14th is a following and we have the Col's word and honour, there shall not be a man in town by Friday. There has been a military watch ever since this melancholy affair and is to continue. The troops are all gone."

The Boston Massacre, as would be expected, added

fuel to the fire of old troubles and two months later led to the non-importation action.

On May 23, 1770, Samuel wrote: "This morning through Amory and that party's influence, a number met at the British Coffee House about forty. I was invited and did attend. They voted, as their sentiments, to import fall goods except tea, provided New York and Philadelphia concurred with them, and that, this their vote should be communicated to the General meeting which was to be in the afternoon. I was the only one that voted against it, my reason was I thought we ought not to do anything till we heard the result of Parliament. In the afternoon their proposal was made to the General meeting, and after a considerable debate they voted strictly to adhere to the agreement of non-importation till a total repeal of the Tea Act shall take place."

On June 7, a teamster was caught, taking goods from an importer and was threatened with tar and feathers, so strongly did the people feel on this issue and so strict a watch did they keep upon its infraction. Samuel Salisbury wrote of it: "My advice to them was to take the man, not his effects. The teamster, after the goods was stored, was made to mount his wagon and solemnly to declare he would not directly or indirectly cart or convey any goods for an importer." On the 20th of the same month, another man being detected and treated in the same way, Mr. Salisbury wrote: "For my part I am for encouraging such proceedings or else break the agreement, for I have no notion keeping my hands tied, and let these people transport freely and thereby prevent the good effect. You'll excuse my being so tedious as I am willing to give you what information I can of the proceedings here."

For the next two years the letters are filled with business largely, with an occasional query about tea and here and there a note of family or social interest. In one letter was a hint of the possible engagement of

their favorite sister Betsy and the final invitation to the wedding, the fortunate man being Samuel Barrett, who, fifteen years later was Secretary of the Convention which drew up the State Constitution. On March 19, 1771, Samuel wrote: "'Tis said that John Hancock courts Dolly Quincy. 'Tis certain he visits her and has her company in private every evening." This report was confirmed by their marriage in 1775. On January 3, 1773, Samuel writes: "I should be glad you would inform me how your people stand affected to tea. Have you or any shops in Worcester any to sell? The traders here are much divided, some are for wholly excluding it, others are for selling Dutch tea."

When however, later in the year, the tax on English tea only was removed and ships from that country brought tea to Boston, the blow fell. Samuel Salisbury, always ready to keep his brother informed, wrote: "Friday morning, 6 o'clock, Dec, 17. 1773. I would now notify you that last evening, after applying to the Gov'r for a pass for Mr. Rotch's ship, and his refusing it, the meeting of the people was dissolved. The consequence of which was they immediately repaired to Griffin's Wharf, where lay the three ships with tea on board, and before 9 o'clock it was all destroyed by breaking open the chests and shovelling and pouring it into the sea. What the consequences [of that act will be] time will discover. God grant they may be happy! Such is the present flame against tea of any kind you must excuse me sending any more. One Connor, having filled his pockets with tea, he was stripped naked by the people, his clothes thrown away and had like to have been thrown overboard himself."

The conditions in Worcester were very different from those in Boston. The most influential people in town, and the personal friends of Stephen were strong loyalists and did not hesitate to express themselves to that effect both in private and in town meetings. The result was that, in addition to a Committee of Correspondence common to all the towns, a new organization

was formed there, called the American Political Society. The direct object of this society was to oppose this loyalist influence and, as it welded together those who espoused the cause of the Patriot, it became a power in the town and for several years directed the policy of that party and of the town itself. That this society did not confine itself to local affairs is seen in the letter of Stephen dated April 20, 1774: "Our Grand Jurors have done themselves great honour at this Court and when the proceedings are published I hope no one will ever presume to call this county a Tory county."

This letter refers to the action taken by the American Political Society on April 4. The records state: "Voted, nem. con. that this society will, each one of them, bear and pay their equal part of the fine and charge that may be laid on Messrs. Joshua and Timothy Bigelow for their refusal to be impanneled upon the Grand Jury at our next Superior Court, Court of Assizes, for the County of Worcester if they shall be chosen into that office, and their refusal is founded on the following principle (viz) that they cannot, consistent with good conscience and order, serve if Peter Oliver, Esq. is present on the Bench, as Chief Justice or Judge of said Court, before he is lawfully tried and acquitted from the high crimes and charges for which he now stands impeached by the Hon'ble House of Representatives of this Province and the major part of the Grand Jurors for the whole county join them in refusing to serve for the reasons aforesaid."

This remonstrance, signed by the Grand Jurors, was presented at the opening of the Superior Court, on April 19, and the remonstrants were informed by the Justices that Mr. Oliver was not likely to be present, as was proved to be the case.

On May 11, 1774, Samuel wrote: "This day I send you sundry newspapers and the Act of Parliament which has set this town into great consternation. If our goods dont arrive before 1<sup>st</sup> June, I expect to have

to cart them from Salem or Marblehead." Two days later his letter said: "The other colonies are to be sent to, to know what part they will take,—whether they will unite with us in opposing this cruel Act of Parliament, or endeavour to build themselves up on our Ruin. If they do unite with us in putting a stop to all trade with Great Britain and the West Indian Islands we doubt not, with the blessing of God, to obtain success."

When the Port of Boston was finally closed, Stephen wrote from Worcester, on May 14, to his brother: "We are sensible of the unhappy situation you are in and the absolute necessity of a union of the Provinces throughout the Colonies and without it nothing we can do will have any good effect. It is reported here, I know not what foundation they have for it, that you are one of those who are for paying for the tea and I can hardly think it possible when I consider the many fatal consequences that will inevitably attend the payment. We shall ever after be subjected to Internal Taxes, our Properties, nay our Lives will not be safe and if we dont submit to every imposition placed upon us it is only for them to block up our harbours and we shall then be made willing to consent to do anything that they require. I am glad the Parliament is about altering our Constitution. The greater the burdens and the more excessive they are the greater the probability of a union among ourselves. However it is in vain to think of paying for the tea, for Boston is not able, the country is not willing, and such is the spirit of the people in general, nay universal in the country, that should application be made to our Assembly and they should be so imprudent as to consent to tax us, you may depend upon a general insurrection."

On June 22, 1774, Samuel wrote: "I would not advise you to sign the covenant nor take the oath upon any account whatever." And his August 18, letter reads: "I had the disagreeable sight of the Governor and Council walking in procession, among whom was



our friend, Mr. Paine, which I was sorry to see as I conclude from that he has taken the oath."

This referred to Mr. Timothy Paine who had been appointed a Mandamus Councillor, an office which, two days later, he was compelled to resign by a gathering of more than a thousand of his fellow townsmen.

On August 20, Stephen had written: "Guns are in great demand as well as powder, I would therefore have you send me all the longest guns you have. Guns, French flints and bar lead. The uncertainty of the times, together with the party spirit, which I am afraid will run to excess, makes life in this town very disagreeable." On Sept. 7, he spoke of an alarm: "Between 2 & 3 o'clock in the morning I was sent for with the melancholy news that the soldiers had fired upon our people, killed six and wounded a number and further that the ships were playing upon the town of Boston. [This rumor referred to the expedition of the troops up the Mystic River to Charlestown for gunpowder which had been concealed there]. I cannot pretend to give you any particular account of the conduct of our country people. Suffice it to say that they discovered the greatest courage and the firmest resolution to die before [yielding.]

"I took that day £173. in cash, for powder, &c. On Monday, £97, and yesterday £380. I have with me above £1000. I have been obliged to take the oath that the goods that I now have on hand were imported before the last of August, I refused to swear any further." The last statement refers to the pressure brought to bear on him by the American Political Society as seen in their records, of Sept. 5, "Voted that Stephen Salisbury be admitted into our society to offer an oath administered by Artemas Ward, Esq. relative to the nonimportation of English goods. Voted unanimously not to accept the oath in our society that the above gentleman hath produced."

In the letter September 30, he also wrote: "I would inform you that this town, on Monday, added three

men to the Committee of Correspondence. They again chose me in the above and I should have absolutely refused had it not been I have already incurred their displeasure by repeated refusals of that kind. I did not think it would have been prudent to have been excused as I should have got more ill will than I have at present, which I dont desire. However to neglect private business upon this account I cannot consent to, let the consequences be as it may. Our business here will not admit of my attending many of their meetings for I have as much private business as I can attend to. How to conduct in this affair at this difficult day is a good deal perplexing."

In his reply a few days later, Samuel wrote: "I think you was right in accepting the office to which you was chosen and would advise you giving what attendance you can consistent with our business."

Several of the letters quoted hint at the natural differences in opinion as to their strictness in adherence to the non-importation agreement, they also hint at open breaches of faith among the merchants. Samuel wrote that in his opinion their Worcester competitor was purchasing English goods, and should be shown up in his evil ways. In the letter of Sept. 30, Stephen continued: "The information that you have given me is not full enough. I should be glad if you could inform me by what vessel his goods came, because if he has imported contrary to the spirit of the Covenant entered into it is my duty to acquaint the Committee who has signed the solemn covenant. But I ought to have the intelligence straight and positive not surmises. The trader in this town, taking the oath as he has done has been a damage to me for it has made many of my customers dissatisfied with me for not consenting to do as he has done, preferring to trade with him, looking upon him as more friendly to the Liberties of America and more willing to sacrifice his private interests for the good of his country than I am. Therefore if he acts 'under the curtain' it is not only our duty but to our private interests to expose him."

His heart was, however, in the right place for he continued: "I must remind you not to purchase upon any account of any of the importers who have imported since the last of August nor purchase a single article (of any other person) which was imported contrary to the spirit of the Covenant. If you regard my peace of mind and your own interest pray be cautious."

The importance which was attached to the adherence of Stephen Salisbury to the patriotic party in Worcester because of his standing and ability was shown in his appointment and reappointment on the Committee of Correspondence and election as a member of the American Political Society. When the town meeting of Oct. 26, 1774, appointed a committee to inspect the goods of merchants to discover unlawful importations and to draw up rules for its guidance, Nathan Baldwin, the chairman, sent these instructions to Stephen Salisbury for advice saying: "Any addition to the plan that your superior abilities shall suggest for the public weal will be well received by all friends to American Liberty, every fair trader, and oblige your friend and humble servant, Nathan Baldwin." It also shows the development which those seven years of his life in Worcester had wrought in the immature youth of 1767. It must be remembered, in considering the apparent reluctance of the Salisbury brothers to take definite sides in the great struggle, that no thought of separation from England had yet been entertained, that at this very time a Petition of the Grand American Continental Congress in Philadelphia had been sent to the King, urging the redress of their grievances and vowing fidelity to him and to their mother country. Indeed another Petition, similar to this one, was prepared by the Congress on July 22, 1775, three months after the battle of Bunker Hill and forwarded to the King. So little did the colonists see whither they were inevitably tending! Yet whatever their ignorance of the future separation or their unwillingness to accept it, events were shaping themselves to that end.

On Dec. 14, Samuel wrote: "For these two days past, a Regiment each day has marched a few miles out of town, with their packs at their backs, drums beating, colours flying and their surgeon with them. It is said it is a common thing for them to march in this manner to air themselves and use them to travel. I did not know but it might occasion false reports in the country which is the reason of my giving you the information."

On March 10, 1775, he wrote: "I cannot buy you powder at any price. Yesterday there was a Royal Mob, composed of Col. Nesbit and a number of other officers, with a poor countryman tarred and feathered. This is thought to be a grand manoeuver though the Gov'n'r declared to the Selectmen that he knew nothing about it. I believe they are greatly ashamed of the affair. I hope there will be happy consequences follow as they have now given us a good handle."

The next letter is dated, April 4, and says: "By the papers you will see that Parliament is determined to pursue their measures. However dont be discouraged but be steady and attend to our business as usual, trusting in that God who has preserved us hitherto and begging of him to continue the union of the colonies which, I am not yet without hope, will be the means of bringing Great Britain to her senses and obliging her to restore to us those rights and privileges which have been so unjustly taken away. I think the uncertainty of the times clearly points out to us that our greatest attention in business should be to the collecting in of our outstanding debts which we must exert every nerve to accomplish."

On the 10th, he wrote again: "Many people are moving out of town and our situation is at present so disagreeable and our property so insecure that I would advise you to come to Boston, after this reaches you, to consult what measures we had best take to secure our property as there is many things I shall want to send to Worcester."

This request was made too late for his letter of

April 20, reads: "Yesterday was the most melancholy day that I ever saw. Fellow subjects engaged in a Bloody Battle against each other. The Americans, by the assistance of Heaven, drove them down to Charlestown where I saw them, from Beacon Hill, engaged. A most terrible sight it was. They are very backward in owning how many men they lost and would have it believed it was very few. They say fifty, some seventy, but I believe the number to be vastly greater. They seem now to be sensible the Americans will fight. Our neighbour, Mansfield, is missing and is supposed to be killed fighting against the Americans. If Mr. Waldo is with you let him know his family is well. May God of his infinite mercy prevent the effusion of any more human blood and put a stop to the terrible calamity of a Civil War."

In the days following there was misery, panic and almost despair in the beleaguered town of Boston with uncertainty and inability to obtain news of those shut in the town by their families and friends outside its borders. Gradually order was brought out of chaos and on May 3, Samuel wrote his brother: "You may depend upon it nothing in our power shall be wanting to procure a Pass and send the families out and with them what necessaries we can, as soon as possible. I would rather my family should go to Worcester." The same day he wrote again: "By your several letters you appear very urgent for me to come out. I have so much of our fortune to take care of that I cannot in conscience leave the town. I think I am in the way of duty to tarry and trust in the Almighty for protection." Samuel Barrett, his brother-in-law, wrote that evening: "We have got a pass for your mother, sister Sally, sister Salisbury, and children, Mrs. Barrett and children, Mrs. Waldo's children and maid and boy and Mrs. Barrett's maid. Will you meet them at the Charlestown ferry at 2 or 3 o'clock?"

Stephen Salisbury had come down directly after the 19th, and stayed at Watertown, where they had cus-

tomers but as Samuel did not know of that fact for some time they could not make use of him until now.

In a day or two Samuel wrote him: "It was a great satisfaction to Mr. Barrett and myself that when we parted with our dear ones at the ferry they were going directly to the care of those in whom we could place confidence." On the evening of this 3rd. of May he again wrote: "The news of the evening is now, liberty to carry out merchandise, the town was informed this afternoon in meeting by a letter from Gen. Robinson. However, if that is the case I shall not be in a hurry to transport any goods until I can see my way clear and that thereby I am like to better myself."

He did, however, send many of the company's books, the cash, and a few valuables, with such furniture as the women were allowed to remove from the town. They were sent by boat up the river to their warehouses at Watertown.

In reply to further appeals from Stephen that he leave town, Samuel wrote: "(June 6,) I cant be reconciled to leave at present. I think it is my duty to take care of our interests and although I cant defend it in case of attack, it is at present in my power to protect it from thieves and robbers which we are surrounded with. Empty houses are broken open, goods are stolen and some destroyed."

That Samuel was right in his stand is verified by a letter from Edmund Quincy, written from Lancaster the following year, in which he congratulates him: "upon the singular preservation of your house and mercantile interests in the lately disturbed town of Boston, while so many of your neighbors have sustained heavy losses."

The difficulty of intercommunication became more and more marked for on August 2, Samuel wrote Stephen that he had received a letter from brother Waldo from Providence but with that exception he had had no word for two months. He had written him in July: "If you would send an open letter to Head-

quarters at Cambridge just to let me know you and the family are well, it is very likely it may be forwarded to me, the hearing of which would give great pleasure."

It was, without question, this difficulty of intercommunication which prevented Samuel Salisbury, a voluntary prisoner in Boston, from writing his brother a description of the battle of Bunker Hill. In the same town, however, there was another voluntary prisoner, as his letter will show, who wrote his brother, already in London, his version of that battle which meant so much to the Patriot cause.

This letter was written by Samuel Paine, son of the Timothy Paine mentioned in this paper as compelled to resign his office of Mandamus Councillor. It will be seen that this Samuel Paine, though a staunch loyalist, was obliged to speak well of his countrymen's courage and determination.

After the war he returned to his native town of Worcester where he died in 1807.

The letter reads:

"Boston, headquarters British Army, N. America,  
June 22, 1775.

DEAR BROTHER:

By the (Cerberus) I have an opportunity of writing you, by which altho I can take but little pleasure in recounting things shocking to relate yet I am sensible it must afford you sincere satisfaction to hear from this country and the situation of your dearest human connections and altho the situation of my mind, in every thing anxious, will scarce permit me to set down and write anything connected, yet sure I am you'll excuse it, but the variety of events constantly happening, and the ample field which the politics of this country affords at present, almost confuses me in writing. I left Worcester last Tuesday week, after passing through too many insults, and too cruel treatment to trouble you with the recital, as well as my friends, and by strategem and the greatest good Fortune, I passed thro the numerous Provincial armies, which had beseiged this town in every part by land, and arrived safe, and a novelty it was to see or hear of a person from the country, I being the only and last one that has been in since the seige commenced, I have been treated with the greatest politeness by some of the principal officers of the Army. Your wife, child and all our friends

were then well. My father, a prisoner, is confined to the town and disarmed, with a number of others among whom I was one, but have made my escape.

The King's troops have gained, tho' at a great loss, a surprising victory over the rebels last Saturday, an awful scene of which I was an eye witness and have since been on the field of battle, and shall endeavour for your satisfaction to give some account of it. After the Concord expedition, affairs took a turn, a large army was immediately raised, and every passage to the town of Boston inclosed. The Prov. Congress, conducted extremely well, put their army on pay by issuing a large sum of paper currency, and they appeared very formidable, having plenty of artillery. In various encounters with the King's troops, they got the better, were flushed with victory, held the British soldier in the highest contempt. The surrender of the important fortress of Ticonderoga, to the American arms, heightened their enthusiasm.

In this situation of their minds, last Friday night being very dark, many thousands, took possession of a high hill in Charlestown called Bunkers, that commands the whole of this town, and before morning they had completed a redoubt and such entrenchments as did honor to the engineer and this town lay exposed to a fire, which must have ruined it unless prevented.

As soon as it was discovered from Copp's Hill, near the ferry on which is a fine battery, the lively Glasgow and the battery began to play, and a most furious cannonade began, upon the rebels, which they returned seven times upon the town. Instead of quitting their post, large reinforcements were sent from Cambridge Headquarters of their army, and matters here began to be serious about one o'clock. All the Grenadiers and light Infantry of the whole army, reinforced to about 3000 under the conduct of the gallant Lord Howe, and Abercromby embarked from the Long Wharf, with twelve brass pieces, and landed at a point back of Charlestown, in full view of the rebels, who still kept their post, the troops being annoyed, from some houses in Charlestown, the ships threw (fire bombs) into it and in a few mins. the whole town was in flames, a most awful, grand and melancholy sight. In the mean time, the troops marched on towards the hill for the intrenchments, under a most heavy fire of artillery on both sides. Never did I see such a day. I was on Beacon Hill in full prospect. In about thirty minutes the troops were nigh the works, exposed to an amazing fire of small arms, for by this time the rebels amounted to 10,000. In a few mins. we heard the shouts of the British army, whom we now saw entering the breastworks, and soon they entered and a most terrible slaughter began, upon the rebels, who now were every one shuffling for himself. The



troops pursued them over the next hill, beyond Temple's house, and were masters of the field of battle.

The troops have suffered extremely, there being about 24 officers killed, and near 60 wounded and about 700, rank and file, killed and wounded.

The rebels lost a vast many, among whom was Doct. Warren, a noted rascal, and Willard Moore, of Paxton, a Lt. Col. We have about 30 prisoners here, some of whom are to be executed. After the firing ceased I went over, and, good God what a sight, all the horrors of war death and rebellion. The British army is encamped upon the high hills of Charlestown, in fine spirits, will advance into the country, as soon as possible, laying waste and devastation wherever they go. What the event of all these matters will be God only knows.

Perhaps you may see some better account of the matter, I shall spare you further. The rebels are very numerous and continue to besiege the passages and entrenching themselves upon every strong post about.

Your papers are all in town. You may depend upon my taking the same care as if they were my own, and in case of any accident here, I shall be for securing them, for God only knows what a day may bring forth. We are in continual motion and are now all in the dark. Last evening 1900 troops under Gen'l Clinton embarked in four transports, their destination not known, but no doubt Salem, Marblehead, Newbury &c will be in ashes before night. All the troops, ordered to New York, are now to come here which, including Preston's regiment of light horse, which has arrived safe and in fine order, will make about 20 regiments so that we may expect a bloody summer, for my countrymen fight well for them and are determined at all events to die or conquer."

It seems wise to include this letter written by a personal friend of the Salisbury's in the earlier days and again after the war was finished and amnesty declared, even though the point of view differed from that which would have been described by Samuel Salisbury had his correspondence been readily carried through the lines.

The days and weeks passed slowly for Samuel Salisbury in his voluntary prison, and were filled with constant anxiety for his family and friends from whom he was so effectively shut off. At last, having effected such saving of his property and that of his friends as was possible, he decided to leave the shop and its con-

tents in the care of Joseph Webb, a trusted employee, and reached Worcester the middle of August where we will take leave of him once more united with his family.

As the wayfarer passes, in the evening, an open window and gains a glimpse of the family life within, so we have seen a brief picture of this Boston merchant and his brother during a trying period of their lives and of the larger life of a people striving against their wills to become a nation.

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