only whose memories extend back to the eventful period of '75, can describe the feelings which agitated the patriot's heart on hearing of the Lexington battle. Dudley was quick to feel and resolute to act. On receiving this intelligence he called for his horse, but refused to wait for him and set off on foot to rally the militia of Raymond and the neighboring towns. He succeeded in collecting a considerable armed force, sent them on to the neighborhood of Boston, and proceeded himself to Exeter,—then the head-quarters of correct principles in the Province,—to consult with his friends upon the alarming posture of affairs. From this time he lived for his country rather than for himself or his immediate connections, and for almost eight years of the Revolutionary struggle he never spent one week at a time with his family.

He was a member of the Legislature from 1775 to 1784, and was always one of the committee of safety who sat in the recess of the Legislature and were clothed with almost unlimited power. He was several years Speaker of the House of Representatives. In 1785 he was elected a member of the Senate, but declined taking his seat. There have been men, and their number is not diminished, who could contrive to grow rich in the service of their country, even when their country was in difficulty and danger. But such was not Dudley. His aim was the public good; not private emolument. The pledge of life and fortune was not in the perilous times of '76 an unmeaning ceremony. The interests of the new born nation often required the sacrifice of private interest, and that sacrifice was cheerfully made. After the return of peace, according to Judge Dudley's calculation, he had suffered the loss of one-half the property which before the war he had accumulated. But he never repined at the loss. He was not alone in suffering; nor alone in the satisfaction that he had not suffered in vain. He considered that well expended which had gone to purchase our national independence, and that the richest patrimony which his children could inherit was freedom from oppression, and the undisturbed enjoyment of those rights and privileges, which he, in common with his countrymen, had labored so long, so arduously, and so successfully to obtain and secure.

In addition to the offices which have already been mentioned, Mr. Dudley, in 1776, was appointed one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, and held a seat on the bench of that