

advance of his age he had learned to shun all intoxicating liquors, and to keep them from use by his family. Without pledge he consistently abstained.

At the call for volunteers in the war of 1812 he shouldered his musket and did the brief military service the occasion required in New England, mainly in meeting false alarms. He was always interested in the State militia, and turned out with the Milton Company, in which he held a subordinate office.

In politics he was always independent, but never indifferent. He took sides on all the important questions of the day, whatever they were. On national matters his affiliations were with the democratic rather than the federal school.

He was a zealous anti-Mason, sympathizing strongly with his townsman, Mr. Joseph Morton, who, when Mr. Jacob Allen, a seceder and anti-Masonic lecturer, desperately complained that he was afraid of being murdered by the Masons, exhorted him by all means to take the chances of it, as his assassination would be the very best thing in the world for the cause,—the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the Church. It has been doubted whether Mr. Allen saw it in just that patriotic light, but the advice was sincere.

In 1810 and 1812 Mr. Churchill represented Milton in the General Court. He was several times put in nomination for office, but was not generally a successful nominee. He had too much individuality; he did his own thinking; he was not conventional; he practised no arts, adopted no course of action for conciliation, proclaimed no buncombe sentiments to capture voters; he had nothing but integrity and ability to commend him; he was not popular; his prominent virtues were exact justice, rigid honesty, and precise truthfulness. He trespassed against no man; he paid his own debts; he did not ask that his own debts or trespasses should be forgiven, nor did he readily forgive those who owed or trespassed against him; he expected and exacted from others, and felt that he had a right to expect, the same effort and sacrifices in the line of their duty that he had made, and thought that if they met this requirement there would be neither failing debtors nor trespassers to be forgiven. He did not favor bankrupt or insolvent laws. He was of the old school of strict, perhaps severe, but strong men. And this was equally true in the government of his own family and in his dealings with the rest of the world. He gave his sons the best collegiate and professional education to be obtained. For their welfare and that of his two daughters he was unceasingly solicitous. At all times of their sickness, and at all the impor-