

attempt to introduce the Stamp Act in Virginia, and with the same spirit entered warmly into the opposition to the mother country. At this period his wealth, for he was a man of large property, was freely dedicated to the cause. He exerted himself to procure arms and ammunition; he wrote and addressed the people in public meetings, and musters, and at the courts, inflaming the youth of the country with ardor and patriotism, exciting them to enter into the army and confirming the weak and timid, not only by exposing the justice of resistance, but by the most spirited and stirring harrangues.

"In the winter of 1776-77 Parson Thruston resolved to put in practice personally the measures he had exhorted the youth of the country to pursue. In plain English he resolved to fight. He raised a company of volunteers composed of the *elite* of the young men of the county, and marched to join General Washington, then in New Jersey. He was cordially received by that great man, who was personally acquainted with him, not only as a fellow soldier in Forbes' Campaign, but from personal intercourse that took place between them after Parson Thruston removed to the county of Frederick. He was but a short time at headquarters before he became impatient of inactivity and anxious to indulge his propensity for a fight. He accordingly solicited the means from the General, who gave him 500 men, with discretionary authority, as it seems from the evidence, and without suggesting or ordering any particular enterprise, because we find the Captain immediately after attacking a British redoubt of 1,500 strong. With his small band of 500 men, which the Commander-in-Chief, it is reasonable to suppose, would hardly have permitted or directed with so small a force. Be that as it may, however, the Captain marched to the attack, resolved, if pos-