



CHAPTER III.

Revolutionary War — Arbitrary Measures of the Crown — Agents chosen to meet in Boston — Committees of Correspondence — No more Tea — Energetic Action — Record of Votes on the Resolutions of Congress — Refusal to pay Taxes to the Royal Treasurer — Town Committee of Correspondence — Minute-Men — Preparations for War — Raising Troops — Declaration of Independence — Bounties — State Convention — State Constitution — Procuring Men and Provisions — Soldiers to Hull.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR.¹ — Soon after this time the political affairs of the colonies began to assume an importance that they had never before reached. The arbitrary measures of the English government, continually growing more and more harsh and oppressive, had roused the people to a pitch that boded no friendly issue. Measure after measure was adopted by the ministry, each more urgent and onerous than the former, and forced upon the people until they were compelled to resort to extreme measures in self-defence. During the whole history of the colonies all important business was transacted in open town meeting. Was any measure suggested for the benefit of the town, here it was thoroughly discussed, and adopted or rejected. Was any grievance complained of, here it was also considered and remedies proposed. Here all voters stood upon a perfect equality, where each could and did speak his mind freely and fully, and every vote counted one.

¹ Most of the facts contained in this chapter are taken from the town records, and may be found under the dates to which they are assigned; consequently, special notes will not be needed to verify them.

