

Such towns as Hingham, Plymouth, and Barnstable bore a very different relation to Boston in those days from that now recognized. Many of the wealthiest citizens of the State resided in the farming towns and exercised a proportionate influence. The first Josiah Quincy was not a Boston but a Braintree man, and the Otises of Scituate as well as the Thaxters of Hingham were widely known. No need to tell a New England people that the Otises were strong patriots, sturdy in defence of their rights ; but Major Thaxter, who had been an officer in the royal army, gathered the draperies of his bed into a gilded crown and slept under it as long as he lived. The tester still survives to authenticate the story. His daughters, however strong their own inherited Tory sentiments might have been, married men of the new *régime*. The older, Sally, was the wife of Major Pulling, an active patriot, one of the "Boston Tea Party," and the man who hung out the lantern in the old North Church as a signal for Paul Revere. They lived under the shadow of the church at the North End, and Major Pulling was immediately suspected of the act.

His house was searched by the British troops, but his plucky wife hid him under a wine butt in the cellar, and after the unsuccessful search was over the couple escaped in a small boat to Nantasket Beach. Here in a hut Mrs. Pulling's first child was born. In her old age, and she lived to be over 90, she was fond of relating these early experiences. In her flight she had tied various bulky pieces of silver around her waist under her clothing, and she would give an amusing account of the effect her strange figure had upon the sailors who helped her into the boat.