

On 14 January, 1775, James Jauncey, jr., Master of the Rolls, was appointed a member of the Council, in the room of Sir William Johnson, dec'd, and on 2d February he took the oaths and his seat.

About this time "James Jauncey, Esquire, a gentleman of great wealth and respectability," Andrew Elliot, Collector of the Port, William Smith, the Historian of New York, and others, members of the Wall Street Presbyterian Church, found it necessary for them to take sides in the contest between the mother country and the Colonies, and chose the side of Great Britain, the great body of the Presbyterians, with their Pastor, being advocates of American Independence. The Pastor, Dr. Rodgers, was greatly attached to these gentlemen, and parted from them with great pain.* Captain Jauncey thenceforward formed one of the loyalist majority in the House of Assembly.

On 5 June, 1776, the name of James Jauncey, junior, appears in a list of suspected persons furnished to the Provincial Congress of New York. In a list of June 15, 1776, his name was marked for arrest. He wrote to Gouverneur Morris, member of the New York Convention, an old friend, requesting information as to the charges against him, but Morris answered that the Convention was too busy to give attention to his case. On 19 July, 1776, General Washington requested the N. Y. Committee of Safety to remove young Jauncey from the city. He was arrested in August, 1776, together with his father and brother William, and sent to Middletown, Connecticut, from whence the father, by permission of the Connecticut Committee of Safety, soon returned to Westchester, N. Y., and took his wife and family and the wife of his son James to Middletown.

On 29 November, 1776, James Jauncey, junior, wrote to members of the New York Committee of Safety, complaining that he had never been informed of the nature of the charges against him, and requesting that he, with his father and brother, might be permitted to return to their homes. His father-in-law, Andrew Elliot, also requested that his daughter and her husband be permitted to return.

The Committee refused, for the reason that young Jauncey still claimed to hold office under the "late government;" that he

* Life of Rev. John Rodgers, D. D., by Samuel Miller, D. D., New York, 1813.