

of a soldier, which ought ever to remain inviolate, for insult and disgrace damp his spirits, blast his vigor and unnerve his arm,' and so forth.

April 9th. Edmund Sawyer chosen town clerk.

April 22d. Council determined the regiment composed of the towns of *Newburyport*, Amesbury and Salisbury shall take rank as the second regiment.' So far, therefore, as it respected Newbury, the petition was not granted.

May 8th. Newburyport voted to erect a fort on Plum island, and, May sixteenth, voted to hire a sum, not exceeding four thousand pounds, to defray the expense, and, on May twenty-four, Newbury appropriated two hundred pounds for the same purpose.

May 27th. Newbury voted to instruct their representatives 'that they after having seriously weighed the state and case of independence, act their best judgment and prudence respecting the same.'

May 31st. Newburyport 'voted that if the honorable congress should for the safety of the united colonies, declare them independent of the kingdom of Great Britain, this town will with their lives and fortunes support them in the measure.'

June 7th. The Yankee Hero, captain James Tracy, had an engagement with the *Millford* frigate, of twenty-eight guns. It lasted near two hours, but, as the frigate was vastly superior in force, the Hero struck.

July 14th. Mr. Oliver Moody was drowned from a wharf.

July 19th. The declaration of independence was published in Newburyport, and, on the same day, died the reverend Jonathan Parsons, in his seventy-first year.

August 11th. Independency read in all the meeting houses.*

In August, there was a state fast.

In the Newburyport town records, September second, I find the following, in the handwriting of Nicholas Pike, esquire, town clerk.

'This meeting was illegal, because the venie for calling it was in the name of the British tyrant, whose name all America justly execrates.'

1777.

March 24th. Town of Newbury this day put it to vote, 'to see if the town would settle in the seventh regiment of militia and it passed in the negative,' notwithstanding it was stated in the warning that '*a speedy settlement of the militia is a matter of the greatest importance to our political salvation.*' This refusal to do military duty in the seventh regiment, to which they had been degraded by governor Bernard, in March, 1766, as has been mentioned, the soldiers of Newbury continued to manifest, throughout the whole of the revolutionary contest. The consequence of this refusal, was, an entire absence of all military subordination, so far as regimental

* S. Horton's journal.