

CHAPTER III.

Dr. Joshua Elderkin, a younger brother of Colonel Jedediah Elderkin, was born at Norwich October 30, 1720. He graduated at Yale College in 1748, studied theology and was ordained pastor of the Society of Old Haddam June, 1749. He remained there only a few years, when, from poor health and other reasons, he was dismissed in 1753. Afterwards he studied medicine, it is thought with Dr. Jonathan Huntington, then a prominent practitioner in Windham. That he practiced medicine in that town several years we are assured by his descendants. But it appears he had ability to turn his hand to more than one kind of business. Some time before the Revolutionary war he was engaged in trade, and while in mercantile business he sold some articles of foreign manufacture, contrary to a resolution of the town not to import, sell or use in their families those foreign made articles. For this act he remained for about four years under a very severe censure from the people of his town. Though Dr. Elderkin was a man of strong will power and firmness he did not rest quite easy under this censure. The matter was finally disposed of at a town meeting, December 9, 1774. We are unable to say how culpable Dr. Elderkin was in the matter of selling the hats and vest patterns, but the manner in which he was treated at the outset undoubtedly roused his feelings, and it was a good while before he would make any explanations or take any steps towards a reconciliation.

But as matters between the colonies and mother country became more serious and the danger of collision imminent, feelings of discord were banished and all true patriots felt the necessity of acting harmoniously. Dr. Elderkin's services were needed. He was an educated man of business