

Peleg Wadsworth*

General Peleg Wadsworth was born at Duxbury on April 25, 1748, a son of Deacon Peleg and Susanna (Sampson) Wadsworth. As an undergraduate, he lived for three years in Hollis with his classmate Scammell. He waited on table, and scorned no way to make an honest penny, for according to a classmate "We took a Walk a Number of us and we hiered P. Wadsworth to wade through a Pond Hole which made us a great Deal of Sport so we came to his Chamber and drank a Bottle of Wine with him and what added to the Fun, Bowers was one that hired him."¹ At the time of the student strike of April, 1768, Peleg hauled Ruddock out of his chamber and gave him the choice of resigning from the College or having his windows broken.² When the fraud which caused the strike was exposed, Peleg made his peace with the authorities. In 1769 he was given a Hopkins *Detur* and the place of Respondent in the Commencement exercises. He returned for his M.A. prepared to hold the negative of "An alicui in Statu Naturæ competat Jus gubernandi?"

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After taking their first degrees Wadsworth and his roommate went to Plymouth, where the one kept a private school and the other the town school. They read military books together, drilled each other, and formed their pupils into a military company which they exercised briskly. "I," wrote Peleg, "fitted a number of Schollars for College and some for the Army — as I mixed the military as well as the Civil. At the end of my School I had one of the prettiest companies of Boys, perhaps that there was existing."³ He was sometimes a guest of the Old Colony Club, and at one of their Pilgrim celebrations he brought his boys "who to express their joy upon this occasion, and their respect for the memory of their ancestors, in the most agreeable manner joined in singing a song very applicable to the day."⁴ The song was a Whiggish one which expressed Peleg's views. These are more fully laid out in his bitter protest against the ceremonial investment at Harvard College of Thomas Hutchinson (A.B. 1727) as Governor of Massachusetts:

But, now, alas! the Man they once with Justice Scorned, the Tyrant of his Country, Foe to Man, as being Foe to Liberty; They fondly caress; with servile Adulation cringe and bow and lick the very Dust. How impiously they wrest the Word of God! And chant in elevated Strains its Sacred Texts, in Servile Adulation to the Wretch that owes his greatness to his Country's Ruin. My God! my God, how long shall Vengeance Sleep! And here my Friend please to insert, the enclosed. . . . I beg that you would set it upon the Door Posts, that the Sons of Harvard may know that the Eyes of their Country are to them. . . . Show me the Man (Mr Winthrop [A.B. 1732] excepted and perhaps Mr Sewal [A.B. 1761]) in the Government of the College that is not a rank Torrey, if anything. That will not cringe and bow and fawn and flatter in hopes of Some detestable Preferment, and to serve their own selfish Ends. . . . Rouse up my Hero, if by chance you Nod, Warn the Sons of Harvard of their imminent Dangers. . .

Oxonia's Sons in abject Lays
Could chant their idle Fulsome praise,
To Stewarts treacherous Line;
Their adulating Strains express
With servile Flatteries address,
And own the right divine.

* * * *

Then Freedom found a Safe retreat
In Harvard's venerated Seat,
A liberal Plan was laid;
How will her Annals be disgraced
That Harvard's Sons are thus debased,
The generous Work betrayed.

* * * *

A Ty[ran]ts Trophies to adorn
Thy noble Ancestors would Scorn,
In ancient virtuous Days;
No sacred Texts they'd violate:
But weep to See thy fallen state
A Parricide to Praise.⁵

Wadsworth was about to change his state, for on June 18, 1772, he was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Nathaniel Bartlett of Plymouth. She was a "lady of fine manners and all womanly virtues, who was alike his friend and comforter in his hours of trial, the grail and ornament of his house in the days of his prosperity."⁶ They made their first home in the neighboring town of Kingston, where Peleg opened a country store. He likewise raised a minuteman company, of which he was captain, was elected to the Committee of Correspondence, and was sent to the Plymouth County convention of September, 1774. On the Lexington alarm, he marched his company to Roxbury, where General Thomas appointed him engineer to erect the Dorchester and Roxbury lines. His rank was that of captain in Colonel Theophilus Cotton's Massachusetts

regiment. Elizabeth came to join him, bringing their little son, Alexander Scammell, and they found a place to board in Dorchester. They enjoyed riding out, successfully avoiding the British cannonballs; but their infant died of summer fever on August 28, 1775, and was buried within the entrenchments of Dorchester.

In December, 1775, General Washington (Class of 1749) sent Captain Wadsworth to survey Cape Cod Harbor and to report what fortifications would be needed for its defense. On January 1, 1776, he was appointed a captain in Colonel John Bailey's 23rd Continental infantry, and on February 13, he was appointed aide-de-camp to General Artemas Ward (A.B. 1748). With him he was responsible for the throwing up of the Dorchester Heights works which drove the British from Boston. He was then appointed brigade major of the division posted to cover Boston, Charlestown, Dorchester, and Beverly, and in this capacity built some defensive works at Plymouth.

That winter, the Wadsworths lived in Duxbury, which in May, 1777, sent Peleg to the House of Representatives. The General Court appointed him a Justice of the Peace for Plymouth and a member of the Board of War, but in October the Province Secretary was ordered to write to him to attend the Board or resign; he did the latter on October 16. On June 18, 1778, he was unanimously chosen adjutant general,⁷ and the next year he served with General John Sullivan (Class of 1758) in Rhode Island, commanding an Essex militia regiment in the Battle of Newport.⁸ He returned to Boston, where he was buying on time the confiscated Tremont Street house of Tory William Brattle (A.B. 1772), and was having difficulty meeting the payments.⁹ His daughter Elizabeth was baptized in the West Church of Boston on September 26, 1779.

On July 7, 1779, Wadsworth was appointed second in command of General Solomon Lovell's Penobscot

expedition, his rank being that of brigadier and his function that of engineer. They set sail with a thousand men, who were entirely undisciplined, and who had paraded together only once, to attack an equal number, some of them professional soldiers, in what the Americans were surprised to find were strong fortifications at Majabigwaduce. They arrived on July 25, 1779, and Wadsworth immediately attempted a landing with 350 militia, but the fire from the heavily wooded shore drove him off with the loss of one Indian. The following day he and the militia supported the seizure of Bank's Island by the marines. The landing on the mainland occurred before daylight on the 28th, with Wadsworth commanding the militia and marines on the right. Three days later he began rifle pits and battery coverts on the high hill behind the village of Castine.¹⁰ On August 1st, according to one of the participants, Wadsworth "At three o'clock in the morning stormed a battery mounting three 6 pounders on the left of the enemy's main fort, bordering on Majorbagaduce river; supposed to have fifty men in it, found five of the enemy dead and took fourteen prisoners."¹¹ It was soon found, however, that the captured fort could not be held because it was commanded by the cannon in the main works. The next day the General and Paul Revere went reconnoitering to find a site for a battery to harass British shipping. The point decided upon, Wadsworth ordered Revere to build it, but the silversmith went off and sent a carpenter to do the job. When completed, it was found to be out of effective range of the shipping channel.

During the first two weeks of August there was a series of councils in which Wadsworth urged that the campaign be pressed, and Revere opposed him at every point. Commodore Dudley Saltonstall withdrew the marines and refused to assist further in the assault. His only function, he said, had been to transport the militia; actually his

captains were pressing him to get to privateering, which was their main purpose in coming. On the 11th, the Americans stormed Fort George. The following day Wadsworth was building a battery when recalled for a conference by Lovell. The latter, upon receiving the report of the approach of a large British fleet, had decided to retire up the river "to hold a conference with the Indians," and without telling Wadsworth anything but that the transports were entrusted to him. The latter made the fullest account of the confusing events of August 14th:

After issuing Orders for the Companies that had been broken in the Retreat . . . I set out to go on Shore at Fort Point, to put the Hospital in a readiness to be mov'd in Case it should be necessary: but before we had half reach'd the Shore, our Fleet below appear'd to be Standing up the River after us. . . . I then gave Orders to the Agent of the Transports (being then within Hail of him) to dispatch a Transport with two Flat bottom'd Boats, immediately to Fort Point to take off the Hospital. . . . I proceeded on Shore, order'd all the Cattle to be drove off the point up the River and the Buildings to be fir'd. . . . I still proceeded thro' the Transports up the River and gave them Orders as I went by no means to run on Shore so long as they could keep afloat without drifting down on the Enemy; and as I pass'd the Ordnance Brigg gave orders for a Brass twelve pounder to be in Readiness in a Flat Boat whilst I sought a Place up the Narrows convenient for hawling it up, in order to check the Enemy's Pursuit.

When I had discover'd a convenient landing for the Cannon up the Narrows, I immediately return'd. . . . A Small Schooner in which was the greatest part of our Provisions was then in the Strength of the Tide drifting down on the Enemy; it was in vain that a Number of Boats were order'd to tough her across the Stream and with much difficulty that a Boat was got off to take out her Crew. In this I was directly oppos'd by Lieut. Col. Revere, who said that I had no right to command either him or the Boat and gave orders to the contrary. The Boat went off to the Schooner. He was promis'd An Arrest as soon as the Army should be collected. The Reason Lt. Col. Revere gave for the Boat's not going off to the Schooner, was that he had all his private baggage at Stake and ask'd who would thank him for loosing that, in attempting to Save the Schooner to the State. I ask'd him whether he came there to take Care of his private Baggage, or to Serve the State.¹²

Having established his one-gun battery to hold the channel, Wadsworth went back down the river to collect and bring up the transports, and was amazed to find that they had been fired and the troops dispersed:

Early in the Morning [of the 15th] I endeavored to rally our Scattered Troops on the high Ground near where we ran ashore, that we might receive the Generals Orders, but to no purpose, for in General both men and Officers had dismissed themselves and march'd off the Parade faster than they could be brot on — When most of the forenoon had been spent in this fruitless Attempt, not being able to get Intelligence from the General for four or five Miles up the River and unable to retain a man on the Ground, I swang my Pack and march'd directly for Camden (directing the Course of all I overtook to the same place there to halt) where I arriv'd on the 17th Instant.¹³

When General Lovell emerged from the woods two weeks later, he explained that he had gone ninety miles up the river “to negotiate with the Indians,” and recommended that Wadsworth be given particular thanks for having rallied the forces at Camden.¹⁴ The investigations and courts-martial which followed found that Wadsworth had conducted himself with “great activity, courage, coolness and prudence,”¹⁵ but dealt severely with Revere and Saltonstall.

That winter, Wadsworth went up to Boston, where in March, 1780, he was ordered to “take the command of all such men as shall be raised for the defence of the Eastern parts,” to execute martial law, to fortify Falmouth, and to make use of every measure in his power “to captivate or destory the whole of the enemy’s force in that part of the State.”¹⁶ He was assured that he would be given 600 troops, but when he arrived at Falmouth on April 8th, he found neither soldiers nor tools to repair the crumbled fortifications, so he proceeded to Camden where troops were mustering. There he found a delicate situation and nothing that could be called an army:

There is frequent and fresh Inteligence from the Enemy by means of the Intercourse kept up by many of the Inhabitants: to prevent which,

to punish flagrant Offenders and to quiet the Fears, the Dissentions and Annimosities of the People, I earnestly wish for the Arival of the Troops and Boats allotted; and for the Execution of which, may God Almighty grant Wisdom. . . I have not yet proclaim'd the Martial Law, nor does it seem expedient; till the arival of the Troops and Boats, least the Game should be started before we are ready for the Chase.¹⁷

He did declare martial law at Thomaston on April 18th, and issued a proclamation declaring that anyone "convicted of aiding or secreting the enemy" would be hanged. The first to be arrested and sentenced by court-martial was a simple soul who had acted as a guide for Tory raiders without any idea of what he was doing. The public assumed that the sentence was a feint intended to teach the man a lesson, and several interceded for a pardon. The General, however, insisted that the crisis demanded an example, and ordered a gallows erected on Limestone Hill:

The miserable man [was] conducted to it in a cart, fainting at the sight, and rendered insensible from fear. In this situation, Mr. Coombs, who was standing near, was asked to lend his handkerchief to tie over the prisoner's eyes. Supposing it a farce, he complied; and the prisoner, to appearance already dead, was swung off, to the astonishment of the spectators. The General was greatly moved, and was observed walking his room in apparent agitation the most of the following day.¹⁸

Wadsworth had no such authority to compel the county officers to send down the men drafted from their militia:

I must now urge you in the most pressing manner that the full Compliment of each Detachment may be spedily sent forward to their Places of Destination; where they have been, some of them, a long time look'd for, and all exceedingly wanted. By a Delay of the first, more or less of the Inhabitants of the Eastern Parts are daily deserting to the Enemy, and by a Delay of the latter, this town [Falmouth] remains unfortified, which may prove the Loss, not only of the Town, but of the whole Province of Maine. I beseech you therefore in the Name of Public Virtue without further Delay, to send forward the Men; else how am I to answer the Expectation of my Employers.¹⁹

While he fortified Falmouth, his little army melted away as their terms of enlistment ran out, and their diet was

reduced to river fish, which, he said, would support life but not a fighting force. His navy of whale boats and cruisers was doing better, keeping the British bottled up in Castine and the inhabitants loyal and conciliated. To his requests for instructions, the Council returned no answers at all. On August 1st his army consisted of 552 men scattered over nine posts from Falmouth to Machias, and it had not yet been decided whether they were on Continental or State pay. The prizes which his cruisers had taken, and he had sold, were being reseized by State officers. On November 28th he reported that he had been obliged to discharge for lack of clothing a large part of the troops whose enlistments had not yet expired: "And here with the Discharge of the Troops now on the Ground, I also request a discharge from the Command; finding myself quite unequal to the Task, where there are some Intricacies, more perplexities and much Service to be done and permit me to say, but very little to do with." Apparently his resignation, like his appeals, was ignored. In January, 1781, he reported to Governor Hancock (A.B. 1754) that the garrison at Falmouth had been discharged without his knowledge, and that of his other forces he had been compelled for lack of food and clothing to dismiss all but thirty-one men and "ten or twelve half naked Matrosses." He pointed out to the Governor that this left all Maine open to the enemy.²⁰

This fact General Wadsworth shortly demonstrated. On the night of February 17, 1781, he was at Thomaston with his family when a party of British soldiers and Tories broke into the house to kidnap him. With "a pair of Pistols, a blunderbuss, and a fusee" he defended himself briskly until he received a ball through his left arm. He then called out that he would surrender, but the soldiers continued to fire at him:

General Wadsworth, unbarring the door and opening it, said, "My brave fellows, why do you fire after I have surrendered?" The soldiers

rushed into his room; and one of them, who had been badly wounded, exclaiming with an oath, "You have taken my life, and I will take yours," pointed a musket at his breast. The commanding officer, who had entered the room through the other door at that moment, struck the musket with his sword and saved the general's life. One of the officers now brought a candle . . . and exclaimed, "Sir, you have defended yourself too well; you have done too much for one man. You must excuse haste. Shall we help you on with your clothes? You see, we are in a critical situation."²¹

He was hurried to Fort George at Castine, where he took the first opportunity to write to his wife:

I recall to have seen my whole Family, excepting my Little Charles, for whom I am under much apprehension, knowing that his Zeal and activity is such that he would certainly have come to his Father's aid, had he been awake, altho but five years old. Heaven grant that the dear boy may be safe. I am extremely afflicted at the idea of your situation. The windows dashed, the Doors broken, the House torn to pieces and Blood and Slaughter around. . . I have received the greatest Civility and am treated according to my rank. My Wound is as fair as possible, it being with a Musket Ball passing through my left arm just above the Elbow, touching the Bone without fracturing it.²²

The State was dismayed by the kidnapping. The General Court desired the Governor "to take measures for effecting the Exchange of so worthy an Officer as soon as may be," and voted to send him £15 in specie, 10 gallons of wine, but no oysters,²³ On his treatment he reported:

'Apropos' of the Treatment of Prisoners I will give you just the State of my own and Major [Benjamin] Burton's Confinement here; We have a good comfortable room in the back side of the Officer's Barracks within the fort with good Beds and Bedding, Firewood, candles and Utencils for the room, the Windows Barr'd and Sentries at the Door, We are each allow'd one ration, which being turn'd into a Family (and an over plus to be paid in money,) a very good fare is daily brot to us by the Servant allotted to wait on the room. We also purchase what ever else we may chuse. . . We daily walk on the Parade within the Fort for the Sake of taking the Air. . . Our Confinement is much alleviated by the calling in of most of the Gentlemen of the Garrison in a Sociable Way — You have it.²⁴

He urged that Massachusetts treat its British prisoners better than it was doing.

The story of the plotting and of the execution of the escape of Wadsworth and Burton is as good as that in a modern thriller, and should be read in the original.²⁵ They broke out on June 18, 1781, and arrived at the American settlements triumphant and tattered. The General petitioned the General Court, saying that he was unable "to obtain any Money of the Treasurer, or otherwise to get decent apparel," and asking for "an order, on the Agents of the State Store for a Suit of Cloths, with a Great Coat, Coat, west-coat and Breeches." In reply, the legislature voted him "Cloth sufficient for a Suit of Cloaths," and directed that the cost be deducted from his wages.²⁶

On this note Wadsworth's war services ended. He settled in Portland, where he engaged in trade and built the first brick house. This, standing on the modern Congress Street, is now known as the Wadsworth-Longfellow house, and is maintained as a museum by the Maine Historical Society. Here he raised a happy family of children,²⁷ to whom during his unwilling absences he wrote letters which more than any other documents show his attitude on matters personal and political. Writing to his daughter Zilpha about a rejected suitor he said:

I believe, my dear, that love is an involuntary passion, that it is an essential ingredient in matrimonial happiness, and that that voyage ought never to be undertaken without a sufficient stock of that indispensable article. . . . This passion of all other ought to be treated with ingenuity, candor and tenderness, for it is a spark of Deity.²⁸

Zilpha described her father as "a man of middle age, well proportioned, with a military air," who carried himself "so truly, that many thought him tall. His dress, a light scarlet coat, buff small clothes and vest, full ruffles over the hands, white stockings, shoes with silver buckles, white cravat bow in front, hair well powdered and tied behind in a club, so called."²⁹ She married Stephen Longfellow (A.B. 1798), and their son, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

(Bowdoin 1825), at the hearth of the Wadsworth mansion heard from his grandfather the Indian legend which inspired his first poem, and turned him away from an intended legal career in his father's office. At the fireside he also heard the stories which the Wadsworths had brought from Plymouth County about Myles Standish, John Alden, and the other Pilgrim worthies.³⁰ To his son John, a member of the Harvard Class of 1800, the General wrote letters of advice, urging him, among other things, to read Chesterfield's *Letters* as a guide to manners, since college life was too secluded to "conduce to truly polite behaviour."³¹ The same goal should be pursued during his vacations:

I presume you will resume your Dancing at Portland and make all the improvement you can this winter, as it will probably be all the opportunity you will have in that way — All our amusements if rightly used will serve for improvements. The great art of living usefully and agreeably is to convert all amusements into use and profit.³²

The General was useful to the town of Portland, serving on the school committee and as a Selectman. He was a member of the Masonic lodge, having presumably joined while in the army. In 1785 he was a member of the town committee called to consider the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, and the chairman of a committee to call a convention for this purpose. In this and similar bodies he supported separation. In 1787 he was the Portland delegate to the Boston convention to consider ratification of the Federal Constitution, which he supported. In 1792 he was chosen a Presidential Elector and a member of the Massachusetts Senate and of the Federal Congress, and he held the two latter offices for fourteen years. The Senate seat made him a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers, but he was not active on the latter. This was unfortunate, for his ideas on education were unorthodox. He urged that in schools the practice reading be done in newspapers and not in the Bible, and that in colleges the classics should be elective and not "the criterion for

admission or Graduation; It should be *Science alone* that should be the test." History he regarded as the most useful study.³³

Current history Wadsworth saw pretty much through the eyes and newspapers of John Fenno, with whom he boarded while in Congress.³⁴ He regarded the French as "an arrogant, haughty imperious faithless people" made mad by success, and said of the Alien and Sedition Laws: "It is the duty of every One, young and old, by means of truth to counteract the vile misrepresentations of designing Demagogues and to support the Purity, honor, and Dignity of his own government."³⁵ In 1800 he signed the circular letter of the Massachusetts delegation warning their constituents that "The present plan of the opposers of the General Government clearly is to bend their power to democratize the character of the State Legislatures."³⁶

The General combated his homesickness by writing for his children fifteen little volumes which were published in 1903 as *A Story about a Little Good Boy*. Intended to be autobiographical, they are so pious as to be suspect. On the other hand, he complained to his wife of the orthodoxy of the Chaplain of Congress:

In the morning, we all went to church in the capitol? Dr. Grant our chaplain, gave us what some would call a Hell-fire sermon — I could not join with him in more than half he uttered and yet he called upon me to believe or be d---d. Now I do not believe that my faith depends upon my will . . . unless I am convinced of the truth of a fact, how can I believe it to be so? . . . The God whom I have heard preached today was a vindictive God, very different from my God.³⁷

According to the Portland newspapers he regularly won reelection by "4/5th of the suffrages," "a handsome majority," and the like, until October 25, 1806, when he asked to be relieved of service in both the General Court and Congress.

General Wadsworth was bone weary of travel, and anxious to build up an estate for his numerous children.

In 1790 he had purchased from the State some 7500 acres of burnt land in Great Ossipee, and here in 1795 he built a house for his son, Charles Lee. In 1800 he built an elegant mansion, still standing, and on January 1, 1807, he moved to it, "in the mountains of Hiram," as he had named the town. He was deeply interested in the science of farming, and was on the Committee of Correspondence of the American Board for the Spreading of Practical Knowledge in Agriculture in Massachusetts.³⁸ With his knowledge, he made large profits by growing corn on a very large scale. He served likewise as a Justice of the Peace and Quorum for Cumberland, and as a Selectman for Hiram. When that town set up a free school, it was the General who rode from house to house urging the children to attend.

When Lafayette (Class of 1769) made his last visit to America, he was entertained at the Wadsworth-Longfellow house, and the General rode down from Hiram to greet him. Revered as a distinguished survivor of the Revolution, the General was regarded as an oracle. To a Congressman inquiring as to his opinion of the pension system, he replied:

I observe the Question of Revolutionary Pensions is before Congress. I know not the object, but I heartily wish the Law respecting that matter were altered, or amended, for I cannot see that it is founded on equitable Principles. If the Pension is for past services, why not extend it to all who have rendered the like Services. If on account of Pauperism, in 9 cases in 10, it is but an encouragement to Idleness and bad habits, which has brought the old Soldiers to poverty. Besides our civil Institutions provide for the maintainance of all paupers within the Towns in which they dwell and are known.³⁹

Mrs. Wadsworth died of a stroke on July 20, 1825, and the General at their home in Hiram on July 18, 1829. Besides his correspondence printed in the works mentioned in the above footnotes, there are a number of personal letters in Cora Lusanna Pike, *General Peleg Wadsworth* (p.p., 1942). The bulk of his manuscripts form

Collection 16 at the Maine Historical Society, which also has two silhouettes of him, one of which is reproduced in this volume; there is no other known portrait.

— NOTES —

¹ Stephen Peabody, Diary (Mass. Hist. Soc.), Feb. 23, 1768.

² Disorders Depositions (Harvard University Archives), No. 12

³ Maine Hist. Soc., *Collections and Proceedings*, 2nd Ser., II, 161.

⁴ Colonial Soc. Mass., *Publications*, XVII, 299.

⁵ Peleg Wadsworth to Samuel Phillips, Apr. 27, 1771, in Phillips Family Mss. (Mass. Hist. Soc.)

⁶ *Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder*, VIII, 119.

⁷ Wadsworth's detailed instructions are in the Executive Records of the Council (Mass. Archives), XXII, 323-324.

⁸ Maine Hist. Soc., *Collections and Proceedings*, 2nd Ser., II, 162.

⁹ *Acts and Resolves of Massachusetts* (Boston, 1869-1922), XXI, 408.

¹⁰ The remains of these works were visible in modern times.

¹¹ Col. Samuel McCobb in *Maine History Magazine*, VIII, 144.

¹² Maine Hist. Soc., *Collections*, 2nd Ser., XVII, 274-276. Revere's defense, *ibid.* pp. 220-221, is not convincing. See also *Boston Gazette*, Mar. 25, 1782, 2/1-3, and Apr. 1, 1782, 1/1.

¹³ Maine Hist. Soc., *Collections*, 2nd Ser., XVII, 28-32.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 78.

¹⁵ *Boston Gazette*, Dec. 27, 1779, 3/2.

¹⁶ Wadsworth's instructions are in Executive Records of the Council, XXIV, 434.

¹⁷ Maine Hist. Soc., *Collections*, 2nd Ser., XVIII, 204-205.

¹⁸ Cyrus Eaton, *Annals of the Town of Warren* (Hallowell, 1877), p. 197.

¹⁹ Peleg Wadsworth to John Frost, Apr. 27, 1780 (Houghton Library, Harvard University).

²⁰ Maine Hist. Soc., *Collections*, 2nd Ser., XIX, 53-56, 87-89.

²¹ Timothy Dwight, *Travels in New England and New York* (Cambridge, 1969), II, 118. See also the *Continental Journal*, Mar. 8, 1781, 2/3.

- ²² *A Story about a Little Good Boy* (Portland, 1903), p. viii.
- ²³ Maine Hist. Soc., *Collections*, 2nd Ser., XIX, 263-264.
- ²⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 254-256.
- ²⁵ Wadsworth's best version was that told to Timothy Dwight and printed in the latter's *Travels*, II, 120-135. Burton's account is printed in Maine Hist. Soc., *Collections*, VII, 329-334.
- ²⁶ Maine Hist. Soc., *Collections*, 2nd Ser., XIX, 309.
- ²⁷ For whom see Horace Andrew Wadsworth, *Two Hundred and Fifty Years of the Wadsworth Family* (Lawrence, 1883) p. 47.
- ²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. v.
- ²⁹ *A Story about a Little Good Boy*, p. iv.
- ³⁰ George and Margaret Rose, *Letters of General Peleg Wadsworth to his son John, Student at Harvard College* (Portland, 1961), p. i.
- ³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 21.
- ³² *Ibid.*, p. 28.
- ³³ *Ibid.*, pp. 38-39.
- ³⁴ Dwight Foster, Diary (Am. Antiq. Soc.), May 2, 1794, *et passim*.
- ³⁵ *Letters*, pp. 24-25, 41.
- ³⁶ Mass. Hist. Soc., *Proceedings*, XLIII, 653.
- ³⁷ *A Story about a Little Good Boy*, p. vi.
- ³⁸ Hartford *American Mercury*, Mar. 17, 1803.
- ³⁹ Peleg Wadsworth to Enoch Lincoln, Jan. 2, 1818, in Enoch Lincoln Mss. (Am. Antiq. Soc.), I, 148.