

town, doubly anxious for the cause of humanity they felt an earnest desire that justice should not fall a sacrifice in her own temple. Of these John Adams and Josiah Quincy, junior, deserve most honorable mention. Sympathizing most deeply with the mass of their fellow-citizens in their hatred of the instruments of their oppressors, and in their detestation of the principles they had been sent hither to maintain, no men had more openly or pathetically appealed to their fellow-citizens or had more studiously excited their resentment both in the gazettes and in Faneuil Hall against the troops and their employers. What, then, must have been their surprise when Captain Preston solicited their professional services in his own behalf and in that of the soldiers. To understand the difficulty of their situation it is necessary to realize the exasperated state of public feeling. The spirit of revenge glowed with a fervor almost universal. On the one hand were the obligations of humanity, official duty and the strong desire that justice should be done; on the other the confidence of their political friends, their popularity and that general affection which their public course had attained for them in so remarkable a degree among their fellow-citizens, were to be hazarded. After deliberation and consultation with each other and their friends, both of these patriots yielded all personal considerations to the higher obligations of humanity and official duty. They braved the fury of the moment and interposed their learning, talents and well earned influence to that torrent of passion which for a time threatened to bear down the landmarks of justice.

In the midst of an excitement unparalleled in the history of our country and in a community where they