



CAPTAIN NATHAN HALE
Photograph of MacMonnies' Statue

with highest honors in September, 1773. Dr. Eneas Munson's description of young Hale shows what a fine figure for the sculptor's art he was. Says Dr. Munson: "His personal appearance was notable. He was almost six feet in height, perfectly proportioned, and in figure and deportment he was the most manly man I ever met. His chest was broad, his muscles firm, his face wore a most beautiful expression, his complexion was roseate, his eyes were light blue and beamed with intelligence. His personal grace was most charming. I was greatly impressed with Hale's scientific knowledge. He had a taste for art, and his talents as an artist were quite remarkable."

After his graduation, until the news came of the bloodshed at Lexington and Concord, Hale taught school at East Haddon and New London, giving classical preparation for college at the latter place. When a messenger, riding express between Boston and New York, with the news of battle came to New London, a town meeting was called at the Courthouse at that place. Hale was one of the speakers, calling the people to action at once. He enlisted as a volunteer. He became captain of a company of Connecticut Rangers known as Congress's Own. His were among the troops that remained in New York when the British invaded Long Island. After the American retreat from Long Island, the American army on Manhattan Island was in a perilous condition. Washington called a council of war at which it was decided to send a competent man in disguise into the camp of the enemy on Long Island. Colonel Knowlton summoned a large number of officers to a conference at his headquarters and in the name of Washington asked for a volunteer. The request to act as a spy met with a general and resentful refusal. Late in the meeting Nathan Hale appeared, pale from a recent illness. Knowlton repeated the petition. "I will undertake it," said