

arrived and were moored near the Dartmouth. Though it was Sunday, a public meeting was held, and resolutions were adopted to the effect that no tea should be landed, and that, if necessary, "tea should mingle with salt water." The town committee had obtained a promise from the owners of the vessels to return the tea to England, but the revenue laws made this impossible. Moreover, Governor Hutchinson declared that no ship should depart without a direct permit from him. This decided the Bostonians. They gathered in the "Old South" and "Faneuil Hall," two meeting houses which were the cradles of liberty. The townsfolk declared emphatically that no tea should be entered, and Rowe, Otis and Adams delivered determined, but cool and patriotic speeches on the question.

Hutchinson, secure in his castle, penned an official letter premtorily demanding that the meeting be broken up, and firmly refusing to allow the tea ships to weigh anchor until unloaded. As soon as this letter was read, "a war whoop resounded, and a band of forty or fifty men, disguised as Indians, rushed by the door, and hurried down towards the harbor," at which place the scene of the Boston Tea Party is laid.

The columns of our newspapers fairly teem with accounts of society's doings. Everything is described with scrupulous exactness and minuteness. But no social event was ever of such momentous importance: no social event was ever held under such circumstances. Instead of the grand apartments of ball rooms gaily bedecked with flowers, we have the broad, dark expanse of the Atlantic, with the star-studded sky as a ceiling. And describing this tea party in the language of society, we might say that the future Miss Columbia was the organizer, the "Mohawks" poured the tea, and the Boston harbor served the ices. The number of chests thrown overboard was three hundred and forty-two, and indeed it may be

said that the "Boston harbor ran black with unexpected tea."

The colonists conducted themselves as law-abiding citizens, and all historians unite in saying, that beyond the destruction of the tea, no other damage was done. There were no riots, no lives lost, but everything was conducted in a most business-like manner. The "Mohawks," and noble red men they were, represented the most prominent and influential families of Boston and the surrounding villages. This fact alone would be sufficient to account for the tranquility that reigned in the avenues and streets of Boston before and after the Tea Party. *It is a regrettable fact that no record of the names of these men has been found, but the tales told by the people of the Revolution, show that they were of the best blood in the colonies.*

Messengers were immediately dispatched to all the sea-ports, bearing the news. The effect was magical; the blow had been struck; the deed was done; rejoicing was general; and no one repented. As in the colonies, the effect was immediately felt in England. The King, ministry and people were alike effected. Cœrcion was to be the measure adopted, and the King in a message to Parliament, accused the Americans of trying to destroy English commerce, and to subvert England's constitution. He was determined to maintain Parliamentary prerogatives, even at the risk of losing the colonies. Lord North introduced the Boston Port Bill, and though unconstitutional, it was passed by the Commons and Lords and signed by the King. Close upon this statute, the Regulation Acts followed. But despite their rigor and severity, they were powerless to accomplish the end contemplated by the ministry. For as the colonists had successfully resisted the Stamp Act and the Tea Tax, they were not the men now passively to endure a much more galling tyranny.

Urged on by these laws, a Com-