

the bread of free trade; the Englishman in England gave his American brother the stone of taxation.

Another fact is this: the colonists did not offer any objections to their taxation by England, but they did object to the position that Great Britain took in taxing them, while unrepresented. Common sense alone should have been sufficient to warn England that any attempt to saddle taxes upon the colonies would meet with stern opposition. Nevertheless blinded by prejudice and jealousy the ministry adopted and promulgated the Navigation Act; Billeting Act; Writ of Assistance; Stamp Act; and finally, the straw that broke the camel's back, the tax on glass, paper, and tea. The Americans made vigorous resistance to these laws, so vigorous that, aided by an eloquent Burke, a fiery Barre and a calm discriminating Pitt, all were repealed except the tea tax. This would also have been repealed if it were not for George III, who said that one tax should be imposed, so as to maintain the right of taxation.

This duty was but three pence upon each pound; so that duty and cost included, tea was cheaper in America than in England. But unfortunately, the ministry forgot that our forefathers were not combating the mere duty, they were resisting the very principle. At the head of the government was Lord North, a fair-minded man, but the obedient servant of King George. Of this statesman Bancroft says: "He was the most celebrated statesman who has left nothing but errors to account for his fame." We may say he is the man who lost America to England. It is nothing at which to be surprised, to find that the tea tax was maintained despite the efforts of Conway, Burke, Barre and Pitt, since North was but a tool in the hands of the King.

This duty, as has been said, was three pence on each pound imported. But small as the tax was, Parliament still maintained by it a just right to

limit trade and impose duties on American imports and exports. As a consequence, the colonists led by Otis, Franklin, Adams and Henry, banded together, and united in a final, lingering appeal to the King. But their petition was unavailing. Indeed, instead of appeasing, it vexed the King and ministry a great deal more; and they determined at once to force the colonies to submit. Therefore, the patriots firmly resolved to drink no more tea until the hateful tax should be repealed; moreover, the American merchants would not purchase any merchandise from the East India Company.

Consequently, this company obtained a rebate of the export duty in England, and at once dispatched vessels laden with cargoes of tea to Boston, Charlestown, New York and Philadelphia. Since the American merchants would not consent to receive or store this tea, the King named several prominent persons in each of the above-named cities to act as consignees or "tea commissioners." This report flashed throughout the colonies, and the scheme of the Company to excite the cupidity of the colonists by the cheapness of the commodity was laid bare. Great indignation was felt in all the principal cities, but especially in Boston, where all the appointed consignees were staunch royalists. These commissioners were requested to resign several times, but steadily refused. Thus matters continued until November 17, 1773, a vessel, just arrived, brought word that tea ships were on their way, and might be expected daily. Another mass-meeting was instantly held, and the resignations of the consignees were again asked for. As before, this request met with a flat refusal.

On Sunday, November the twenty-eighth, the "Dartmouth," commanded by Captain Hall, and laden with one hundred and fourteen chests of tea, cast anchor in Boston harbor. Shortly after, the "Eleanor" and the "Beaver"