

tion, and their contempt and hatred of the People. These it was impossible to restrain without violence, perhaps bloodshed; certainly without hazarding more than the tea was worth. To this tribe of the *wicked*, they say, must be added another, perhaps more numerous, of the *weak*, who never could be brought to think of the consequences of their actions, but would gratify their appetites, if they could come at the means. What numbers are there in every Community, who have no providence or prudence in their private affairs, but will go on indulging the present appetite, prejudice or passion, to the ruin of their estates and families, as well as their own health and characters! How much larger is the number of those who have no foresight for the Public, or consideration of the freedom of posterity! Such an abstinence from the tea, as would have avoided the establishment of a precedent, depended on the unanimity of the People—a felicity that was unattainable. Must the wise, the virtuous, and worthy part of the Community, who constituted a very great majority, surrender their liberty, and involve their posterity in misery, in complaisance to a detestable, though small party of knaves, and a despicable, though more numerous company of fools?