

the less the Imperial Parliament meddled with local affairs the more readily would it obtain, with hearty consent, the leadership in all matters of general concern and the less likely the danger of any friction calculated to develop centrifugal action.

To carry out this plan to a successful issue he was by no means ill-equipped. He was a man of means and could afford to pursue his aim without being influenced by the fear that the Provincial Assembly would withhold his salary, as it did on several occasions. He stood well with the public, was respected for his ability and integrity by the people of New England, and was in favour with the home authorities.

Unfortunately, however, there were men who were his bitter enemies, and who were not by any means scrupulous as to the means to be employed to undermine his deservedly great influence. Samuel Adams was one of them. James Otis was another; and the material instrument with which these men worked was the Boston mob, whose lawlessness had been fostered by a lax administration of Customs laws that had practically turned the community into a den of smugglers. Samuel Adams had lost caste through his large defalcations as Collector of Taxes for the town of Boston, and through other defalcations in pecuniary matters, and his influence was confined to what in those days would have been called the "lower class." With these he sought to overawe the town meeting of Boston. He plied his pen over many signatures in the newspapers. He was "Vindex," "Candidus" and half a dozen other citizens, writing under assumed names to create the feeling that there was a general sentiment in favour of what he advocated. He pulled many strings, but he, himself, kept in the background. He worked to undermine his friendly, as well as his hostile rivals. By slow degrees he became a great demagogue, a mob-leader. He secured supremacy in the Boston town-meeting. He inflamed the mob. In the year that Hutchinson's mansion was sacked by a mob, Adams took his seat in the legislature for the first time. He was now "in the open" and could not use with the same secrecy the weapons he had so effectively employed in the period preceding. But he became more and more known as the great rival of Hutchinson in the struggle that was fast approaching, and that was destined to result in the separation of so many of the American Colonies from the British Empire.

His chief reliance was on the town-meeting. Hutchinson met this by removing the Legislature to Cambridge. He sought to limit the town-meeting to its legitimate sphere. He endeavoured to introduce more authority by means of British regiments. He suggested plans for the abridgment of the liberties of the people, since these liberties had developed abuses which were, in his belief, the primal cause of all the antagonisms.

The defaulting tax-gatherer of former days, however, in the

midst of  
tion to

Hut  
heart, w  
interme  
authorit  
public n  
conclusi

He br  
enemies  
Hutchin  
the peop  
were in  
repudiat  
by the c

As G  
speech t  
by high  
bably n  
was mo  
themselv  
Franklin  
England  
land un  
written  
affairs a  
an old  
energetic  
craze, th  
money v  
expeditio  
threaten  
organism  
money,  
Richard'  
Franklin  
time adv  
known,"  
or at leas  
and sent

"You r  
have bee  
were acc  
able of a  
bidding t  
all the po