

to rouse up at last from your slumber, and to open your eyes to the danger that surrounds you—the danger of your being hurried into a state of rebellion before you are aware of it, and of suffering all that resentment which a mighty nation can discharge upon a defenceless people. Whether *Great-Britain* did right or not, in imposing the duty on tea, and whether we pay it or not, are matters of trifling consequence: But whether we shall bring down upon our own heads the full weight of her vengeance, and undergo all the horrors of a civil war, or not, are matters of dreadful importance to us. If you persist in the steps which many of you have taken; and especially if you go on to encourage the New-England fanatics to attack the King's troops, whenever they can meet them; the time cannot be distant, in which both you and they will be legally proclaimed *Rebels and Traitors*—they as principals, and you as their abettors: You may still profess yourselves to be his *Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects*, as you did in your late *Resolves*, and as the leaders in the grand rebellion of 1541 did, in their messages to the King immediately after the battle of *Edge-Hill*, where they had fought against him in person; but this will not screen you from vengeance. No: *Havoc* will be the cry; and *the dogs of war* will be let loose to tear out your vitals. Then, if not before then, the *Dæmon* of discord will rise to distract you. Brother must fight against brother, and friend against the friend of his bosom. In short, the country that is now "fair as *Eden*," will become a field of blood, overspread with desolation and slaughter. I tremble, and my blood retires to my heart at the prospect of such amazing anguish and misery. The sun and the moon begin already to be darkened and the stars to withdraw their shining. O all-pitying Heaven! Preserve me! Preserve my friends! Preserve my country!

If we are now upon the brink of a horrid civil war, and there be no hopes of relief from the wisdom, prudence and good temper of the *Congress*, there can be but one way of safety left; which is, that we all endeavour to see with our own eyes, and make use of our own understandings, and resume the liberty of thinking, and speaking, and acting for ourselves. Let us then like men of sense, sit down calmly and count the cost, in the first place, before we undertake to finish the work proposed to us. Let us consider, before we proceed farther and get more deeply embarrassed, whether we are able to go through with our enterprize against *Great-Britain*, or not: And, I am persuaded, it will soon appear to be impossible.

We are not able, without the utmost hazard, to go forward with