

land, brought on in part by the disregard of navigation and customs laws by the people in the American colonies, who unlawfully gave their trade to Holland and other countries.

Mr. Wiswall was an intelligent reader of the papers. Although the English government had remitted all tax on the East India Company's tea, thereby enabling it to be shipped to the American colonies, and sold by paying the threepence a pound on it, as cheaply as they could get it by smuggling from Holland, yet the agitation went on, and the decision was that the tea should not land. This Mr. Wiswall condemned, and heroically stood by his conviction. Now he saw that it did not count for anything in Massachusetts, that for a hundred years or more, the navy and army of England had defended them from the hated French and the savage Indians. Some of the newspapers, as early as the summer of 1773, before the affair of the tea in Boston Harbor, had advocated independence. The people became inflamed to a pitch of desperation. The horror of the East India Company getting a foothold in America did duty in exciting to efforts for entire independence. The predictions of the devastations of this corporation in the East were painted blacker than are the purposes of combines in our day.

Then came the suggestion of the impecunious Samuel Adams and other revolutionists for a congress of all the states, and the establishment of an independent commonwealth. This was done with boldness and impunity, and is an evidence of the feeble and indulgent policy of the British Government up to this time.

In 1774 Mr. Wiswall witnessed the return of Governor Hutchinson to England and General Gage taking possession of Boston with four regiments, and there acting in the double capacity of Governor of Massachusetts and general of the forces. "All men are free and equal," was the watchword of the revolutionists, while at the same time they owned thousands of slaves, and in remote districts, denied Newlights, Baptists and Quakers liberty of conscience, and emphasized this denial by fines and imprisonments. Indeed, Massachu-