



# The Volunteer Review

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### HALF-SEAS OVER.

(From "Songs and Verses, Social and Scientific," by an Old Contributor to "Maga." R. Blackwood & Sons.)

Some jolly dogs are drunk outright  
From All-Saints to October;  
In liquor some take no delight,  
But evermore are sober.

Thus some will cross to Calais, boys,  
While others stop at Dover;  
But take my word, if you are wise,  
And go just half-seas over.

You'll go just half-seas over, boys,  
Go sometimes half-seas over;  
Although the word may seem absurd  
Go sometimes half-seas over.

I'm not the man to dine or sup  
Without a glass to raise us;  
Nor would I deeply drain the cup  
Till mortal made as Blasus.  
But when you've swallowed just enough,  
You're like a cow in clover;  
How sweet! how snug! when generous stuff  
Has made us half-seas over!

You'll go just half-seas over, boys, &c.

If maid or widow you would win,  
And wear your wished-for treasure,  
You'll find it best to fill your skin  
With just the proper measure.  
With less than that to feed your flame,  
You'll prove too cold a lover:  
While more might overshoot your aim;  
So woo her—half-seas over.

You'll go just half-seas over, boys.  
You'll go just half-seas over;  
With more, or less, you'd miss success,  
So go just half-seas over.

Our friends the French have taught us much  
In cookery and fashions;  
Though all their doings are not such  
As please a Briton's passions.  
But Claret good, when rich and true.  
And not, like Gladstone's, *pauvre*—  
O! there I like the *Juste milieu*,  
Which means just half-seas over.

It means just half-seas over boys,  
Precisely half-seas over;  
The *Juste milieu* is what will do,  
And means just half-seas over.

### THE REVOLT

OF THE

## British American Colonies, 1764-84.

### CHAPTER VI.

The spirit of resistance to the Revenue laws was not confined to Massachusetts alone,—it pervaded all the New England Provinces and in the Colony of Rhode Island culminated in an outrageous infraction of the law and a direct insult to the Government of Great Britain. The Gaspé schooner, commanded by Lieut. Duddingston, R. N., was stationed in Providence River for the purpose of preventing smuggling. Her commanding officer being both active and vigil-

ant incurred the ire of the Colonists, who, to the number of 200 armed men in boats, boarded the schooner at midnight wounded and abused him and finally, having forcibly carried officers and crew on shore, set the vessel on fire.

With the intention of rendering the judges and law officers of the Crown more independent and for the purpose of assimilating the Colonial executive to that of Great Britain, the English Administration resolved to pay the Judges, the Attorney and Solicitor Generals of Massachusetts liberal salaries out of the American Revenue instead of the scanty supply annually voted by the Assembly. In ordinary cases and amongst ordinary people this would be looked on as a direct benefit, but the Colonial demagogues made it a cause of grievous complaint, and the newspapers scattered it throughout the Provinces. It was said that the British ministry, having in vain tried to enslave the people by force, now tried to accomplish the same end by insidious means, by corrupting the source of justice, and bribing the chief officer of the law.

Boston, foremost in all seditious practices, had another *town meeting*, appointed by her *select men* for the 25th October, at which a petition was prepared to the Governor setting forth the evil tendencies of the new arrangement with the alarm it had occasioned amongst the people, and praying him to call an Assembly, which the Governor refused to do. Whereupon the petitioners appointed a committee to consider and propose what was fit to be done, and the meeting adjourned to a future day for the purpose of receiving their report. This committee, having taken due time to deliberate, drew up a report containing a new declaration of rights as men, citizens, and christians, much more extensive than any yet framed, denying the rights of the British Parliament to legislate for the Colonies in any respect whatever, and denouncing every Act of that Parliament since 1766 as being illegal and unconstitutional, *because unauthorized* by their charter, and charging the ministry with a design to enslave them by granting salaries to the judges and Crown officers out of the odious

tribute imposed by Parliament. At the adjourned meeting this report was read and approved, and six hundred copies ordered to be printed and dispersed through all the towns of the Province, accompanied with a circular letter calling upon the people "not to doze any longer or sit supinely in indifference whilst the iron hand of oppression was daily tearing the choicest fruits from the fair tree of liberty."

At this distance of time it is a matter of astonishment to every student of history how those people were allowed to concoct their treason with entire impunity. The phlegmatic stolidity of the Provincial Government or its puerile weakness, with the patience, forbearance, and desire to satisfy the utmost demands of those ungrateful rebels exhibited by the Government, Parliament, and people of Great Britain illustrates an episode in national history perfectly unique in the annals of the human race.

With the single exception of the natural desire of Great Britain to monopolize the trade of her Colonies, a desire perfectly in keeping with the practice and knowledge of the age, not one act of Ministry or Parliament but was prompted by unmistakable kindness to the people of the Provinces, and there can be no doubt if she had faithful Colonial Governors and had sent a strong military force on the occasion of the first disturbance the United States of America would still be British Colonies.

American writers and speakers glorify themselves and their country on the justice of the cause which led to the separation, but how stands the fact? The very charter under which the people of Boston set up a claim to be free from Parliamentary legislation was itself an illegal instrument and title. It never had received the sanction of a British Parliament, and James I., from whom it was obtained, was famous for the illegality of his acts and his thorough ignorance of all constitutional law. Throughout the whole transaction everything redounds to the honor of Great Britain and to the shame and confusion of face of her adversaries.

The Assembly of the Province of Massa-