

our own stores, to gratify invading rapacity. Honour, pride, local attachments and public spirit second the call of our governour, and bid us guard our metropolis from contamination, and prevent the enemy from leaving in it marks of his triumph and signals of reproach to ourselves and shame to posterity.

At the same time let us understand ourselves well and be explicit. We are called upon to strengthen the hands of government. To this call I believe most of us are deaf, if that government be meant, the energy of whose hands we have never felt, except in attempts to strangle us. We devote our services to the public good, and have no hope of their being directed to this object, but under the direction of the government of Massachusetts. Of that other authority, whose baleful control we have so long deprecated, we only ask that it will not encumber us with its interference, and palsy our strength by its benumbing touch. If it furnish us with all the facilities in its power, in munitions and implements of war, and the cooperation of its forces, we shall be content. But even these let it withhold, rather than bestow them accompanied with its counsels and commands. We have had too full an experience of these already, and I am persuaded that I express a very general sentiment, in saying that, as far as moral evil and pecuniary sacrifice are to be regarded, it would be better that Boston should be treated as Alexandria has been, rather than be subjected to two years of such misgovernment as that under which this country has of late suffered; just as one would prefer to receive at once, a deep wound, rather than have his marrow eaten away by a slow poison. We wish to do nothing which may prolong or strengthen that deleterious power.

They call upon us to forget party distinctions, and bury party animosities. This we have always been ready to do. They invite us to act on the broad principles of public spirit and national honour. This we always have done. Our politics and our patriotism, are but different names of the same thing. We should