

Whether to have stored it would have answered the end, or been a less mischief than drowning it, I shall leave to the judgment of the Public. The other Colonies, it seems, have no scruples about it; for we find that whenever tea arrives in any of them, whether from the East India Company, or any other quarter, it never fails to share the fate of that in Boston. All men will agree, that such steps ought not to be taken, but in cases of absolute necessity, and that such necessity must be very clear. But most people in America now think, the destruction of the Boston tea was absolutely necessary, and therefore right and just. It is very true, they say, if the whole People had been united in sentiment, and equally stable in their resolution, not to buy or drink it, there might have been a reason for preserving it; but the People here were not so virtuous or so happy. The British Ministry had plundered the People by illegal taxes, and applied the money in salaries and pensions, by which devices they had insidiously attached to their party, no inconsiderable number of persons, some of whom were of family, fortune, and influence, though many of them were of desperate fortunes; each of whom, however, had his circle of friends, connections and dependants, who were determined to drink tea, both as evidence of their servility to Administration,