

shameful and flagrant injustice; and an act was passed, for shutting up the port of *Boston*, till proper satisfaction should be made for so provoking an outrage.

It is certain, that all the Americans are out of the reach of this act; that it was not intended to affect them; and therefore that they have nothing immediately to do with it, excepting the inhabitants of *Boston* themselves. Accordingly I should have passed it by, as foreign from *our* part of the dispute, had it not been voted by all our county and provincial COMMITTEES, to be *dangerous to the liberties of the British colonies*. For this reason I shall offer some observations on what appears to have been the policy of the act; which I shall address to those only, who are so reasonable and modest as to allow, that the tea ought not to have been destroyed.

If the conduct of the Bostonians, in destroying the tea, was criminal, it deserved punishment; and punishments should always be regulated by the nature and degree of the crimes for which they are inflicted, and the circumstances that attended the commission of them. Now the crime of the Bostonians was a compound of the grossest injury and insult. It was an act of the highest insolence towards government; such as mildness itself cannot overlook or forgive. The injustice of the deed was also most atrocious: as it was the destruction of property to a vast amount, when it was known that the nation was obliged in honour to protect it. At the same time it was very notorious, that the intention of the perpetrators was, by this example, to lead and excite others, when the expected opportunity should present, to the same wanton excess of riot and licentiousness. Under these circumstances,

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