

My Friends, Countrymen, and Fellow Subjects
 suffer, for a few minutes, an American, one who has
 often gloried in the title, who loves his country as
 much, and has as great a regard for its honour, as
 any of you, to reason and expostulate with you, in
 plain language, on a subject now of the highest im-
 portance, both to you and him.

You are taught to exclaim loudly against " the
 " arbitrary proceedings of the British Parliament."
 But consider; wherein have they been arbitrary, and
 in what do you suffer? Why, it seems, " a duty of
 " three pence a pound, has been laid, by Parliament,
 " upon their teas exported to America; and we can-
 " not purchase the tea, without paying the duty."
 But if this may be called a burden, so may the weight
 of an atom on the shoulders of a giant: besides, this
 burden may be easily avoided; for we have no occa-
 sion to purchase the tea, and unless we purchase it,
 we are under no obligations to pay the duty.

You will say: " the Parliament had *no right* to
 " lay the duty." But I suppose we are, most of us,
 but indifferent judges of the rights of Parliament;
 or however, the Parliament must act according to
 their own judgment, and not according to ours, if it
 be different from theirs. They assert, and believe,
 that they have the right in question; and we have
 never proved that they have not. Nay, we ourselves
 have always believed and allowed that they have it,
 till the present occasion. I might add, that we have
 always allowed that they had a right to regulate not
 only the trade, but all concerns of the Colonies; such
 a power they have always exercised, and we have
 submitted to their acts. Thus, for instance, we have
 paid a duty on wine and molasses, in obedience to
 Parliament, and without protestations or remonstran-
 ces; and, for the same reasons, we are as much ob-
 liged