

On this supposition, which the Americans in general seem to have adopted as the true state of the case, the great question is,—*What method the colonies ought in wisdom to pursue, in order to get rid of the duty?*

Different measures have been already taken, in the different colonies, to avoid the operation of the act. In *South-Carolina*, the obnoxious tea was landed; but the inhabitants formed a resolution, to which they have the virtue punctually to adhere, not to purchase it. Happy would it have been for the colonies, if this measure had been universally taken! In that case, we should still have enjoyed tranquility, uninterrupted by seditious alarms; and the black cloud, charged with storm and thunder, that now darkens our land, would not have collected.

In most of the other colonies, the tea was not suffered to enter their ports; but it was sent back unhurt. This indeed, in all its circumstances, must be considered as a kind of insult upon government; but yet it was such a species of misbehaviour, as, in all probability, the nation would have overlooked, and many of the friends of America would have thought worthy of commendation. But, as the evil genius of the colonies would have it, the tea that was sent to *Boston*, was neither stored, nor sent back, but outrageously destroyed by the hands of violence.

Whatever may be thought of consigning, or sending back the tea, there are but few people so abandoned to all sentiments of fitness, propriety, and justice, as to think the destruction of it excusable; and the government at home, as all governments would in the like case, thought it unsufferable.—It was soon determined, to inflict an exemplary punishment upon the town that was guilty of such
shameful