

There was in the patriot's character, to borrow again Mr. Hosmer's words, 'a certain fox-like shrewdness which did not always scrutinise the means over-narrowly while he pushed on to the great end.' The moral twist in the character of the Puritan, in short, had survived his devoutness. Samuel Adams seems to be convicted of having laid a trap for Hutchinson, and of having, in unpleasant contrast to his cousin John, tried to force on the trial of Preston and the soldiers who in self-defence had fired on the Boston mob before popular passion had cooled, with a view to what would have been nothing less than a judicial murder.

This is not the place to discuss at length the schism, which Samuel Adams had the chief hand in bringing about, and which made the two portions of the Anglo-Saxon race foreign nations, or worse than foreign nations, to each other, when they might have shared the great Anglo-Saxon heritage in peace and friendship. That the colonists did not, like the subjects of Spain in the Netherlands, feel themselves sorely oppressed is shown by the mask of loyalty which Samuel Adams and other revolutionists found it necessary to wear. They were in the perfect enjoyment of security for life, property, personal liberty, and freedom of opinion, the last, in New England at least, being assured to them partly through the action of the home Government, which had imposed restrictions upon New England theocracy. Numbers of them remained loyal to the end, and suffered exile in the royal cause, though the royal commanders did everything that could be done by their blunders to estrange support. The country was flourishing, notwithstanding the restrictions on trade, which were the worst grievance, though they were simply the blindness of the age. Parliament had repealed the Stamp-tax; there was no reason to despair of its repealing the Tea-tax; a large party, including by far the most powerful statesman, was on the colonial side. The Tea-tax was paltry in amount. In the meantime colonial commerce received the protection of the Imperial fleet. It had, after the establishment of Independence, to pay blackmail to the Algerines. When Hampden resisted the payment of ship-money—which he did, by the way, in a court of law—he was combating an attempt to found on arbitrary taxation a reactionary government which, as he and his friends believed, would have not only extinguished the civil liberties but quenched the spiritual life of the nation. Nobody can suppose that Grenville aimed at anything worse than to make the colonies contribute to the expense of imperial armaments. The representation of the colonies in the Imperial Parliament was an idea which there is no reason to believe that British statesmen were unwilling to entertain, though the enemies of peace in the colonies were. Mr. Hosmer vindicates Hutchinson, who, though a Royalist, appears to have been not only