

# *DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE BOSTON TEA PARTY*

## *Part 1: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS*

*From the Boston Post-Boy, November 16, 1767:*

### Address to the Ladies

Young ladies in town, and those that live round,  
Let a friend at this season advise you:  
Since money's so scarce, and times growing worse,  
Strange things may soon hap and surprise you:  
First then, throw aside your high top knots of pride,  
Wear none but your own country linnen;  
Of oeconomy boast, let your pride be the most  
To show cloaths of your own make and spinning.  
What, if homespun they say is not quite so gay  
As brocades, yet be not in a passion,  
For when once it is known this is much wore in town,  
One and all will cry out, 'tis the fashion!  
And as one, all agree that you'll not married be  
To such as will wear London Fact'ry,  
But at first fight refuse, tell 'em such you so chuse  
As encourage our own Manufact'ry.  
No more ribbons wear, nor in rich dress appear,  
Love your country much better than fine things,  
Begin without passion, t'will soon be the fashion  
To grace your smooth locks with a twine string.  
Throw aside your Bohea, and your Green Hyson Tea,  
And all things with a new fashion duty;  
Procure a good store of the choice Labradore,  
For there'll soon be enough here to suit ye;  
These do without fear and to all you'll appear  
Fair, charming, true, lovely and cleaver;  
Tho' the times remain darkish, young men may be sparkish,  
And love you much stronger than ever.       !O!

***Also November 16, 1767, in the Boston Post-Boy:***

*My Dear Countrymen,*

You have been of late years insensibly drawn into too great a degree of *luxury & dissipation*, not only in the *West* and *East-India* productions; but likewise in the unnecessary superfluities of European, enumerated in a late Vote of the Town of Boston, with many others; that I cannot but think that the inhabitants of this and most of the other colonies have the highest reason to acknowledge their obligation to the Town of Boston, for setting so laudable an example, as by every prudent and legal measure, to encourage the produce and manufactures of this province, and to lessen every superfluous expence as much as may be; by these means, if possible, to prevent the threatened loss of the *whole medium* of the province, partly by the remittances to Great-Britain of the duties laid upon many of our imports, and partly by the much larger export, thro' the hands of our merchants, of our gold and silver, in return for British commodities, many of which are absolutely needless, and with great part of the remainder we are indisputably capable of supplying ourselves; [...] We would heartily, for this reason, recommend to every Farmer the growth of *Hemp* and *Flax*, that the linen manufactures may be especially promoted and encouraged by *all ranks* of people.----Further, if we may be *excused*, we think it our duty to add, the most sincere recommendation of the disuse of the most *luxurious* and *enervating article* of BOHEA TEA, in which so large a sum is annually expended by the American colonists altho' it may be well supplied by the Teas of our own country, especially by that called the *Labrador*, lately discovered to be a common growth of the more northern colonies, and esteemed very wholesome to the human species, as well as agreeable.-----

Thus my countrymen, by consuming *less* of what we are not really in want of, and by industriously cultivating and improving the natural advantages of our own country, we might save our *substance, even our lands*, from becoming the property of others, and we might effectually preserve our *virtue* and our *liberty* to the latest posterity. *Blessings*, surely, which no man, while in the exercise of his reason, will contentedly part with, for a *few foreign trifles*.

*Save your Money, and save your Country!*

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***From a letter to the Boston Gazette, August 15, 1768:***

[...] The duty that was before paid upon Tea, in Great-Britain, was one shilling a pound.----- This duty is now taken off by a drawback, and three pence sterling only a pound is imposed on the importation of it into the Colonies.---- In this manner nine pence a pound sterling is saved to the consumer, which, considering the quantity used upon the continent, is a great thing. This it was thought must be popular, like the device of James II to introduce Popery under the disguise of so popular a measure as an universal toleration. But such dissimulation, however specious, will never amuse wise men.---- The same power that imposed three pence, will, when once acknowledged and obeyed as

authority, and whenever the demands of their hosts of pensioners require it, impose three shillings or three pounds [...]

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***A news report from page 3 of the same paper:***

BOSTON, August 15

The Merchants and Traders in this Town have lately had several Meetings to consult Measures for the better Regulation of the Trade which at present labours under great Difficulties and Discouragements: And being convinc'd that a further Importation of unnecessary Goods from Great-Britain would involve the Importers in still greater Difficulties, and render them unable to pay the Debts due to the Merchants in Great-Britain, They unanimously VOTED not to send any further Orders for Goods to be shipp'd this Fall; and that from the first of January 1769 to the first of January 1770, they will not send for or import either on their own Accounts, or on Commissions, or purchase of any Factor or others, who may import any Kind of Goods or Merchizes from Great-Britain, except Coal, Salt, and some Articles necessary to carry on the Fishery. They likewise agreed not to import any Tea, Glass, Paper, or Painters Colours, untill the Acts imposing Duties on those Articles are repealed.

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***From the Boston Post Boy, October 11, 1773:***

PHILADELPHIA, September 29.

*Extract of a letter from London, August 4.*

“The East-India Company have come to a resolution, to send 600 chests of tea to Philadelphia, and the like quantity to New-York and Boston, and their intention I understand is to have ware-houses, and sell by public sale four times a year, as they do here. Capt. Cook was offered part of that for Philadelphia, but refused it.---- I suppose they will charter ships to take it in, as here is enough that would be glad of the freight.---- What will be the consequence when it arrives, on your side the water, I know not; but suppose it is landed, you will hardly let it be sold.---- John Inglis, Joseph Wharton, jun. and J. Brown, are the Commissioners with you.”

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***The same letter, along with several others with similar information, also appears in the Boston Gazette of October 11, 1773. An editorial reply from the paper ends with these words:***

It is much to be wished that the Americans will convince Lord North, that they are not yet ready to have the yoke of slavery rivetted about their necks, and send back the tea from whence it came.

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***Part of a letter from SCAEVOLA of Philadelphia, in the Boston Gazette of October 25, 1773:***

BY UNITING WE STAND---BY DIVIDING WE FALL  
To the Commissioners  
*Appointed by the EAST INDIA COMPANY*  
*For the SALE of TEA in AMERICA*

Gentlemen,

Your appointment, which is notoriously designed to enforce the act of 7<sup>th</sup> G. III, *for raising a revenue in America*, justly claims the attention of every man, who wishes well to this country: And you need not be surprised to find the eyes of ALL now fixed on you; as on men, who have it in their power, to ward off the most dangerous stroke, that has been ever meditated against the liberties of America.

You have before you the examples of many of your unhappy countrymen; I mean *some* of the STAMP MASTERS ; examples, which, if properly attended to, may convince you, how foolish, how *dangerous* it is, to undertake to force the loathsome pills of slavery, and oppression, down the throats of a free, independent, and *determined* people. Your *appointment* is exactly similar to that our late STAMP MASTERS: They were commissioned to enforce one revenue act; you, to execute another. The Stamp and Tea Laws were both designed to raise a revenue, and to establish *parliamentary despotism* in America.

There cannot therefore be any difference in your appointments, except in this; that their office as *Stamp Men*, favoured strongly of the nature of *excise officers*; whilst you in the execution of your duty, may retain some faint resemblance of the decent characters of *Factors*. But let not names deceive you: Your characters, as Stamp Masters, and Tea Commissioners, have a strong and near affinity. They, and you could boast that you were our brethren; they, and you owe at least SUPPORT, if not LIFE to America; and what characterizes the two employments in the strongest manner, they and you *were marked out by the conspirators against our rights*, to give the last, the finishing stroke to freedom in this country.---- Strange indeed! that Americans should be pitched on to violate the privileges of Americans! [...]

[. . .] The claim of Parliament to tax America, has been too well examined, *for you* to doubt, at this time, to which side right and justice have given the palm.---- Do not, therefore, hesitate at the course you ought to pursue.---- If you deliberate, you are lost,---- lost to virtue, lost to your country. It is in vain to expect that AMERICANS can give a sanction *to your office*.----FREEMEN,----AMERICAN FREEMEN can never approve it. You are abundantly capable to judge for yourselves: And I sincerely wish that your conduct, on the present alarming occasion, may be such as will promote your future peace and welfare. It is in your power *and you are now warn'd of it*, to save YOURSELVES much Trouble, and secure your native Country from the deadly Stroke now aimed in your persons against her.

#### SCAEVOLA

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*There are writers who defend the "tea arrangement," particularly A. Clarke, of Clarke's store and warehouse on Long Wharf. His letter of 28 October 1773, appears in the Boston Evening-Post, allegedly a neutral paper in spite of the fact that Thomas Fleet is a member of the Long Room Club. The letter is simultaneously printed in the Massachusetts Gazette, a Tory paper. Clarke's point is that, since Massachusetts is governed under its Charter as a colony of Great Britain, it should be willing to pay this very small tax, in order to help the East India Company and to save money on inexpensive tea of high quality.*

***The Boston Post-Boy of December 13, 1773 reprinted a letter from Rivington's New written by "The Mohawks."***

NEW-YORK, December 6, 1773.

WHEREAS our nation have lately been informed, that the fetters which have been forged for us (by the parliament of Great-Britain) are hourly expected to arrive, in a certain ship, belonging to, or chartered by, the East-India Company. We do therefore declare, that we are determined not to be enslaved, by any power on earth; and that whosoever shall aid, or abet, so infamous a design, or shall presume to let their store, or stores, for the reception of the infernal chains, may depend upon it, that we are prepared, and shall not fail to pay them an unwelcome visit, in which they shall be treated as they deserve; by

The MOHAWKS.

New-York, Nov. 27, 1773

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***The Boston Gazette of December 13, 1773 carried part of a letter from Philadelphia, dated December 4, 1773.***

“Our Tea Consignees have all resign’d, and you need not fear; the Tea will not be landed here or at New-York. All that we fear is, that you will shrink at Boston. You have fail’d us in the Importation of Tea from London since the Non-importation Agreement, and we fear you will suffer this to be landed----- If you suffer the Ships to haul in and land any Article of Goods whatever, you may depend it will be told in Philadelphia that you smuggled the Tea too. We remember heavily the Boxes fill’d with Brickbats, &c. which were said to be Goods returned to London. Such Tricks (which were never publickly resented in Boston and PUNISHED) make your Enemies rejoice, and weaken the Confidence of your Friends.---- May God give you Virtue enough to save the Liberties of your Country, and depend on it, it shall not betray them here.”

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***The account of the “dumping of the tea” was printed in the Boston Gazette of 20 December 1773.***

On Tuesday last the body of the people of this and all the adjacent towns, and others from the distance of twenty miles, assembled at the old south meeting-house, to inquire the reason of the delay in sending the ship Dartmouth, with the East-India Tea back to London; and having found that the owner had not taken the necessary steps for that purpose, they enjoyn’d him at his peril to demand of the collector of the customs a clearance for the ship, and appointed a committee of ten to see it perform’d; after which they adjourn’d to the Thursday following ten o’clock. They then met and being inform’d by Mr. Rotch, that a clearance was refus’d him, they enjoyn’d him immediately to enter a protest and apply to the governor for a pass port by the castle, and adjourn’d again till three o’clock for the same day. At which time they again met and after waiting till near sunset Mr. Rotch came in and inform’d them that he had accordingly enter’d his protest and waited on the governor for a pass, but his excellency told him he could not consistent with his duty grant it until his vessel was qualified. The people finding all their efforts to preserve the property of the East India company and return it safely to London, frustrated by the tea consignees, the collector of the customs and the governor of the province, DISSOLVED their meeting.--- But, BEHOLD what followed! A number of brave and resolute men, determined to do all in their power to save their country from the ruin which their enemies had plotted, in less than four hours, emptied every chest of tea on board the three ships commanded by captains Hall, Bruce, and Coffin, amounting to 342 chests, into the sea ! ! without the least damage done to the ships or any other property. The masters and owners are well pleas’d that their ships are thus clear’d; and the people are almost universally congratulating each other on this happy event.

*[The particular Account of the Proceedings of the People at their Meeting on Tuesday and Thursday last, are omitted this Week for want of Room.]*

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***More destruction of tea is noted by “Indians” in the Boston Gazette of March 14, 1774:***

His majesty OKNOOKORTUNKOGOG King of the Narraganset Tribe of Indians, on receiving Information of the arrival of another Cargo of that Cursed Weed TEA, immediately Summoned his Council at the Great Swamp by the River Jordan, who did Advise and Consent to the immediate Destruction thereof, after Resolving that the IMPORTATION of this Herb, by Any Persons whatever, was attended with pernicious Consequences to the Lives and Properties of all his Subjects throughout America. Orders were then issued to their Seizor & Destroyer General, and their Deputies to assemble the executive Body under their Command, to proceed directly to the Place where the noxious Herb was. They arrived last Monday evening in Town, and finding the Vessel, they emptied every Chest, into the Great Pacific Ocean, and effectually Destroyed the whole, (Twenty-eight Chests and an half.) They are now returned to Narragansett to make Report of their doings to his Majesty, who we hear is determined to honour them with Commissions for the Peace.

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***Part 2: ADDITIONAL TEA PARTY DOCUMENTS***

**Broadside Published for the Boston Selectmen, 28 October 1767**

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, legally assembled at Faneuil-Hall, on Wednesday the 28th of October, 1767.

The Town then took into Consideration the Petition of a Number of Inhabitants, "That some effectual Measures might be "agreed upon to promote Industry, Oeconomy, and Manufactures ; thereby to prevent the unnecessary Importation of European Commodities, which threaten the Country with Poverty and Ruin :" Whereupon in a very large and full Meeting, the following Votes and Resolutions were passed Unanimously.

*Whereas the excessive Use of foreign Superfluities in the chief Cause of the present distressed State of this Town, as it is thereby drained of its Money; which Misfortune is likely to be increased by Means of the late additional Burthens and Impositions on the Trade of the Province, which threaten the Country with Poverty and Ruin :*

Therefore, *VOTED*, That this Town will take all prudent and legal Measures to encourage the Produce and Manufactures of this Province, and to lessen the Use of Superfluities, &



particularly the following enumerated Articles imported from Abroad, viz. *Loaf Sugar, Cordage, Anchors, Coaches, Chaises and Carriages of all Sorts, Horse Furniture, Men and Womens hatts, Mens and Womens Apparel readymade, Houshold Furniture, Gloves, Mens and Womens Shoes, Sole-Leather, Sheathing and Deck Nails, Gold and Silver and Thread Lace of all Sorts, Gold and Silver Buttons, Wrought Plate of all Sorts, Diamond, Stone and Paste Ware, Snuff, Mustard, Clocks and Watches, Silversmiths and Jewellers Ware, Broad Cloths that cost above 10s. per Yard, Muffs Furrs and Tippetts, and all Sorts of Millenary Ware, Starch, Womens and Childrens Stays, Fire Engines, China Ware, Silk and Cotton Velvets, Gauze, Pewterers hollow Ware, Linseed Oyl, Glue, Lawns, Cambricks, Silks of all Kinds for Garments, Malt Liquors and Cheese.* -- And that a Subscription for this End be and hereby is recommended to the several Inhabitants and Housholders of the Town ; and that *John Rowe, Esq; Mr. William Greenleaf, Melatiah Bourne, Esq; Mr. Samuel Austin, Mr. Edward Payne, Mr. Edmund Quincy, Tertius, John Ruddock, Esq; Jonathan Williams, Esq; Joshua Henshaw, Esq; Mr. Henderson Inches, Mr. Solomon Davis, Joshua Winslow, Esq; and Thomas Cushing, Esq;* be a Committee to prepare a Form for Subscription, to report the same as soon as possible ; and also to procure Subscriptions to the same.

*And whereas it is the Opinion of this Town, that divers new Manufactures may be set up in America, to its great Advantage, and some others carried to a greater Extent, particularly those of Glass & Paper*

Therefore, *Voted*, That this Town will by all prudent Ways and Means, encourage the Use and Consumption of Glass and Paper, made in any of the British American Colonies; and more especially in this Province.

[Then the Meeting adjourn'd till 3 o'Clock afternoon.]

III o'Clock, P. M.

The Committee appointed in the Forenoon, to prepare a Form for Subscription, reported as follows.

*WHEREAS this Province labours under a heavy Debt, incurred in the Course of the late War ; and the Inhabitants by this Means must be for some Time subject to very burthensome Taxes : -- And as our Trade has for some Years been on the decline, and is now particularly under great Embarrassments, and burthened with heavy Impositions, our Medium very scarce, and the Balance of Trade greatly against this Country :*

WE therefore the subscribers, being sensible that it is absolutely necessary, in Order to extricate us out of these embarrassed and distressed Circumstances, to promote Industry, Oeconomy and Manufactures among ourselves, and by this Means prevent the Unnecessary Importation of European Commodities, the excessive Use of which threatens the Country with Poverty and Ruin -- DO promise and engage, to and with each other, that we will encourage the Use and Consumption of all Articles manufactured in any of the British American Colonies, and more especially in this Province; and that we will not, from an after the 31st of *December* next ensuing, purchase any of the



following Articles, imported from Abroad, viz. *Loaf Sugar*, and all the other Articles enumerated above. --

*And we further agree strictly to adhere to the late Regulation respecting Funerals, and will not use any Gloves but what are Manufactured here, nor procure any new Garments upon such an Occasion, but what shall be absolutely necessary.*

The above Report having been considered, the Question was put, Whether the same shall be accepted? *Voted unanimously in the Affirmative.* -- And that said Committee be desired to use their best Endeavours to get the Subscription Papers filled up as soon as may be. Also, *Voted unanimously*, That the foregoing Vote and Form of a Subscription relative to the enumerated Articles, be immediately Published ; and that the Selectmen be directed to distribute a proper Number of them among the Freeholders of this Town ; and to forward a Copy of the same to the Select-Men of every Town in the Province ; as also to the principal City or Town Officers of the Chief Towns in the several Colonies on the Continent, as they may think proper.

Attest,

William Cooper, *Town-Clerk*

Then the Meeting was Adjourn'd to the 20th Day of November next.

Broadside published for the Boston Selectmen, (Boston: Edes and Gill, 1767). Mass. Historical Society  
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### ***William Jackson Broadside, 1768***

WILLIAM JACKSON,  
an IMPORTER; at the  
BRAZEN HEAD,  
North Side of the TOWN-HOUSE,  
and Opposite the Town-Pump, i [n]  
Corn-hill, BOSTON.

It is desired that the SONS and  
DAUGHTERS of *LIBERTY*,  
would not buy any one thing of  
him, for in so doing they will bring  
Disgrace upon *themselves*, and their  
*Posterity*, for *ever* and *ever*, AMEN.

William Jackson Broadside, (Boston, 1768). Massachusetts Historical Society  
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*Letter from Thomas Robie to Richard Clarke & Sons, 13 January 1770*

Mhead Jan. 13. 1770

Gentn, --

Having waited some time for a Sale of those 2 bbs Tea & no opp. offering for it's disposal, I tho't best to acquaint you that it yet remains unsold -- This article is sold at Salem a 4 pts.[?] per doz &c, and here at 4 [pistaroons] per single [illegible]--

I fancy that some how or other supplies of this article have found a way into the Town, notwithstanding the Vigilance of our worthy Patriots, who are as assiduous in detecting & removing any trifling package, as if all the Evils of Pandora's Box were inclos'd, or the Fate of Empires depending -- The ungenerous Treatment I have met with from them will excuse me if I seem a little warm, or impertinent in troubling you with what is foreign to [the] design of my present writing -- I am with due Respect --

Gentn.

your most hble Servt

Thos. Robie

Thomas Robie to Richard Clarke, 13 January 1770, Miscellaneous Bound Collections, Massachusetts Historical Society.

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*Broadside, 2 December 1773*

BOSTON, December 2, 1773

WHEREAS it has been reported that a Permit will be given by the Custom-House for Landing the Tea now on Board a Vessel laying in this Harbour, commanded by Capt. HALL: THIS is to remind the Publick, That it was solemnly voted by the Body of the People of this and the neighbouring Towns assembled at the Old-South Meeting-House on Tuesday the 30th Day of November, that the said Tea never should be landed in this Province, or pay one Farthing of Duty: And as the aiding or assisting in procuring or granting any such Permit for landing the said Tea or any other Tea so circumstanced, or in offering any Permit when obtained to the Master or Commander of the said Ship, or any other Ship in the same Situation, must betray an inhuman Thirst for Blood, and will also in a great Measure accelerate Con-

fusion and Civil War: This is to assure such public Enemies of this Country, that they will be considered and treated as Wretches unworthy to live, and will be made the first Victims of our just Resentment.

THE PEOPLE.

N.B. Captain Bruce is arrived laden with the same detestable Commodity; and 'tis peremptorily demanded of him, and all concerned, that they comply with the same Requisitions.

Broadside, 2 December 1773, ( Boston, 1773). Massachusetts Historical Society.

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*John Adams, Diary, 17-18 December 1773*

**1773. DECR. 17TH.**

Last Night 3 Cargoes of Bohea Tea were emptied into the Sea. This Morning a Man of War sails.

This is the most magnificent Movement of all. There is a Dignity, a Majesty, a Sublimity, in this last Effort of the Patriots, that I greatly admire. The People should never rise, without doing something to be remembered -- something notable And striking. This Destruction of the Tea is so bold, so daring, so firm, intrepid and inflexible, and it must have so important Consequences, and so lasting, that I cant but consider it as an Epocha in History.

This however is but an Attack upon Property. Another similar Exertion of popular Power, may produce the destruction of Lives. Many Persons wish, that as many dead Carcasses were floating in the Harbour, as there are Chests of Tea: -- a much less Number of Lives however would remove the Causes of all our Calamities.

The malicious Pleasure with which Hutchinson the Governor, the Consignees of the Tea, and the officers of the Customs, have stood and looked upon the distresses of the People, and their Struggles to get the Tea back to London, and at last the destruction of it, is amazing. Tis hard to believe Persons so hardened and abandoned.

What Measures will the Ministry take, in Consequence of this? Will they resent it? will they dare to resent it? will they punish Us? How? By quartering Troops upon Us? -- by annulling our Charter? -- by laying on more duties? By restraining our Trade? By Sacrifice of Individuals, or how.

The Question is whether the Destruction of this Tea was necessary? I apprehend it was absolutely and indispensably so. -- They could not send it back, the Governor, Admiral and Collector and Comptroller would not suffer it. It was in their Power to have saved it- but in no other. It could not get by the Castle, the Men of War &c. Then there was no other Alternative but to destroy it or let it be landed. To let it be landed, would be giving up the Principle of Taxation by Parliamentary Authority, against which the Continent

have struggled for 10 years, it was loosing all our labour for 10 years and subjecting ourselves and our Posterity forever to Egyptian Taskmasters -- to Burthens, Indignities, to Ignominy, Reproach and Contempt, to Desolation and Oppression, to Poverty and Servitude.

But it will be said it might have been left in the Care of a Committee of the Town, or in Castle William. To this many Objections may be made.

Deacon Palmer and Mr. Is. Smith dined with me, and Mr. Trumble came in. They say, the Tories blame the Consignees, as much as the Whiggs do -- and say that the Governor will loose his Place, ~~by~~ for not taking the Tea into his Protection before, by Means of the Ships of War, I suppose, and the Troops at the Castle.

I saw him this Morning pass my Window in a Chariot with the Secretary. And by the Marching and Countermarching of Councillors, I suppose they have been framing a Proclamation, offering a Reward to discover the Persons, their Aiders, Abettors, Counsellors and Consorters, who were concerned in the Riot last Night.

Spent the Evening with Cushing, Pemberton and Swift at Wheelwrights. Cushing gave us an Account of **Bollans** Letters -- of the Quantity of Tea the East India Company had on Hand -- 40,00000 weight, that is Seven Years Consumption -- two Millions Weight in America.

**1773. DECR. 18. SATURDAY.**

J. Quincy met me this Morning and after him Kent, and told me that the Governor said Yesterday in Council, that the People had been guilty of High Treason, and that he would bring the Attorney General on Monday to convince them that it was so -- and that Hancock said, he was for having a Body Meeting to take off that Brother in Law of his.

John Adams diary 19, 16 December 1772 - 18 December 1773 [electronic edition]. *Adams Family Papers: An Electronic Archive*. Massachusetts Historical Society. <http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/>