

THE GREAT TEA PARTY

A BIT OF HISTORY RETOLD

The Boston Tea Party has become known as one of the picturesque conflicts of this country. An exchange recently published the following interesting account of the "Party:"

News reached Boston in the Spring of 1773 that the East India company, which was embarrassed by the accumulation of the tea in England owing to the refusal of Americans to buy it, had induced parliament to permit its exportation to America without the payment of the usual duty. This was intended to bribe the colonists to buy; for there had been a duty both in England and in America. That in England was 6 pence a pound, and in America 3 pence a pound. Ships were laden and sent to Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Charleston, and they were now expected to arrive in a short time. On the 28th of November, 1773, which was Sunday, the first tea ship, the Dartmouth, entered the harbor of Boston. The following morning the citizens were informed by placards that the worst of plagues, the detested tea, had actually arrived, and that a meeting was to be held at 9 in the morning at Faneuil hall for the purpose of making a united and successful resistance to this last, worst, and most destructive measure of administration.

The Cradle of Liberty was not large enough to contain the crowd that was called together. Adams rose and made a stirring motion expressing determination that the tea should not be landed, and it was unanimously agreed to.

The throng at the meeting the following morning was as great as usual, and while the deliberations were going on, a message was received from the governor, through the sherriff, ordering them to cease their proceedings. It was voted not to follow the advice, and the sheriff was hissed and obliged to retreat discomfited. It was necessary that some positive action should be taken in regard to the tea within 20 days of the arrival, or the collector of customs would confiscate ship and cargoes.

The 20 days would expire on the 16th of December. On the 14th a crowded meeting was held at the Old South church and the importer was enjoined to apply for a clearance to allow his vessel to return with its cargo. He applied, but the collector refused to give him an answer. The meeting adjourned to the 16th, the last day before confiscation would be legal, and before the tea would be placed under the protection of the ships of war in the harbor. There was another early morning conference and 7000 people thronged about the meeting house, all filled