

CHAPTER IX—THE REVOLUTION

53. The Boston Tea-Party (1773)

FINE moderat Weather continued, till this morning [Dec. 19, 1773] som snow & cold & raw with frost.

Note. The body of the people of Boston and numbers from the neighbouring Towns have lately mett at the Old South Meeting house (Faneuil Hall, not being so large as to contain the people) Supos'd to be from 5 to 6,000, and having Several meetings, conserning a Large quantity of Tea shipt'd from London by the East India Company Subject to a Duty payable in America. This meeting was adjourned to the P. m. and after finding all methods failed, with those men to whom the Tea was consigned, to send it back from whence it came, dissolved their meeting. But Behold what followed. A number of Resolute men in less than 3, some say 2 hours time, Em[p]tied Every Chest of Tea, on Board the 3 Ships Comanded by Captains Hall, Bruce & Coffin, into the Sea, amounting to 342 Chests without the least damage to the Ships, or other property. This Tea was worth 'tis said at least 25,000. £ sterling, as a great deal of it was green Tea. It was all distroyed, with as little noise as perhaps anything of the like nature was ever don in the Evening and all over & quiet by 8 O'Clock

William Tudor, editor, *Deacon Tudor's Diary* (Boston, 1896), 44-45.

poraries, II, Part VI. The "Tea-Party" took place December 16; the real issue was whether a tax should be collected by English authority in America.

By DEACON JOHN TUDOR (about 1709-1795), a Boston merchant, whose diary comprises memoranda covering the years 1732-1793. His notes are especially valuable, since many of the important events of the period were either witnessed or participated in by the deacon or his son. — For Tudor, see *Contemporaries*, II, No. 151. — For the Boston Tea-Party, see *Contemporaries*, II, ch. xxiv. — For causes of the Revolution, see *Am. Hist. Studies*, No. 4; *Contem-*