

POSTSCRIPT to the *Pennsylvania Gazette*.

FRIDAY Evening, Five o'Clock, December 24, 1773.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.
At Two o'Clock this Afternoon arrived in this City a Gentleman, who came Express from New-York, with the following interesting Advices from BOSTON, which were sent there by Express also.

BOSTON, December 16.

IT being understood that Mr. Rotch, owner of the ship Dartmouth, rather lingered in his preparations to return her to London, with the East-India Company's tea on board, there was on Monday last, P. M. a meeting of the Committee of several of the neighbouring town: in Bolton, and Mr. Rotch was sent for, and enquired of, whether he continued his resolution to comply with the injunctions of the body, assembled at the Old-South-Meeting-house on Monday and Tuesday preceding. Mr. Rotch answered, that in the interim he had taken the advice of the best council, and found that in case he went on of his own motion, to send that ship to sea, in the condition he was then in, it must inevitably ruin him, and therefore he must beg them to consider what he had said at the said meeting, to be the effect of compulsion and unadvised, and in consequence that he was not holden to abide by it, when he was now assured that he must be utterly ruined in case he did. Mr. Rotch was then asked whether he would demand a clearance for his ship in the Custom-House, and in case of a refusal enter a protest, and then apply in like manner for a pass, and order her to sea? To all which he answered in the negative: The Committee, doubtless, informing their respective constituents of what had passed, a very full meeting of the body was again assembled at the Old South Meeting-house on Tuesday afternoon, and Mr. Rotch, being again present, was enquired of as before, and a motion was made and seconded, that Mr. Rotch be enjoined forthwith to repair to the Collector of the Customs, and demand a clearance for his ship, and ten gentlemen were appointed to accompany him, as witnesses of the demand. Mr. Rotch then proceeded with the Committee to Mr. Harrison's lodgings, and made the demand. Mr. Harrison observed, he could not give answer, till he consulted the Comptroller, but would, at office hours next morning, give a decisive answer. On the return of Mr. Rotch and the Committee to the body with this report, the meeting was adjourned to Thursday morning at 10 o'clock.

THURSDAY.

Having met on Thursday morning, 10 o'clock, they sent for Mr. Rotch, and asked him, if he had been to the Collector, and demanded a clearance? he said he had; but the Collector said, that he could not, consistent with his duty, give him a clearance, till all the dutiable articles were out of his ship; they then demanded of him, whether he had protested against the Collector? he said he had not: They ordered him, upon his peril, to give immediate orders to the Captain, to get his ship ready for sea that day, enter a protest immediately against the Custom-House, and then proceed directly to the Governor (who was at his seat at Milton, 7 miles off) and demand a pass for his ship to go by the cattle. They then adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M. to wait Mr. Rotch's return; having met according to adjournment, there was the fullest meeting ever known (it was reckoned, that there were 2000 men from the country) they waited very patiently till about 5 o'clock, when they found Mr. Rotch did not return, they began to be very uneasy, called for a dissolution of the meeting, and finally obtained a vote for it: But the more moderate part of the meeting, fearing what would be the consequences, begged that they would reconsider their vote, and wait till Mr. Rotch's return, for this reason, that they ought to do every thing in their power to send the tea back, according to their resolves.

They obtained a vote, to remain together one hour longer; in about three quarters of an hour, Mr. Rotch

* By the act, any dutiable goods on board a vessel, after lying 20 days in a harbour, become liable to the payment of the duties. The people waited till the last day, and in a few hours the ship (to secure the duties then payable) was to have been delivered to the custody of the man of war.

returned; his answer from the Governor was, that he could not give a pass, till the ship was cleared by the Custom-House; the people immediately, as with one voice, called for a dissolution, which having obtained; they repaired to Griffin's wharf, where the tea vessels lay, proceeded to fix tackles, and hoisted the tea upon deck, cut the chests to pieces, and threw the tea over the side; there were two ships and a brig, Captains Hall, Bruce and Coffin, each vessel having 114 chests of tea on board; they began upon the two ships first, as they had nothing on board but the tea, then proceeded to the brig, which had hawled to the wharf but the day before, and had but a small part of her cargo out. The Captain of the brig begged they would not begin with his vessel, as the tea was covered with goods, belonging to different Merchants in town. They told him the tea they wanted, and the tea they would have; but it he would go into his cabin quietly, not one article of his goods should be hurt. They immediately proceeded to remove the goods, and then to dispose of the tea.

It was expected that the men of war would have interfered, as all the Captains and other officers were ordered on board their ships before night; and the day before, there were six dozen of lanterns sent on board the Admiral's ship. The King Fisher, and several armed schooners, were rigged and fitted for sea, and the Gaspee armed brig arrived that day from Rhode-Island. But the people were determined. It is to be observed, that they were extremely careful, that not any of the tea should be stolen, so kept a good look out, and detected one man filling his pockets, whom they treated very roughly, by tearing his coat off his back, and diving him up the wharf, through thousands of people, who cursed and kicked him as he passed.

We are positively informed, that the patriotic inhabitants of Lexington, at a late meeting, unanimously resolved against the use of Bohea tea of all sorts, Dutch or English importation; and to manifest the sincerity of their resolution, they brought together every ounce contained in the town, and committed it to one common bonfire.

We are also informed, that Charlestown is in motion to follow their illustrious example.

Query. Would it not materially affect the bringing this detestable herb into disuse, if every town would join their Select-men to deny licences to all houses of entertainment, who were known to afford tea to their guests?

Our reason for suggesting this is, the difficulty these people are under to avoid drinking out this poison, without such a provision in their favour.

We have this moment received intelligence, that Mr. Clarke's brigantine, commanded by Captain Loring, bilged at the back of Cape Cod. The Captain has not landed his tea there, of which he has 58 chests on board, belonging to the East-India Company.

NEW-YORK, December 22.

Last night an express arrived here from Boston, who left it on Friday last, and brings sundry letters, among which is the following, viz.

GENTLEMEN, Boston, Dec. 17, 1773.

YESTERDAY we had a greater Meeting of the Body than ever, the Country coming in from 20 Miles round, and every Step was taken that was practicable for returning the Tea. The Moment it was known out of Doors, that Mr. Rotch could not obtain a Pass for his Ship by the Castle, a Number of People buzz'd in the Street, and in a very little Time, every Ounce of the Tea on board of Captains Hall, Bruce and Coffin, was immersed in the Bay, without the least Injury to private Property.

The Spirit of the People on this Occasion surpriz'd all Parties, who viewed the Scene.

We conceived it our Duty to afford you the most early Advice of this interesting Event by Express, which, departing immediately, obliges us to conclude.

By Order of the Committee.

P. S. The other Vessel, viz. Captain Loring, belonging to Messrs. Clark, with Fifty-eight Chests, was, by the Act of God, cast on Shore on the Back of Cape Cod.