



Remarks by the Commander of the Massachusetts 5th Regiment of Foot

In addressing you today, I dwell upon the outrages and deprivations visited upon the loyal servants of His Majesty's Government, Army and Navy, and indeed the loyal servants of your own Colonial Government of Massachusetts.

I begin with the pillorying of Thomas Hutchinson, prior Governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony. A good man, a patriot, who politicked on numerous occasions against the Acts which you all so virulently denounced, such as the Stamp Act. Who, as Governor nevertheless received not one ounce of forgiveness or support in his difficult role.

Governor Hutchinson sailed for England this last June. Upon his arrival in London, he was granted audiences with the King and with Lord North, where he has expressed dismay at the terms of the Massachusetts Government Act, and has argued for the eventual repeal of the Port Act, an appropriate and measured response to the criminal outrages perpetrated by the Sons of Liberty in December 1773.

And still, these so-called Sons of Liberty see conspiracy as the only motivation behind every act of Government.

I would bring you next to the highly orchestrated uprising of your so-called Powder Alarm. Your own commander of Colonial Militia, William Brattle, informed Governor Gage, after

militia powder had been removed, of his apprehension that the Colony's powder in Charlestown might be stolen.

To maintain the Peace, as both Commander and Governor, General Gage has every right, indeed a responsibility, to keep Provincial military stores where he believes they will be safe and secure. This action was carried out by a single regiment of foot and not one good citizen was harmed.

The subsequent rumors of bloodshed, bodies in the streets, and alarm spread through the countryside as far as Connecticut Colony and beyond, were falsely orchestrated by known incendiaries, bent on plunging this colony into the depths of civil unrest. The fallacy of these claims was upheld by the absence of any such evidence for these raised companies of militia to find. Indeed, to the extent that there were threats and outrages, these were perpetrated by the Mob upon public servants, members of the Mandamus Council, Mssrs Brattle and Oliver, who were driven from their homes by the Mob and now take refuge at Castle William.

I see today that the Mob remains in the streets, ready for a new Alarm. As early as 1766, General Gage wrote of these repeated crises:

“After the many Proofs His Majesty has given of his Paternal Tenderness to all his People, and the Temper and Moderation shewn in the Addresses to both Houses, which profess so much Regard for the Welfare of all his People; None but the most stubborn and factious Spirits can refuse to submit to the Wisdom of the British Legislature. And I most sincerely hope that the People of the Colonies will rely on its Decisions with that Duty and Submission which they owe to the Legislative Acts of the Mother Country.”

I speak of The Rule of Law. Not the Mob.

In conclusion, I can only quote from His Excellency's own words:

“The infringements being committed upon the sacred rights of the crown and people of Great-Britain are too many to enumerate on one side, and are all too atrocious to be palliated on the other. The press, that distinguished appendage of public liberty, has been prostituted to the most contrary purposes. To complete the horrid profanation of terms and ideas, the name of the Almighty has been introduced in the pulpits to excite and justify revolt and treason. Armed assemblies of Men, unknown to the Constitution, form for the declared purpose of levying War. Even you must acknowledge it is our Duty, as it were the dictate of Humanity, to prevent if Possible, the Calamities of a Civil War.

“May God in his Mercy restore to his creatures, in this distracted land, that system of happiness from which they have be seduced, the religion of peace, and liberty founded upon law.”

Thank you.

