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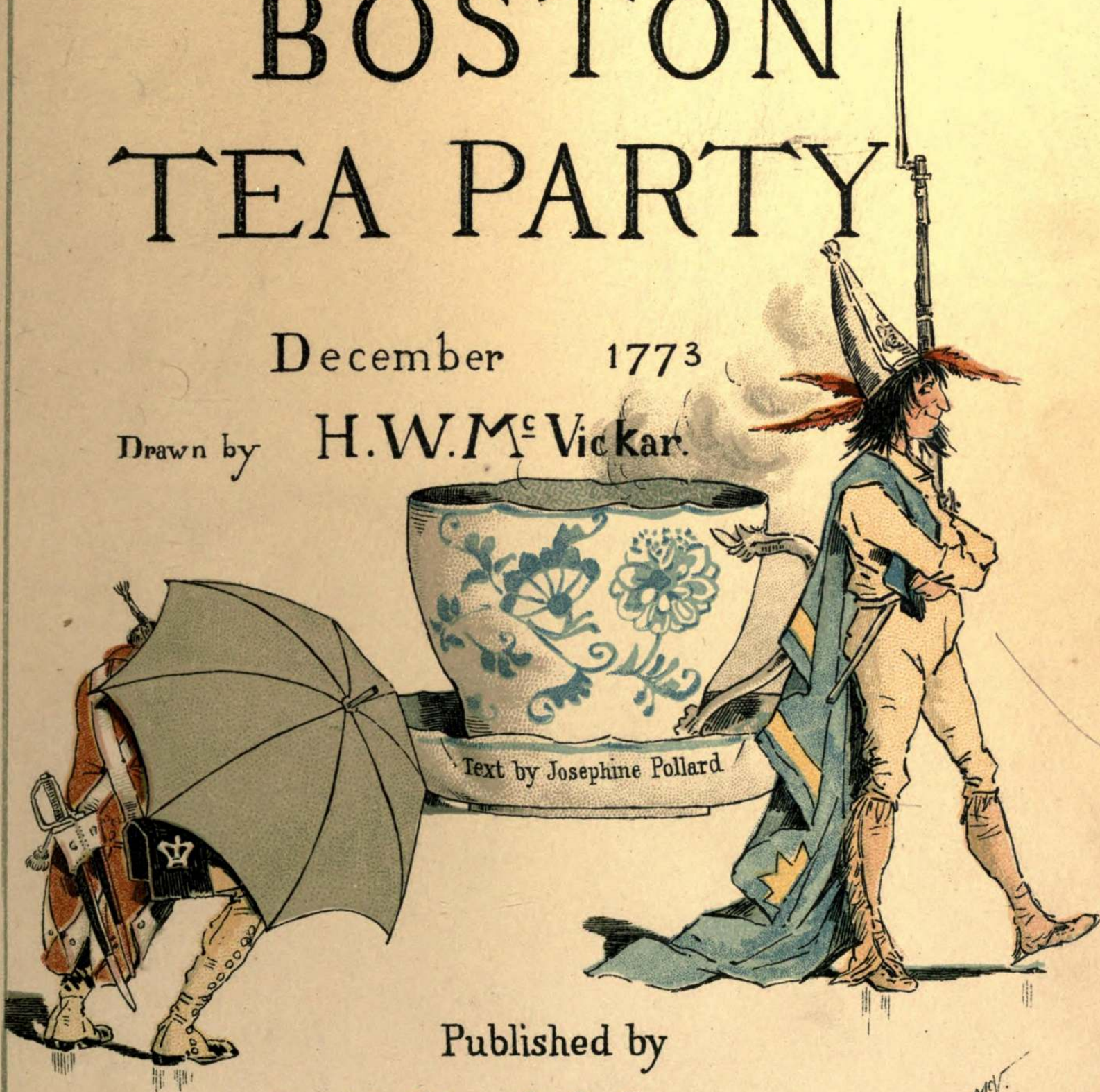


F.M. Vickar

# THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

December 1773

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KING GEORGE THE THIRD SENT OUT A DECREE,  
 IN SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THREE,  
 THAT THREE PENCE ON EVERY POUND OF TEA  
 THE VERY MODERATE TAX SHOULD BE  
 FOR THE INFANT AMERICAN COLONY.



THOUGH SOME PROTESTED, THE KING SAID "GAMMON,"  
 FOR HE WAS A LOYAL DISCIPLE OF MAMMON,  
 AND DECLARED THAT TAXATION  
 WAS GOOD FOR A NATION

THAT NEEDED SOME LESSONS IN SUBJUGATION.

NO TAX ON SNUFF! AND NO TAX ON TEA!  
 SUCH A STATE OF THINGS COULD NO LONGER BE!  
 AND THOSE WHO INDULGED IN SUCH LUXURIES, MUST,  
 SAID THE LOYAL MONARCH, COME DOWN WITH THE DUST.

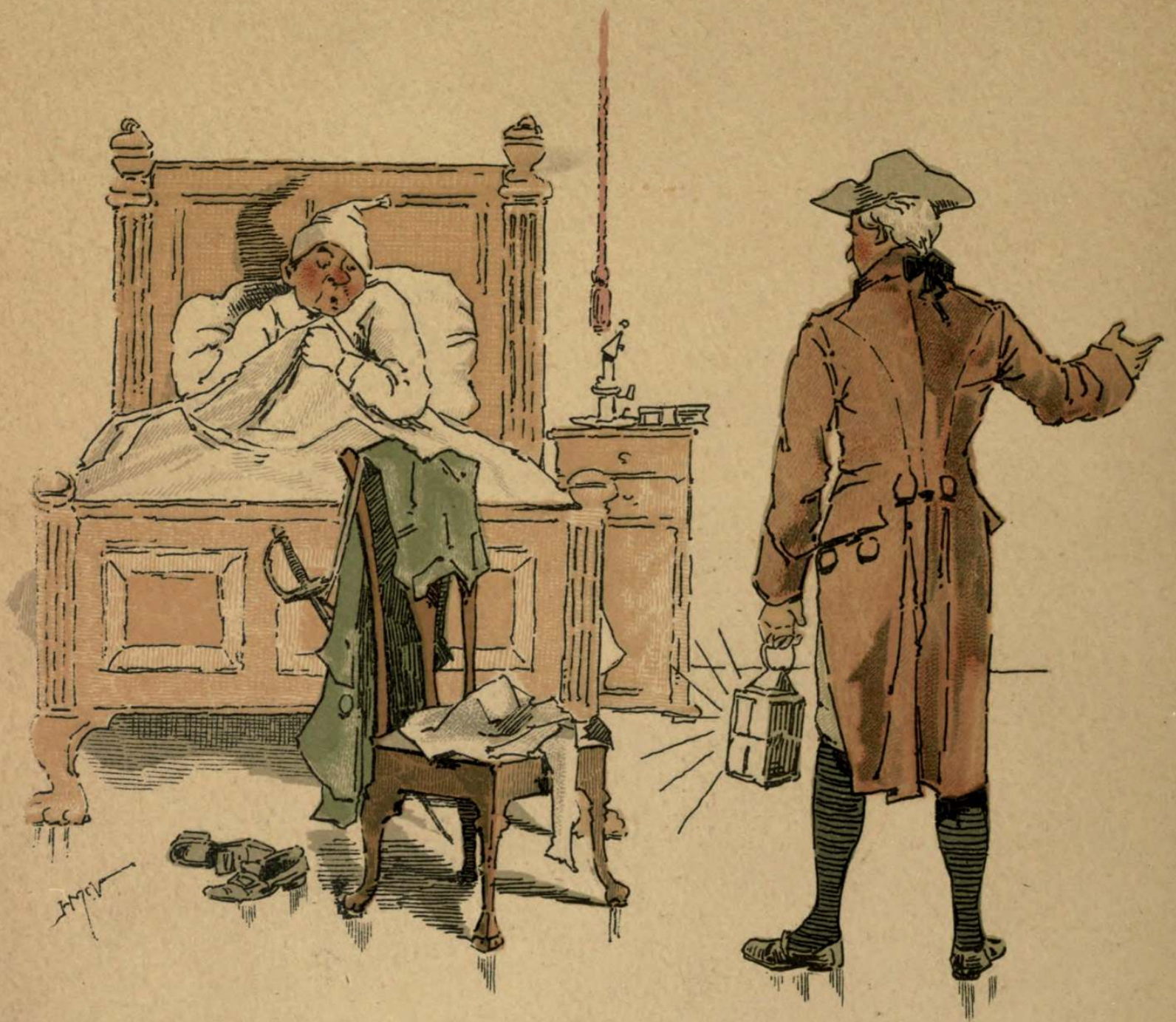


SO THE WORD WENT FORTH, AND IN BOSTON TOWN  
 IT SWEEPED LIKE A HURRICANE FIERCELY DOWN;  
 AND MEN AND WOMEN WERE GREATLY STIRRED  
 BY THIS IMPOSITION OF GEORGE THE THIRD.  
 TROUBLE WAS BREWING. THEIR TETE-A-TETE  
 LOVER AND SWEETHEART ABBREVIATE;





HERE WAS HURRYING HERE,



There was hurrying there,



AND OMINOUS MUTTERINGS IN THE AIR,  
THE BELLS WERE RUNG IN THE OLD SOUTH STEEPLE  
TO THE GREAT ALARM OF THE NERVOUS PEOPLE,



H. M. Ticker

AND A MEETING WAS HELD, WHERE THE PROCLAMATION WAS READ, THAT HAD CAUSED ALL THIS PERTURBATION.

INVITATIONS WERE POSTED UP  
 FOR THE CONSIGNEES TO TAKE A CUP  
 OF THE VERY BEST TEA,  
 OOLONG, OR BOHEA,  
 AT HIGH NOON UNDER THE LIBERTY TREE;



AND THE NOTICE BEREATH IN EVERY WORD,  
 WAS A SORT OF MENACE TO GEORGE THE THIRD,  
 FOR IT SAID (WHAT AN INSULT TO THE CROWN!)  
 "SHOW ME THE MAN THAT DARE TAKE THIS DOWN!"  
 HONOR AND LIBERTY WERE AT STAKE!  
 BUT THE CONSIGNEES REFUSED TO TAKE  
 THEIR CUP OF TEA OR THE TERMS SUGGESTED,  
 OR DO AS THE COUNCIL OF WAR REQUESTED,  
 'T WAS THE ONLY TOPIC OF CONVERSATION.

NOTHING WAS THOUGHT OF BUT THIS TAXATION,  
AND THE EASIEST METHOD OF LIQUIDATION.

# T-A-X

'T WAS ENOUGH TO VEX  
THE SOULS OF THE MER OF BOSTON TOWN,  
TO READ THIS UNDER THE SEAL OF THE CROWN.



THEY WERE LOYAL SUBJECTS OF GEORGE THE THIRD;  
SO THEY BELIEVED AND SO THEY AVERRED,  
BUT THIS BRISTLING, OFFENSIVE PLACARD SET  
ON THE WALLS, WAS WORSE THAN A BAYONET,

FOR IT AIMED AT A PRINCIPLE DEARER THAN LIFE;  
 THREE PENCE A POUND ON TEA  
 NOT MUCH OF A TAX COULD BE!  
 BUT IT PROVED THE BEGINNING OF MIGHTY STRIFE.



AND LOVERS OF FREEDOM WITH DIGNITY BROKE  
 AWAY FROM THE WEIGHT OF KING GEORGE'S YOKE,  
 A BURDEN OF TACKS  
 UPON THEIR BACKS  
 THEY MIGHT HAVE BORNE IN AN EASY WAY,  
 BUT THE IRON HAD ENTERED THEIR SOULS, AND THEY  
 DECLARED IN A STATE OF GREAT FERMENTATION  
 'T WAS A WANTONLY CRUEL, UNJUST TAXATION.

WHAT WAS TO BE DONE! THERE WERE THOSE INDEED,  
WHO WERE BOUND TO HAVE THE PERNICIOUS WEED.



RHEUMATIC OLD CHAPS,  
WHO WOULD SIP BETWEEN NAPS;





AND MAIDERS,  
WHO'D NEVER AGREE  
TO GIVE UP  
AN AFTERNOON TEA;



AND LIKEWISE THE GOSSIPY DAMES WHO WERE WILLING FOR THE SAKE OF SUCH COMFORT TO SPEND THEIR LAST SHILLING.



AND SO 'T WAS DECIDED TO LAY AN EMBARGO ON VESSELS THAT BROUGHT OVER TEA AS THEIR CARGO; FOR IF ONCE THEY WERE LANDED, THEN TROUBLE WOULD FOLLOW, AND NEITHER THE TAX NOR THE TEA WOULD THEY SWALLOW!



WITH ARTFUL DISGUISE,  
AND GROTESQUE DECORATION,



LIKE SONS OF THE FOREST,  
A POOR IMITATION.



A SCORE OR MORE MEN ON A NIGHT IN DECEMBER,  
WENT FORTH TO A DEED THE WORLD WOULD REMEMBER.



In EXHILARATION,  
THEY TOOK UP THEIR STATION,



ON BOARD OF THE VESSELS AWAITING DEMURRAGE,  
 AND NO ONE COULD QUESTION THEIR SHARE OF "DUTCH COURAGE."  
 SOON OTHERS JOINED IN WITH AN INTEREST HEARTY  
 INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE FAMOUS TEA PARTY,  
 DECLARING WITH WAR-WHOOPS OF SAVAGE DELIGHT,  
 "BOSTON HARBOR SHALL FURNISH THE TEA-POT TO-NIGHT."

THEY BOARDED THE SHIPS  
THAT WERE THEN IN THEIR SLIPS,



INDIGNANTLY SEIZING THE BOXES OF TEA,



AND MANY A CHEST  
OF THE CHINAMAN'S BEST

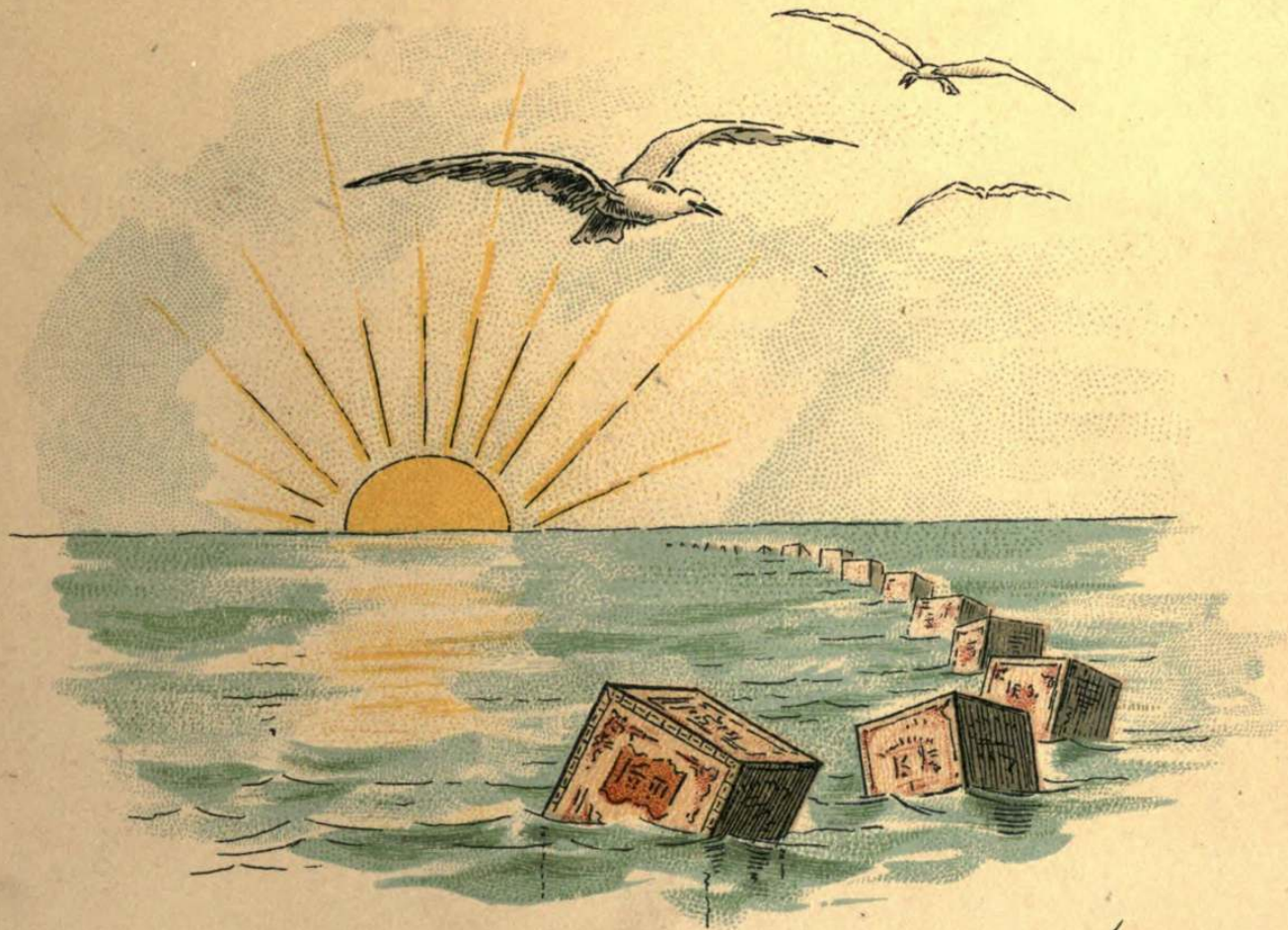


SLIPPED QUICKLY OVERBOARD INTO THE SEA.

IF ANY ATTEMPTED TO CARRY OFF BOOTY,  
WHICH HE MIGHT SECURE WITHOUT PAYMENT OF DUTY,



HIS THEIVISH ENDEAVORS MOST CERTAINLY FAILED  
THROUGH A SUMMARY DOCKET,  
THAT CUT OFF THE POCKET,  
CONTAINING THE TEA, AND THE COAT WAS CURTAILED.



J. MEY.

KING GEORGE THE THIRD WHO MADE THE DECREE  
 TO RELIEVE THE EAST INDIA COMPANY,  
 WOULD HAVE SWORN RIGHT ROYALLY, I OPINE,  
 COULD HE HAVE BEHELD THAT FLEET IN LINE,  
 THAT NEVER HAD GIVEN A COUNTERSIGN!  
 FOUR OR FIVE HUNDRED BOXES OF TEA  
 SAILING SO JAUNTILY OUT TO SEA.



THE WORD THE COLONISTS SENT, WAS NOT

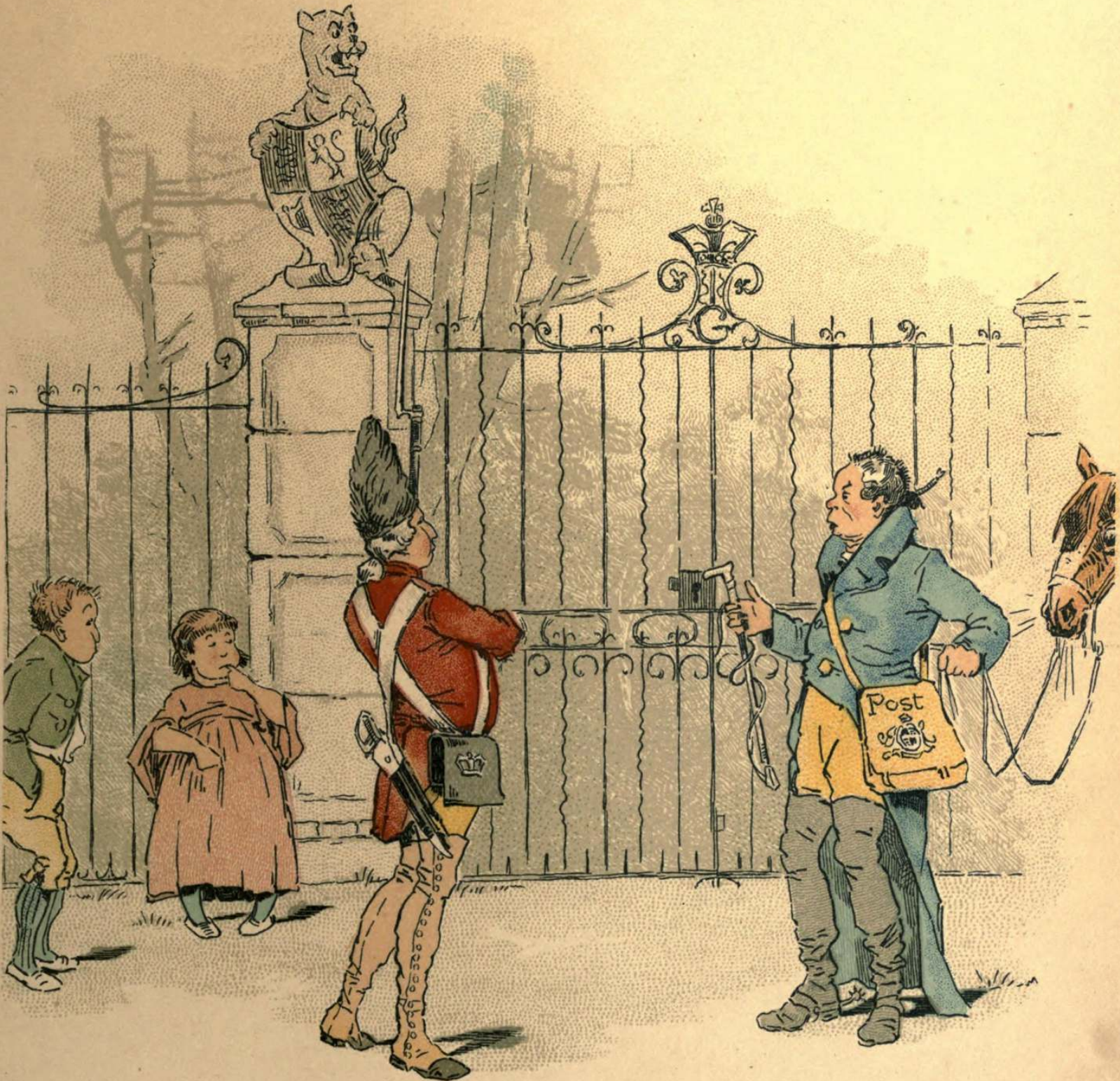


AT THE MERCY OF ANY HIGHWAYMAN'S SHOT;



H. W. C.

NOR WERE THERE TELEGRAPHS TO CONVEY  
THE PEOPLE'S MESSAGE WITH LESS DELAY;



**B**UT TEDIOSLY SLOW  
THE SHIPS MUST GO  
ON THE HOMEWARD TRACK,  
ONLY TAKING BACK  
AMERICA'S ENVOY, WHO ON LANDING, STRAIGHT  
PRESENTED HIMSELF AT THE PALACE GATE.



DEMANDING AN AUDIENCE THERE AND THEN,  
 WITH THE FIRST OF ENGLISH GENTLEMEN,  
 WHO THOUGHT HE'D A RIGHT A TAX TO IMPOSE,  
 ON ALL HIS SUBJECTS WHENEVER HE CHOSE.





HE WAS READY TO BURST WITH RAGE NO DOUBT WHEN THE CLERK IN A LOUD VOICE READ ABOUT

McVicker

THE BOSTON TEA-PARTY;—FOR THEN THE KING  
PERCEIVED HE HADN'T DONE JUST THE THING  
TO PLEASE THE AMERICAN COLONY,



THE INJURED PARTY WHO WENT OUT TO TEA,  
IN SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THREE!





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