

send two regiments to preserve order in Boston. In 1770 an unfortunate clash in Boston between the soldiers and the populace, known as the "Boston Massacre," brought the colonists to the verge of rebellion. It is probable that war would have broken out had not Lord North, just at this time, carried through Parliament an Act repealing all the taxes except that on tea, this particular tax being retained merely to assert the right of taxation. This made peace

for a time, but the colonists were determined not to submit to taxation of any kind. Although tea was sold cheaper than that which was smuggled from Holland, the colonists refused to buy it. In Charleston it was stored in damp cellars and soon spoiled. In Boston some men disguised themselves as Indians and dropped it overboard. This high-handed action gave George, who had strongly supported his ministers in the imposition of the taxes, the very opportunity for which he had been look-

ing. Very stringent laws were passed interfering with the liberty of the people, and General Gage was appointed governor of Massachusetts to see that they were carried out. So far there had not been much union among the colonies, but at this they were all thoroughly aroused, as they felt that the mother country was not only treating them with injustice, but was intentionally trying to work them injury.

The course taken by the king met with vigorous opposition, not only in America but in Britain as well. The merchants of London and Bristol urged the government to yield to the wishes of the colonists, and William Pitt, who had now become Earl of Chatham, rose in the House of Lords and



LORD NORTH