

Letter from John Adams to Catharine Macaulay, December 11, 1773

Boston Decr. 11. 1773

Madam

The last ministerial Mancuore, has excited a more open and determined Resistance than ever has been made before – The Tea Ships are all to return, whatever may be the Consequence. – I Suppose your wise Ministers will put the Nation to the Defence of a few Millions to quell this Spirit by another Fleet and Army – The Nation is so independent, so clear of Debt and so rich in Funds & Resources, as yet untried, that there is no doubt to be made, She can well afford it – But let me tell those wise Ministers, I would not advise them to try many more such Experiments. – a few more such Experiments will throw the most of the Trade of the Colonies, into the Hands of the Dutch, or will erect an independent Empire in America – perhaps both –

Nothing but equal Liberty and kind Treatment can Secure the attachment of the Colonies to Britain. –

We are much concerned here at the unhappy Divisions among the Friends of the Constitution in the City of London – We hope to see a Reconciliation, as much depends on their Union, and Exertions –

I am much obliged to you for your Favour by Mr Clark, your most obedient Servant
John Adams

Transcript Source: The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History