

Annapolis. February 6th 1775.

Dear Sir.

It with Pleasure I acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 29th of January.

From an entire and perfect Approbation of the Resolves of the Congress, that if the late Acts of Parliament, relative to the Massachusetts Bay, should be attempted to be carried into Execution by force, that in such Case all America ought to support that Colony in her Opposition; From the Declaration, by the Congress, to the Throne, that our accumulated Injuries were too severe to be any longer tolerable, and that our Militia would protect us in Time of Peace; From a Concurrence with the Sentiments expressed to the Inhabitants of Annapolis, that we were resolved never to resign our Rights, but with our Lives, and to the People of England & Britain, that we never would submit to be thrown offboard or Drawers of Water for any Ministry or Nation in the World; In Compliance with the Advice of the Congress, to extend our Views to the most unhappy Event, and to be in all Aspects prepared for every Contingency; From a Consideration of our defenceless State, unable to protect ourselves

or assist our Friends, and for many other Reasons, our
Provincial Convention passed the Resolutions, which I enclosed
you in my last Letter.

We must either resist or infamously submit. If we are
resolved to resist, and to defend our Liberties at the Expence of
our Lives, a military force appears to Me to be necessary, and
Powder and Ammunition the only Means; to resolve to resist,
without preparing a military force & Powder will be, in my Opinion,
of little Consequence: I therefore wish your Province had resolved
instantly to arm. If the attempt had been made, & failed, it
would have encouraged our Enemies, & alarmed our Friends.
Our Province was very desirous to receive some Assistance,
from her Sister Colonies, if Assistance, if attached, & will remain
in perfect Confidence of their Support if necessary.

I have been for some Time strongly impressed with a Relief,
that the present unhappy Dispute with G. Britain would not wait the least
of a Commercial Opposition, and that she must either give up the
Right of Taxing America, or enforce Obedience by the Sword;
Delay must ruin the Ministry; - If the Question was to be decided
by Justice or Policy, I should not doubt, that our indubitable

Rights would be restored, our capital grievances redressed, and
Peace & Harmony once more established with the Mother Country;
but when I reflect on the enormous Influence of the Crown, the
System of Corruption introduced as the Act of Government, the
Concality of the Doctors (the radical source of every other evil) Elongation
and repeated Violations of the Constitution, at Home, the irregular,
arbitrary System of Colony Administration, the several cruel and
barbarous Acts relative to the Massachusetts, the Indian Bill,
and the Re-election of the Members of the last Parliament, I
have not the least Dawn of Hope in the Justice, Humanity,
Wisdom or Virtue of the British Nation. I consider them as
one of the most abandoned & wretched People under the Sun.
They openly sell themselves to their Representatives, who as they
traffic their Integrity & Honor to the Ministry. our Dependence
must be on God and Ourselves. *Nihil ab extra quaerimus.*

The Conduct of the Commons of New York is very
alarming, if they attempt to act separately Confidence
will be destroyed.

You have in our last Weeks Gazette his Majesty's Speech
and the Address of the Lords and Commons. from an Apprehension

that the Protest of the Lords may not have reached you
before this, I have enclosed Yours Copy.

The Proceedings of the Congress had not arrived in London,
the 9th of December. By a private Letter we are informed,
that Lord North is greatly enraged against the Colonies,
and has declared that he will shut up all our Ports,
and decide the Dispute with the Sword.

The Martial Aardor prevails very generally here,
above 100 Companies, of 81 Men each, are already
formed on the Western Shore

Honoured with a Communication of your Sentiments,
I will pay due Regard to your Request, and endeavor to
meet your Confidence. I am with great Esteem
Dear Sir

Your affectionate & obedient Servant
Sam^l Chase.