

any entry, relative to the same, minuted in their proceedings. A few members of the committee were of opinion, that the names of such persons, who, upon application, had refused to contribute for the purchase of arms and ammunition, should be published; but even this measure was overruled in the committee as improper at that time.

Our meetings have been held in public, nor has any person, who thought fit to attend, ever been excluded. Our records are free and open for inspection.

From the public we received our authority, not by personal solicitation, but a free and voluntary choice; to that tribunal we submit our actions.

Although we have uniformly persevered, and are determined to persevere in carrying into execution, the association and measures of the congress; yet in no instance have we exceeded the line pointed out by that assembly, and our provincial assembly: And abhorring every idea of proscription, the committee call upon the persons, who have circulated the aforesaid report, to disclose the author.

(A true extract from the minutes)
R. ALEXANDER, Sec.

APRIL 15, 1775.

THE committee of observation for Baltimore county, reflecting on the many mischiefs and disorders, usually attending the fairs held at Baltimore town, and willing in all things, strictly to observe the regulations of the continental congress, who in their eighth resolution, have advised to discountenance and discourage every species of extravagance and dissipation, especially horse racing, cock-fighting, &c. have unanimously resolved, to recommend it to the good people of this county, and do hereby earnestly request, that they will not themselves nor will suffer any of their families to attend, or in any wise encourage the approaching fair at Baltimore town. And all persons are desired not to erect booths, or in any manner prepare for holding the said fair.

We are persuaded the inhabitants of the town in particular will see the propriety of this measure, and the necessity of enforcing it as the fairs have been a nuisance long before complained of by them, as serving no other purpose than debauching the morals of their children and servants, affording an opportunity for perpetrating thefts, encouraging riots, drunk nels, gaming, and the vilest immoralities.

SAM. PURVIANCE, jun. chairman.
APRIL 18, 1775.

Te chairman of the committee for Baltimore county, has this day received from Mr. John Veezey, £. 306 5 0 being the very generous donation of Cecil county, for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Befton.

ANNAPOLIS May 4.

At a meeting of the deputies appointed by the several counties of the province of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis, on Monday the 24th of April, 1775, and continued, by adjournment, from day to day, till the 3d of May, were present, one hundred members.

The hon. MATTHEW TILGHMAN, Esq; in the chair.

GABRIEL DUVALI appointed clerk.

RESOLVED unanimously, That his Majesty King George the third, is lawful and rightful King of Great Britain, and the dominions thereunto belonging, and that the good people of this province do owe, and will bear faith and true allegiance to our said lawful and rightful king, as the sovereign, constitutional guardian, and protector of the rights of all his subjects.

On motion, that a committee be appointed to prepare a draft of a letter to the committee of correspondence for Philadelphia acquainting them, that this convention had received from gentlemen of their committee, an *Extract of a letter from New-York*, communicating the very interesting and important intelligence, that a number of troops were ordered for that city, which was to be the place of arms and fortified---That all communication between that city and the southern and eastern provinces was to be cut off, that the people of that colony were concerting means to prevent such scheme, were embodying themselves, and desired the immediate assistance of the southward colonies, before the arrival of the troops; that this convention were greatly alarmed and deeply concerned for that colony, and therefore desired to be acquainted with the authenticity of that account, and the particulars thereof; and that the committee of Philadelphia would give this convention a full and particular account of the state of the colony of New-York, and of their own province, as they possibly can; what conduct, it is expected, will be adopted by their colony, and of all other matters which they may think of consequence to the general welfare of America. The previous question was moved for and put, whether the above question be now put? And resolved in the affirmative.

The above question was then put, and resolved in the affirmative.

The following letter was accordingly sent to the committee for the city and liberties of Philadelphia.

Annapolis, Saturday, April 29, 1775, 5 o'clock, afternoon.

GENTLEMEN,

THE extract of the letter from New-York, communicating the very interesting and important intelligence, that a number of troops were ordered for that city, which was to be the place of arms, and fortified; that all communication between that city and the southern and eastern provinces was to be cut off;

that the people of that colony were concerting means to prevent such schemes, were embodying themselves, and desired the immediate assistance of the southward colonies before the arrival of the troops." was this morning about 10 o'clock, received, and immediately laid before the provincial convention now sitting: The convention are deeply concerned for New-York, and request to be acquainted with the authenticity of that account, and the particulars thereof, and that you will advise them what conduct it is expected will be held by New-York, your province and the Jerseys, on the very interesting and trying occasion.

By order of the convention,
MAT. TILGHMAN,

Chairman of the convention.

Resolved unanimously, That all exportations from this province to Quebec, Nova Scotia, Georgia, and Newfoundland, or any part of the fishing coasts, or fishing islands, and to the town of Boston, ought immediately to be suspended until the continental congress shall give further orders therein.

Resolved, That it is earnestly recommended to the inhabitants of this province, to continue the regulation of the militia, as recommended by the last provincial convention, and that particular attention be paid to forming and exercising the militia throughout this province, and that the subscriptions for the purposes by the said convention recommended, be forthwith completed and applied.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention, that the honourable Matthew Tilghman, Esq; Thomas Johnson, jun. Robert Goldborough, Samuel Chase, William Paca, John Hall, and Thomas Stone, Esquires, the delegates of our province, or any three or more of them, do join with the delegates of the other colonies and provinces, at such time and place as shall be agreed on, and in conjunction with them, deliberate upon the present distressed and alarming state of the British colonies in North-America, and concur with them in such measures as shall be thought necessary for the defence and protection thereof, and most conducive to the public welfare. And as this convention has nothing so much at heart as a happy reconciliation of the differences, between the mother country and the British colonies in North-America, upon a firm basis of constitutional freedom; so has it a confidence in the wisdom and prudence of the said delegates, that they will not proceed to the last extremity, unless in their judgments they shall be convinced that such measure is indispensably necessary for the safety and preservation of our liberties and privileges. That in the present state of public affairs, this convention is sensible, that the measures to be adopted by the continental congress, must depend much upon events which may happen to arise; and relying firmly upon the wisdom and integrity of their delegates, this province will, as far as is in their power, carry into execution such measures as shall be agreed on and recommended by the general congress.

Resolved, That it be recommended, that the sum of £. 600 be raised in the different counties of this province by subscription, under the direction of the several committees in the following proportion.

In St. Mary's county, £	36
Charles,	48
Calvert,	22
Prince George's,	50
Anne-Arundel,	52
Frederick,	80
Baltimore,	56
Harford,	28
Worcester,	22
Somerset,	32
Dorchester,	29
Caroline,	21
Talbot,	24
Queen-Anne's,	32
Kent,	34
Cecil,	24

And that the several sums to be raised on the western shore, be paid to Mr. Charles Wallace, of the city of Annapolis, and the several sums to be raised on the eastern shore, be paid to Mr. Thomas Ringgold of Chester-town, to defray the expences of the delegates at the ensuing continental congress.

Resolved, that it is recommended to all ranks and denominations of people, to use their utmost endeavours to preserve peace and good order throughout this province.

This convention deeply considering the distressed and perplexed situation of British America, the weakness of all human councils, and that the hearts of all men are in the disposal of the supreme being, do recommend, that the eleventh day of this instant may be observed throughout this province, as a day of fasting

and humiliation, and that the inhabitants of this province, on that day, in an especial manner, by prayer and supplication, humbly and devoutly implore the blessing, support, and protection of Almighty God, for the preservation of the rights and liberties of America; and the restoration of peace, union, and happiness to the British empire.

This convention taking into consideration, that the time proposed for the meeting of the next continental congress is near at hand, and that it is highly expedient that the delegates of this province should attend the said congress, as early in their session as may be, where the state of the city and colony of New-York, as well as the circumstances of the other colonies and provinces may be best known, and measures for the security of the city and colony of New-York, as well as the safety of all British America, be best concerted and provided for. And whereas it is now altogether uncertain when an answer may be received to the letter sent on Saturday last to the committee of correspondence in the city of Philadelphia, and it being necessary that the members of this convention should return to their respective counties; it is therefore resolved, that this Convention do now rise.---And it is recommended to such of the counties in this province, where it may be necessary, forthwith to make choice of deputies to represent them in a provincial convention, to be held in the city of Annapolis, on Monday the 22d of May, unless at earlier or later day should be appointed by the delegates of this province, or any three of them, appointed to attend the continental congress.

The following were received by return of the express by the Provincial Convention to the Committee of Correspondence for Philadelphia.

Gentlemen,
We have duly received your favour of the 18th inst. As the accounts from New-York were not handed to this committee through a channel that gave us the satisfaction we could wish; and as they were very important, we thought proper immediately to dispatch some of our members to that place, in order that they might, on the spot, learn the true situation of affairs there, and what the inhabitants of New-York expect from the southern colonies. On their return, or on the receipt of any certain intelligence, we shall immediately communicate the particulars to you.

In mean time we have to inform you, that upon the receipt of the late intelligence, this city and county immediately took the alarm, and are arming and forming with all possible expedition; and, by accounts from the other counties in this province, the same spirit prevails every where; and we hope, in a short time, we shall be in a condition to unite our efforts with the rest of the colonies.

Inclosed we send you a letter from Newport, Rhode-Island, which contains a particular account of the situation of affairs to the eastward, together with some important intelligence.

By order of the committee,
JOHN NIXON, chairman.
To Matthew Tilghman, Esq; chairman of the provincial convention of the province of Maryland, now sitting at Annapolis.

Newport, April 25, 1775.

YOU have, without doubt, before this time, heard of the bloody, savage massacre of a number of the inhabitants of Lexington, a town about 12 miles north-west from Boston, perpetrated by a detachment of about 1200 of the king's troops, and what ensued thereon. We inclose you two accounts which may be more particular than any you have yet received: The one was brought us by a gentleman who left Cambridge on Thursday last, in the forenoon, and is contained in the hand-bill; the other is in the news-paper. Since we received these accounts, we have been credibly informed, that the number of the king's troops, killed and taken, amounts to about 300, besides many were wounded and carried into Boston; the number of Americans to about 40 killed and wounded, and it is said about 4 or 5 taken prisoners. A large body of men, not less than 20,000, are assembled, at a small distance from Charles-Town to Roxbury; and their plan of operation will be unknown. By a gentleman of the committee of correspondence for the county of Providence, in this colony, who arrived here in the afternoon, we are informed, that the provincial congress of the Massachusetts-Bay, now sitting, have determined that a standing army of 30,000 men should be raised in the New-England colonies, expecting that the southern colonies will assist in furnishing monies for their support. That our people had taken possession of a hill on Dorchester-point, which commands general Gage's works on Boston-Neck, and that they had made entrenchments within gun-shot of those works at Roxbury. That two men of war had arrived at Boston, and brought the three generals that have been expected; and that 5,000 troops had embarked for that place when those men of war left England. There were not more than 100 Americans in a body, at any one time, during the action on Wednesday, and they acquitted themselves with such intrepidity as has convinced the king's officers, that Americans can and will fight. All communication between the town of Boston and the other parts of the colony being shut up, and things being in a state of confusion, renders it almost impossible to obtain any certain particular intelligence from that quarter. However, the foregoing account we think may be depended upon. We had hoped that the dispute between Great-Britain and these colonies would have been settled without bloodshed; but the parliament of Great-Britain, it seems, have determined to push their iniquitous unconstitutional measures by dint of arms. The civil war has been drawn by the king's troops, and settled in the bowels of our countrymen. May we see war liberty, soon present the sabard; and may we

means never be against a foreign has so remarkably can colonies, may by this unjustifi our countrymen; mented union of depends the salva liberty. I am, in pondance, for the and America's sing

To the comm of Philadelphia.

In committee, per capt. Whitman polis.

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1775

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county, M la, a negro man of age, about 6'6" and joiner; he w George's county, said his name was the persons that t may change his h on then was a wh blue coat; he ha also very fond of proceedings. W l may get him ag dollar, and it br by