

...convention promoted governor Eden's passage "to assist in their destruction, under a pretence of his retiring to England."

That this convention, and the council of safety for the time being, were the only proper and adequate judges of the propriety and expediency of suffering governor Eden to depart out of this province, and have proceeded in that matter upon evidence which was satisfactory to themselves, and to which the convention of Virginia were strangers.

That had the convention of Virginia been in possession of the evidence upon which the council of safety and this convention proceeded, they could not have been at a loss to account for the council of safety their declining to seize governor Eden, or for the convention having promoted his passage (not as is unjustly insinuated in the resolutions of the Virginia convention, to assist in their destruction, but really) to England, whither this convention had the best grounds to believe he would go by the first opportunity. Nor can the addresses alluded to in the said resolutions of the convention of Virginia, in the opinion of this convention, be considered as enabling, nor was it meant to enable, governor Eden to assume the character of a public agent; nor can this convention discover how the said governor would thereby be enabled to promote divisions and disunion among the colonies; but the same was presented as a testimony to the governor, of the sense this convention entertained of his fair and impartial representation of the principles, motives, and views, of the people of this colony, so far as the same had come to their knowledge.

That although this convention was sensible that, in the absence of the governor, the government in its old form, would devolve on the president of the council of state, and although such president should be under equal obligations with the governor to perform the ministerial mandates, yet was the convention fully satisfied that it would not be equally, if at all, in the power of the president to perform such mandates; and therefore this convention cannot but consider the imputing their proceedings "to some undue influence of governor Eden, under the mask of friendship to America, and of the proprietary interest in Maryland," as groundless and unjust; nor is this convention able to discover how their vote for the departure of governor Eden from this province could have any evil tendency to the common cause, or to Virginia in particular.

That as the convention of Virginia hath, by their said resolution, appealed to the good sense of this province against their convention, and their publication of the said resolve hath endeavoured to injure this convention in the good opinion of the United Colonies at large, it became the indispensable duty of this convention, though they are anxiously desirous to cultivate union and harmony with their sister colonies, thus to vindicate their proceedings and those of the council of safety, which this convention did approve of, against the groundless and unjust imputations contained in the said resolution of the convention of Virginia, and, conscious of the uprightness of their own intentions, and the rectitude of the measures they adopted, do wholly deny, and can cheerfully join in the appeal to their constituents, and to all men acquainted with the affairs of Maryland, against the charge of proprietary influence.

That the resolutions of this convention of this day, and the resolutions in answer to the resolve of the Virginia convention, be published in the Maryland Gazette.

Extracts from the minutes, G. DUVALL, clerk.

**IN CONVENTION, July 5, 1776.**

**RESOLVED**, That no ship-carpenter employed in building vessels for the service of the continent or this colony, shall be compelled to attend his duty in the militia, nor be liable to any fine for non-attendance, during the time of his being employed in such service.

**Resolved**, That the committees of observation in the several counties of this province forbear to require of any non-associator any bond, or further to proceed against any non-associator, for not giving bond according to the resolutions of December last, this convention having made more effectual provision for the public security.

**July 6, 1776.**

**Resolved**, That a bounty of one shilling, common money, be paid by the council of safety for every bushel of salt imported into this colony, and delivered above Point Lookout, before the first day of March next, and that the importer be allowed to sell the same at any price, not exceeding 75 cts. common money, per bushel.

**Resolved**, That the council of safety advertise the proposals given into this convention by Mr. Charles Wallace, and request any person who will contract for a large quantity of salt to deliver in their proposals by the 20th day of July next; and the council of safety are empowered to enter into a contract agreeable to any such proposals that may be given in, if they adjudge such proposals more for the advantage of the public; but if no better terms should be offered by the said day, then the council of safety are empowered to close with the said proposals of Charles Wallace.

**Proposals to the Convention by Charles Wallace.**

That in case the convention will advance £. 5000, a company will be formed who will undertake to deliver 100,000 bushels of salt annually for four years to the public, on Pocomoke river, at or below now-Hill, at 5 s. per bushel. In case the trade should be open so as to make the continuance of the contract unnecessary, or from any other cause, the public should chosse to discontinue the contract, or if the work that may be erected should be destroyed by the enemy, the whole of the money actually expended, if discontinued or destroyed within the first year, to be lost to the public; three-fourths if discontinued or destroyed at the end of the first year; one-half if at the end of the second year; and one fourth if at the end of the third year. But if the contract continues the whole four years, and the works are not so destroyed, then the £. 5000 pounds to be repaid without interest. The first year to begin the 1st of December next, and the deliveries, if thought necessary, to be in not less than equal proportions each month.

Extracts from the minutes, G. DUVALL, clerk.

**IN COUNCIL of SAFETY, July 9, 1776.**

**ORDERED**, That the resolve of convention regulating the rank of officers in the flying camp be immediately published in the Maryland Gazette, Dunlap's Baltimore Journal, and the Pennsylvania papers; and also that two hundred copies be struck off in hand-bills, and distributed through the province.

By order, R. RIDGELY, assist. clk.

**IN CONVENTION, 25th June, 1776.**

**RESOLVED**, That for ascertaining the rank of the captains, lieutenants, and ensigns of the said companies, commissions shall issue by the convention or council of safety, and be dated of the day such captain, lieutenant, or ensign shall have enrolled the number of men expressed in his warrant; and rank between officers of equal degree shall take place according to such date, but where there shall be enrollments completed on the same day, by officers of the same degree, the rank shall be settled by ballot between such officers, and the commissions marked accordingly.

Extract from the minutes, G. DUVALL, clerk.

**IN COUNCIL of SAFETY, July 9.**

**WANTED** immediately, for the use of the province, three thousand four hundred canteens, or wooden bottles, to hold one quart each; three thousand four hundred knapacks with hayrecks; three thousand four hundred priming wires and brushes; and five hundred small iron pots, or kettles, to answer the purpose of camp-kettles. Any person or persons willing to contract for supplying the same, are desired to send their proposals to the council of safety as soon as possible.

**July 10, 1776.**

**WANTED** immediately a number of labourers. Persons applying to the commanding officer of the artillery at Annapolis for that purpose, will meet with encouragement.

**WANTED** immediately, for the service of the province, an armourer. Any person of skill in that business, by applying to the council of safety, will meet with encouragement.

By order, R. RIDGELY, assist. clerk.

**Upper district of Frederick county, June 29, 1776.**

**WHEREAS** legislative, executive and judicial powers, in this province, are at present exercised by the same body of men, the administration of justice confused and unfixed, places of the most important trust held by persons disaffected to the common cause of America, the transactions of the Convention carried on in a secret manner and such parts only published as they may think proper, the recommendations of the honourable Continental Congress unregarded and propositions of the utmost importance determined without consulting the people, and an adulatory address presented governor Eden supplicating his interposition with a people that has hitherto treated our just petitions with the greatest contempt-- all which matters have very much alarmed the good people of this district, and filled their minds with just concern for the best and welfare of this province in particular and the United Colonies in general, and induced them to publish the following resolutions entered into by the two battalions of this district and many other respectable inhabitants thereof, on the 28th and 29th of June, 1776, and which are as follows:

**RESOLVED unanimously**, That the present mode of government in this province is incompetent to the exigencies thereof, and dangerous to our liberties.

**RESOLVED unanimously**, That we are of opinion, that the present Convention ought to be immediately dissolved, and a new one elected for the express purpose of carrying the resolves of the Continental Congress of the 15th of May into execution.

**RESOLVED unanimously**, That we will support the union of the colonies with our lives and fortunes.

**Mr. GREEN,**

A REPORT having been circulated through different parts of this province, that a letter of mine, to Hugh Hamersley, Esq; by Mr. Robert Buchanan, and opened at Philadelphia by col. M'Kean, chairman of the committee of inspection of that city, contained sentiments different from those I had openly avowed. To remove every impression that such malicious reports may have made, and to prevent their further circulation, you will be pleased to give the enclosed copy of the letter referred to, with the annexed certificate, a place in your paper, and thereby oblige

Your humble servant, DAN. OF ST. THO. JENIFER.

**DEAR SIR,**

**HEREWITH** you will receive my agency accounts from the 29th of Sept. 1773, to the 29th of Sept. 1774; also second sets of bills for £. 822 14 2 and £. 233 2 9.

The money that I lodged in your hands must be carried to the proprietary accounts. I have charged him and his guardians with it, in consequence of my letter to you on that subject.

The official charge exhibited against me (from lord Suffolk's office I presume) does not desire an answer; however, as you seem to be under an apprehension that the proprietary interest may suffer from the part I have acted, you have a copy of a letter from governor Eden to me, wherein you will perceive that some of the charges are refuted, and the others accounted for. You know that I have openly and avowedly opposed the parliamentary right of altering charters and levying money in America without the consent of its inhabitants; but I have nevertheless done every thing in my power to

\* Abstract of a letter from H. Hamersley, July 30, 1775. "Little would be my pretensions to the friendship and regard I profess, was I to conceal the information given to the guardians, not from the governor or his adherents, but officially here; that you are at present one of the warmest patriots in the province; that general Lee (who is considered as in actual rebellion) was lodged and lived with you in his late visit to Maryland; that you voted for the delegates to the congress, and went to Philadelphia to attend their motions." In the present critical situation of American charters, I wish you would enable me to refute the charge.

prevent the dissolution of the old government, and keep things together as much as possible, hoping thereby to have been instrumental in bringing about a reconciliation, but I fear the ministry, by the late acts of parliament, have rendered it very difficult now to be accomplished. Though I confess that it is so much the interest of both countries to be united, that I am not entirely destitute of hope that it may yet be brought about.---If this is not effected, both countries will be ruined.

Capt. Squire, in the Otter sloop, with two tenders, lately invaded this province, took several vessels, and burnt one off this city. Our misfortunes were afflicting enough before; but to add insult to them required great fortitude to bear.

I am, with great truth, dear Sir, Your affectionate friend, And obedient humble servant, DAN. OF ST. THO. JENIFER.

Your letter of the 3d of September was the last that I received from you.

**Philadelphia, 3d Mey, 1776.**

AT the request of Mr. Jenifer, I went with him to Mr. M'Kean, chairman of the committee of inspection of this city, to enquire for a packet directed to Hugh Hamersley, Esq; Spring-Gardens, Westminster, under the care of Mr. Robert Buchanan, which the committee had taken into their possession, for inspection. Mr. M'Kean informed Mr. Jenifer, that the packet was opened by him in the presence of several members of committee, in which was a letter to Mr. Hamersley; that he read said letter, and then sealed it with his own seal, and that no other person read the said letter.---Mr. Jenifer then said that he would have wrote a line on the back of the packet, directing it to be sealed again and forwarded, if he had expected that it would have been opened, as it contained nothing that could give offence.---Upon which Mr. M'Kean assured Mr. Jenifer, that there was nothing in the letter that would not do him honour any where.

At Mr. Jenifer's request I opened the above mentioned packet and letter to Mr. Hamersley; and certify that the above is a true copy, taken by me, JOHN CADWALLADAR.

**Cecil county, Maryland.**

**I TAKE** this method of informing the public, that whereas I am impeached of having an intention to bribe or buy the interest and favour of general Johnson, in procuring me a commission in the flying camp, among those troops to be raised in Maryland by the honourable Convention; by reason of my inclosing in a letter a seven dollar bill, which I sent to general Johnson by the hands of colonel John D. Thompson. The letter I sent I confess was to solicit his interest and favour in Convention, and that I inclosed in said letter a seven dollar bill is a truth; but I do in the strongest terms deny that I intended or even thought of applying it to any such purpose, but as a fee or reward which I had promised him by the hands of one of the Convention from Cecil, for services I expected he would do for me as an attorney in the land-office (now kept at Upper Marlborough) on his way from Frederick-town to the Convention, to be held in Annapolis on Thursday the 20th of June. This business I was in hopes to have concluded in consequence of a letter dated the 17th of June, which I sent by the hands of a young gentleman from Annapolis, who I believe called himself Jams, who promised me to deliver it into general Johnson's hands the next day; I therefore have thought proper to print both the letters, the one I wrote the gentleman to Frederick, and the one I wrote to him to the Convention, in which was inclosed the aforesaid bill; by which I do conceive the impartial public will perceive, whether the bill was intended to be applied as a fee or reward for the general's serving me at Marlborough, or as a bribe to procure me a commission in the camp. I do readily grant, that as the general had not received my letter directed to him in Frederick before he had received the one I sent to him in Convention, he could not construe the meaning of the bill, being sent to him as a fee, not knowing the contents of said letter.

I think I should be weak and underserving of the good opinion many of my friends and acquaintances have of me, if I should attempt to bribe such a man as general Johnson with a seven dollar bill; but after the public has read both letters, viz. the one I directed to general Johnson at Frederick, and the one I sent to him to Convention, I hope they will be capable of judging for themselves.---See the letters.

To brigadier-general THOMAS JOHNSON, at Frederick-Town.

**S I R,**

**I BEG** leave to inform you that, in the year 1774, I echeated a piece of land in Cecil county, at the head of Bohemia; the time for paying the caution for the said land and improvement thereon is now nearly or almost expired; there was a caveat entered against my obtaining a patent on the echeat; the removal of Mr. Stuart, one of the judges of the land office, has prevented my having a trial in the land-office. The times being critical and also expired with respect to my echeat, I applied to major Jenifer, and he gave me a note from under his hand, and desired me to have it filed with the certificate I had already returned, to prevent any person from taking out a warrant to operate against me until these times of trouble should cease.---I his note I have by Mr. Scott, a gentleman from Frederick, who promised to deliver it to st. Feal, the clerk; but, left the filing of this note in the office should need the inspection and direction of some gentleman acquainted with the law, and lest any mistake should hereafter appear, I therefore, by this opportunity, beg you'd call at the land office, in your way down to convention, and there direct every matter respecting the securing the land from a warrant operating against me, and a proper disposing and filing the note from major Jenifer. You may rely on me, Sir, that I will send you a satisfactory fee for the trouble you may take for me, by the hands of one of the delegates to convention from Cecil county.

I am, with much respect, Sir, Your very humble servant, RICHARD ELLIS.

**The letter sent to general JOHNSON, to convention.**

**S I R,**

**I TAKE** the freedom of troubling you with this short epistle, by which I would mind you of a letter