

Last Monday a ship of war, with a transport or two, arrived at Gwyn's island, where it is thought they have landed between 2 and 300 troops, from the number of tents which have been erected.

## ANNAPOLIS, July 11.

Yesterday evening six companies of the first battalion of Maryland troops stationed in this city, and commanded by col. William Smallwood, embarked for the head of Elk in high spirits, and three companies of the same battalion stationed in Baltimore-town, embarked yesterday morning for the same place, from thence they are to proceed to Philadelphia.

*Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, dated July 6, 1776, Saturday morning.*

"General Howe has landed a great body of troops on Staten-Island: His force cannot be ascertained. Gen. Washington and his troops are in high spirits: The strength of our army at New-York cannot be ascertained, the militia pour in so fast that it is impracticable. The Jersey militia, amounting to 3500, have acquired great honour in forming and marching with such alacrity and expedition. They have for some time past got over to New-York. The battalions of this city (every one of them) are marching to Trenton and Brunswick, in the Jerseys: The rifle battalion, in the pay of this province, marched yesterday for the same places. The militia in the counties are also ordered to march: Out of these bodies they mean to form their quota of the flying camp, to be posted in the Jerseys, and to be at the command of general Washington. It is expected that the Lower Counties and Maryland will immediately march their quotas of militia, to compose the flying camp to this city, to defend it in the absence of its own battalions.

"Your hour of trial is come, your plighted faith, your public honour, the love of your country, and its dearest liberties, in this moment of imminent danger, demand that you instantly fly to the assistance of a sister colony.

*Saturday noon,*

"An express is just arrived from gen. Washington. Howe's army consists of 10,000 men: Admiral Howe is not yet arrived but hourly expected with 150 sail, having on board 20,000 troops: The enemy's grand army will consist of 30,000. The whole militia of this province are ordered to the Jerseys. We are in anxious expectation to hear from Maryland, nor can we for a moment entertain a doubt, that our brethren will desert us in the day of our distress. The farmers here have left their harvest, and cast away the scythe for the musket. I should rejoice to hear you have imitated so laudable, so glorious an example."

*In CONGRESS, Philadelphia, July 4, 1776.*

A DECLARATION by the representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in general congress assembled.

WHEN in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their emigrations hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments:

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is, at this time, transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction, of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an un-warrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must therefore acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in general congress assembled, appealing to the supreme judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour.

*Signed by order and in behalf of the congress,*

JOHN HANCOCK, president.

*Attest,*

CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

*In CONVENTION, Annapolis, 4th July, 1776.*

WHEREAS the United Colonies have been reduced to the fatal necessity of taking up arms in defence of their indubitable and inestimable rights and liberties: And whereas several of the inhabitants of this colony, lost to every generous sentiment of liberty, and of love to their country and posterity, have kept up a traiterous correspondence with, and supplied the British troops and navy with provisions, and some of them have joined in arms, and others have acted as pilots on board the enemies ships and vessels, whereby the safety and liberties of this and our sister colonies may be endangered,

Therefore RESOLVED, That if any inhabitant of this colony shall, after the fifth day of August next, within or without this colony, or any person whatever, being an inhabitant of any other of the United Colonies, shall within this colony, after the said fifth day of August next, levy war against the United Colonies, or any of them, or shall adhere to any person or persons bearing arms or employed in the service of Great-Britain against the United Colonies, or any of them; or shall afford such persons, or any of them, any aid or comfort, or shall give them, or any of them, or any subject of Great-Britain, any intelligence of the warlike preparations or designs of the United Colonies, or any of them, such person, on conviction thereof by a petit jury, after a presentment by a grand jury, in a court to be erected in this colony, by the next convention, for the trial of such offenders, shall suffer death without benefit of clergy, and forfeit all the estate which he had at

the time of the commission of the crime, to be applied to the use of this colony, unless such convicted person shall be pardoned by the person or persons invested with the power of granting pardons for such offences.

Resolved, That the several offences aforesaid shall receive the same constructions that have been given by the judges in England to such of the said offences as are enumerated in the statute of Edward the Third, commonly called the statute of treasons.

Resolved, That if any inhabitants of this colony shall, after the fifth day of August next, within or without this colony, or any person whatsoever, shall within this colony, after the said fifth day of August next, forge or counterfeit any of the bills of credit issued by the congress, by the assembly, or convention, of any of the United Colonies, or by any of the conventions of this colony, or alter the sum expressed in any of the said bills of credit, or shall offer, or cause to be offered, in payment, any such counterfeit, forged, or altered bill of credit, knowing the same to be counterfeit, forged or altered, and shall be thereof convicted by a petit jury, after a presentment by a grand jury, in a court to be erected in this colony, by the next convention, or shall stand mute, or peremptorily challenge above the number of twenty of the panel, shall suffer death as a felon, without benefit of clergy.

*July 6.*

## A DECLARATION OF THE DELEGATES OF MARYLAND.

TO be exempted from parliamentary taxation, and to regulate their internal government and polity, the people of this colony have ever considered as their inherent and unalienable right: Without the former, they can have no property; without the latter, no security for their lives or liberties.

The parliament of Great Britain has of late claimed an uncontrollable right of binding these colonies in all cases whatsoever: To enforce an unconditional submission to this claim, the legislative and executive powers of that state have invariably pursued, for these ten years past, a studied system of oppression, by passing many impolitic, severe and cruel acts, for raising a revenue from the colonies; by depriving them, in many cases, of the trial by jury, by altering the chartered constitution of one colony, and the entire stoppage of the trade of its capital; by cutting off all intercourse between the colonies; by restraining them from fishing on their own coasts; by extending the limits of an erecting an arbitrary government in the province of Quebec; by confiscating the property of the colonists taken on the seas, and compelling the crews of their vessels, under the pain of death, to act against their native country and dearest friends, by declaring all seizures, detention, or destruction of the persons, or property of the colonists to be legal and just.

A war unjustly commenced hath been prosecuted against the United Colonies with cruelty, outrageous violence, and perfidy; slaves, savages, and foreign mercenaries have been meanly hired to rob a people of their property, liberties, and lives; a people guilty of no other crime than deeming the last of no estimation without the secure enjoyment of the former: Their humble and dutiful petitions for peace, liberty, and safety have been rejected with scorn; secure of and relying on foreign aid, not on his national forces, the unfeeling monarch of Britain, in answer to the city of London, his determined and inexorable resolution of reducing these colonies to abject slavery.

Compelled by dire necessity, either to surrender our properties, liberties and lives, into the hands of a British king and parliament, or to use such means as will most probably secure to us and our posterity those invaluable blessings,

We, the DELEGATES of MARYLAND, in convention assembled, do declare, that the king of Great-Britain has violated his compact with this people, and that they owe no allegiance to him: We have therefore thought it just and necessary to empower our deputies in congress to join with a majority of the United Colonies in declaring them free and independent states, in framing such farther confederation between them, in making foreign alliances, and in adopting such other measures as shall be judged necessary for the preservation of their liberties; provided the sole and exclusive rights of regulating the internal polity and government of this colony be reserved to the people thereof. We have also thought proper to call a new convention, for the purpose of establishing a government in this colony ---No ambitious views, no desire of independence, induced the people of Maryland to form an union with the other colonies.---To procure an exemption from parliamentary taxation, and to continue to the legislature of these colonies the sole and exclusive right of regulating their internal polity, was our original and only motive. To maintain inviolate our liberties, and to transmit them unimpaired to posterity, was our duty and first wish; our next, to continue connected with, and dependent on Great-Britain. For the truth of these assertions, we appeal to that Almighty Being who is emphatically styled the Searcher of hearts, and whose omniscience nothing is concealed. Relying on his divine protection and assistance, and trusting to the justice of our cause, we exhort and conjure every virtuous citizen to join cordially in defence of our common rights, and in maintenance of the freedom of this and her sister colonies.

This Convention, taking into consideration the RESOLUTIONS of the CONVENTION of VIRGINIA, of Friday the 31st day of May last, relative to the proceedings of this convention in May, respecting the case of governor EDEN, came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this convention cannot but be of opinion, that the said resolutions of the convention of Virginia were not only hasty, and made without a due and proper reflection, but betray a disposition to interfere in the affairs of this colony, and that those resolutions might have proved highly injurious to the general interest of America, by intusing groundless jealousies, and effecting fatal divisions.

That this convention never intermeddled, nor was disposed to interfere, with the affairs of Virginia, but hath at all times shewn a due and proper respect to the convention of that colony, and on all occasions must have evinced their sincere and tender regard for the people thereof; and this convention cannot be of opinion that the convention of Virginia could believe, that