

62 PROCEEDINGS of the CONVENTION.

The Convention took into consideration the king's speech to parliament on the 27th day of October last, and after some time spent therein,

RESOLVED unanimously, That the following declaration be entered on their journals:

WE the delegates of the freemen of Maryland in Convention, affected with the deepest concern by the opinion declared in the king's speech to parliament on the 27th day of October last, and expressed in the address of the lords spiritual and temporal to his majesty in answer thereto, that the necessary preparations for defence made by these colonies, are carried on for the purpose of establishing an independent empire, and being desirous to remove from the mind of the king, an opinion which we feel to be highly injurious to the people of this province, and to declare and manifest to his majesty, to the parliament, the people of Great-Britain, and to the whole world, the rectitude and purity of our intentions in the present opposition to the measures of the British ministry and parliament, do declare,

That the people of this province, strongly attached to the English constitution, and truly sensible of the blessings they have derived from it, warmly impressed with sentiments of affection for, and loyalty to, the house of Hanover, connected with the British nation by the ties of blood and interest, and being thoroughly convinced, that to be free subjects of the king of Great-Britain, with all its consequences, is to be the freest members of any civil society in the known world, never did, nor do entertain any views or desires of independency.

That as they consider their union with the mother-country upon terms that may insure to them a permanent freedom, as their highest felicity, so would they view the fatal necessity of separating from her, as a misfortune next to the greatest that can befall them.

Descended from Britons, intitled to the privileges of Englishmen, and inheriting the spirit of their ancestors, they have seen with the most extreme anxiety the attempts of parliament to deprive them of those privileges, by raising a revenue upon them, and assuming a power to alter the charters, constitutions, and internal polity of the colonies, without their consent. The endeavours of the British ministry to carry those attempts into execution by military force, have been their only motive for taking up arms, and defend themselves against those endeavours is the only use they mean to make of them. Intitled to freedom, they are determined to maintain it at the hazard of their lives and fortunes.

ORDERED, That James Hollyday, Charles Carroll, of Carrolton, and Gustavus Scott, Esqrs. revise the journal and proceedings of this Convention, and direct what parts thereof shall be published.

Convention adjourns till the second Tuesday in April next, to sit at this place, but the Council of Safety may convene the Convention at any other time or place, if they shall judge it necessary.

Signed by order of the Convention,

GABRIEL DUVALL, Clk.

