

by the province to raise £. 866, for the purchase of arms and ammunition. Every man then in the county is bound to contribute in some proportion to the property which he holds, and the more his property is worth, the more he ought to pay for the security of it. But there are a few among you (I rejoice but a few), who, in this time of public danger and calamity, separate themselves from their country, and though blessed with very ample fortunes, refuse, or decline, to contribute any part thereof, to the support of the public cause, or to unite in defence of our common rights and liberties.---Our convention in June recommended contributions for the support of our distressed brethren in Boston; not one farthing was given by the same gentlemen; a congress was deemed proper to collect the sense of the same persons did not contribute to the support of your delegates: the congress advised the colonies to arm in defence of their liberties; your late convention *unanimously* recommended a militia, and subscriptions to raise money for the purchase of arms and ammunition; the same men, persevering in the same line of conduct, have declined to comply with either of the requisitions; they withdraw their persons and their fortunes from the service of their country: but they are as much interested, and have as deep a stake to lose as any other men in the province; they, and their posterity are to enjoy, with you, all advantages arising from the success of the present contest with Great-Britain; they must be involved with you in all the consequences of a slavish subjection; liberty procured by you will be equally enjoyed by them; slavery fixed on you will be equally intailed on them and their posterity.---If such indeed was their situation, it would be difficult to account for their conduct.--In truth, if America succeeds, they will be benefitted as much as any men in the province, without contributing any part of their property, without any risque of forfeitures, and with safety to their persons; their present behaviour may entitle them to the protection of the ministry. If we fail, they will possess their estates, and enjoy their offices; promotion may reward their present conduct, and their resentment may be gratified by seeing some of your best and firmest friends, executed as rebels and traitors.---Such is the double, crafty, and, in their opinion, secure game played by some few among you. Place, therefore, no confidence in such men, view them as foes to the rights of British America, let their names be published to the world, that they may be universally contemned, as the enemies of American liberty; let them be the object of your contempt, but let them not feel the force of your resentment.

I cannot conclude without, once more earnestly requesting a full meeting of the county: numbers will command respect, and give weight to your resolutions.

AN AMERICAN.



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