

c. J.² Whereas his Majesty's most faithful subjects in these Colonies are reduced to a dangerous and critical situation, by the attempts of the British Ministry, to carry into execution by force of arms several unconstitutional and oppressive Acts of the British Parliament for laying taxes in America, to enforce the collection of these Taxes, and for altering and changing the constitution and internal police of some of these Colonies, in violation of the natural and civil rights of the Colonies.

And whereas hostilities have been actually commenced in the Massachusetts Bay, by the British troops under the command of General Gage, and the lives of a number of the inhabitants of that Colony destroyed: The Town of Boston not only having been long occupied as a Garrisoned Town, in an Enemys Country, but the inhabitants thereof treated with a severity and cruelty not to be justified even towards declared enemies. And whereas large reinforcements have been ordered, and are soon expected, for the declared purpose of compelling these Colonies to submit to the operation of the said Acts, which hath rendered it necessary and an indispensable duty, for the express purpose of securing and defending these Colonies, and preserving them in Safety against all attempts to carry the said Acts into execution. That an armed force be raised sufficient to defeat such hostile designs, and preserve and defend, the lives, liberties and immunities of the Colonists, for the due regulating and well ordering of which— Resolved, That the following Rules and Orders be attended to and observed by such forces as are or may hereafter be raised for the purpose aforesaid.

Article 1: That every Officer who shall be retained, and every Soldier who shall serve in the Continental Army, shall at the time of his acceptance of his commission or enlistment, subscribe these rules and regulations, and that the Officers and Soldiers already of that Army, shall also as soon as may be, subscribe the same, from the time of which subscription every Officer and Soldier shall be bound by these regulations. But if any of the Officers or Soldiers, now of the said Army do not subscribe these rules and regulations, then they may be retained in the said Army, subject to the rules and regulations under which they entered into the service, or be discharged from the Service at the option of the Commander in Chief.

Art. 2. It is earnestly recommended to all Officers and Soldiers diligently to attend divine Service; and all Officers and Soldiers who shall behave indecently or irreverently at any place of divine worship, shall if Commissioned Officers, be brought before a Court Martial, there to be publicly and severely reprimanded by the President; if non-commissioned Officers or Soldiers, every person so offending, shall for his