

read, the convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider of the same ; Mr. Plater in the chair. After some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. Plater reported, that the committee according to order, had taken under their consideration the late intercepted letters to governor Eden, the proceedings of the continental congress, and of the council of safety, thereupon, but not being able to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this convention will to morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole to consider further of the said letters and proceedings.

Convention adjourns till to morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, May 15, 1776.

Convention met. All members present as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.

On reading a letter from captain John Allen Thomas of the fifth independent company of regular troops, *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the conduct of Mr. Robert Cummins, and the reason why he has not supplied the troops with rations as regulated at the last convention, agreeable to his contract with the council of safety : and Mr. Scott, Mr. Hooe, Mr. Plater, Mr. Hooper, and Mr. Barnes, were elected by ballot a committee for that purpose.

Whereas, it is necessary that the peace and good order of the province should be maintained as much as possible, and it appearing to this convention that sundry officers appointed for that purpose have refused to take upon them the respective trusts to which they have been appointed, alleging scruples to take the usual oaths to the government during the unhappy differences with Great Britain,

Resolved, That the said oaths be dispensed with during the said differences, and that the persons already appointed, or who may hereafter be appointed, do qualify themselves for their trusts, by taking the respective oaths of office to which they are or may be appointed ; and all persons concerned, either in administering or taking the said oath of office, independent of the said oaths to the government, may rest assured that proper care shall be taken, upon the settlement of those differences, an event we most ardently wish for, to indemnify them against any penalties directed by any laws to be inflicted on persons acting as aforesaid, without having first taken said oaths.

Ordered, That captain John Bonnett's company of militia in the upper district of Frederick county, be assigned a company of