

for and in behalf of the people ; or were appointed by conventions of the people, called expressly for that purpose ; or by committees duly authorized by the people to make those appointments. I refer gentlemen to Curtis' Constitution, vol. 1, page 8, and also to the Conventions of Maryland. By reference to the proceedings of the Conventions of Maryland, 1774, '75 and '76, at pages 3, 4, 5, and 6, gentlemen will find the language used by the people of Maryland, assembled in convention to frame a revolutionary government prior to 1776. They say : "At a meeting of the committees appointed by the several counties of the province of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis, the 22d day of June, 1774," &c., and then goes on to say :

"It being moved from the Chair to ascertain the manner of dividing on questions, it was agreed, that on any division each county have one vote ; and that all questions be determined by a majority of counties.

"The letters and vote of the town of Boston, several letters and papers from Philadelphia and Virginia, the act of Parliament for blocking up the port and harbor of Boston, the bill depending in Parliament subversive of the charter of Massachusetts Bay, and that enabling the Governor to send supposed offenders from thence to another colony, or England for trial, were read, and after mature deliberation thereon,

"Resolved, That the said act of Parliament, and bills, if passed into acts, are cruel and oppressive invasions of the natural rights of the people of Massachusetts Bay as men, and of their constitutional rights as English subjects," &c.

And then on page 4 :

"Resolved, Notwithstanding the people of this province will have many inconveniences and difficulties to encounter, by breaking off their commercial intercourse with the mother country, and are deeply affected at the distress which will be thereby necessarily brought on many of their fellow-subjects in Great Britain, yet their affection and regard to an injured sister colony, *their duty to themselves, their posterity, and their country,* demand the sacrifice,—and therefore this province will join in an association with the other principal and neighboring colonies, to stop all exportations to, and importations from, Great Britain, until the said acts, and bills if joined with acts, be repealed," &c.

On page 6, at a provincial meeting of *deputies*, held at Annapolis, on the 21st of November, 1774, is the following :

"The *delegates* appointed to represent this province at the late Continental Congress laid the proceedings of the Congress before this meeting, which being read and considered, were unanimously approved of ; and thereupon it is

"Resolved, That every member of this meeting will, and every person in the province

ought, strictly and inviolably to observe, and carry into execution the association agreed on by the said Continental Congress."

The first Congress met on the 5th of September, 1774 ; and it is a very significant fact that they styled themselves "delegates appointed"—not by the colonies as colonies ; not by the States, because the States had not then been formed—but "by the good people of these colonies." On the 10th of May, 1775, the second Congress met, and it will appear by reference to the proceedings of that Congress that the delegates to that body were appointed in the same way, "by the people," and by reference to page 14, of the Conventions of Maryland, will be found the following :

"Resolved, That this Convention do now rise ; and it is recommended to such of the *counties* of this province, where it may be necessary forthwith to *make choice of deputies to represent them* in a provincial Convention to be held in the city of Annapolis, on Monday, the 22d of May, unless an earlier or later day be appointed by the delegates of this province, or any three of them, appointed to attend the Continental Congress."

Then follow two communications "received by return of the express sent by the Provincial Convention to the Committee of Correspondence for Philadelphia."

On the 26th of July, 1775, was formed the "Association of the Freemen of Maryland ;" a document which shows at once that the colonies not only acted as *United Colonies*, for and on behalf of the *whole inhabitants* of the colonies ; but it will be also seen how a Committee of Observation for each county was formed for the purpose of carrying into effect the articles of association. The articles of that association will be found at page 18. I read a part of them.

"And as in these times of public danger, and until a reconciliation with Great Britain, on constitutional principles, is effected, (an event we most ardently wish may soon take place,) the energy of government may be greatly impaired, so that even zeal unrestrained may be productive of anarchy and confusion ; we do, in like manner unite, associate and solemnly engage, in maintenance of good order, and the public peace, to support the civil power in the due execution of the laws, so far as may be consistent with the present plan of operations ; and to defend, with our utmost power, all persons from every species of outrage to themselves or their property, and to prevent any punishment from being inflicted on any offenders, other than such as shall be adjudged by the civil magistrate, the Continental Congress, our Convention, Council of Safety, or Committee of Observation."

"And we do unite and associate as one band, and firmly and solemnly engage and pledge ourselves to each other, and to America, that we will, to the utmost of our power