

tion which the colonists made about this time, England withdrew her pretensions for a season, but soon after renewed them in another form.

To oppose this renewed attack another colonial Congress was assembled at Philadelphia, who on the 14th of October, 1774, agreed to and published, "a declaration and vindication of the rights and liberties of the English colonies in North America." This second colonial Congress is universally acknowledged to have been one of the most enlightened, illustrious, and patriotic bodies of men ever convened in any age or nation. Upon the subject of *judicial independency* their language is strong and unequivocal. After enumerating the several acts of Parliament by which the jurisdiction of the colonial tribunals was superseded; and that of the *subservient vice-admiralty*, and other courts substituted in its place, among other causes of complaint, this Congress thus conclude their Declaration of Rights: "To these grievous acts and measures *Americans cannot submit*, but in hopes their fellow subjects in Great Britain will, on a revision of them, restore us to that state in which both countries found happiness and prosperity, we have, for the present, only resolved to pursue the following peaceable measures. 1. To enter into a non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation agreement or association. 2. To prepare an address to the people of Great Britain, and a memorial to the inhabitants of British America. And 3. To prepare a loyal address to his majesty; agreeable to resolutions already entered into." In their address to the king, prepared and published in pursuance of this resolution, they complain, among other things, that "the judges of admiralty and vice-admiralty courts are empowered *to receive their salaries and fees from the effects condemned by themselves.*" And, in the same address, they further complain, that "*the judges of courts of common law have been made entirely dependent on one part of the legislature for their salaries, as well as for the duration of their commissions.*"(g)

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(g) The Journals of Congress, 14th October, 1774.

HASTINGS v. PLATER.—This bill was filed on the 13th of February 1735, by Samuel Hastings, Samuel Minskie, and John Evitt, against Benjamin Tasker, George Plater, and Onorio Rozolini, executors of Rebecca Calvert deceased, who was administratrix of Charles Calvert deceased. The bill states, that the late Richard Smith, in his lifetime formed a plan for causing a ship to be built by subscription in the city of Annapolis, in which each subscriber was to hold a share in proportion to the sum by him subscribed; that, having obtained from several persons subscriptions to a