

CHAPTER VI.

FEDERAL DELEGATION.

It becomes a public spirited people not only to be acquainted with the measures, but to cherish the memory of the most deserving of her citizens and statesmen. With this view, the names of the representatives of this state, in the first councils of the nation, so far as our present materials furnish them, are recorded.

The **FIRST AMERICAN CONGRESS** met at **N. York**, in **October 1765**, in consequence of a circular letter addressed to the speakers of the legislatures of the other provinces, by the speaker of the house of representatives of **Massachusetts**. The number of delegates assembled was **twenty-eight**. **Virginia**, **Georgia**, and **North Carolina** were prevented by their governors, from sending deputies. **New Hampshire** declined sending. **Maryland** was represented by

WILLIAM MURDOCH, **MATHEW TILGHMAN**, and **THOMAS RINGGOLD**, Esqrs.

This congress was familiarly called the *stamp act congress*, and was convened for the purpose of systematising the opposition of the colonies to that and other arbitrary measures of the British government. Besides a spirited remonstrance to the crown, a **DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE COLONIES**, was drawn up, adopted and published by this con-