

gress, in which was asserted the true principles upon which depends political freedom.

When information of the Boston port bill first reached Virginia, May 1774, the legislature being in session, adopted resolutions expressive of their keen sense of the outrage upon American rights. The governor, noticing the tendency of their measures, instantly dissolved the session; but before their separation, eighty of the members signed an association, declaring that an attack on one colony to compel submission to arbitrary taxes, is an attack on all British America, and threatens ruin to the rights of all, unless the united wisdom of the whole be applied in prevention. They therefore recommended to the committee of correspondence, to communicate with the several committees of the other provinces, on the expediency of appointing deputies from the different colonies, to meet *annually* in general congress, and deliberate on those general measures, which the united interests of America might from time to time render necessary. This measure had already been proposed in town meetings in New York and Boston.

The colonies, from New Hampshire to South Carolina, inclusive, adopted this measure, and where the legislatures were not in session, the people either elected delegates, or elected a committee to make such election for them.

In Maryland, the elections were made by