

do authorise our said delegates, to represent and act for this province, in any one congress, to be held by virtue of such adjournment.

Signed by order,

JOHN DUCKET, Clerk.

The congress met at Philadelphia, accordingly, in May, 1775. Delegates attended for the first time, from all the thirteen colonies. On the 6th of July, of that year, they agreed to, and published the memorable "declaration, setting forth the causes and necessity of the taking up arms," in which they state; that being "reduced to the alternative of choosing an unconditional submission to the tyranny of irritated ministers, or resistance by force—THE LATTER IS OUR CHOICE. WE HAVE COUNTED THE COST OF THIS CONTEST, AND FIND NOTHING SO DREADFUL AS VOLUNTARY SLAVERY"—making the last appeal to the *Sovereign of the universe*, they declare their determination—"TO DIE FREEMEN RATHER THAN LIVE SLAVES."

This congress continued in session until the 1st of August, when they adjourned to meet again on the 5th of September, ensuing.

The delegates from the several counties of Maryland, held a session at Annapolis, which continued from day to day, from the 26th July, until the 14th August, 1775, and which

*Resolved*, That the honorable Matthew Tilghman, esq. Thomas Johnson, jr. Rob-