

On the 15th February, 1776, congress,

*Resolved*, That a committee of three (two of whom to be members of congress) be appointed to repair to Canada, there to pursue such instructions as shall be given them by congress:

"The members chosen, Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Mr. S. Chase, and Mr. C. Carroll, of Carrollton,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Carroll be requested to prevail on Mr. John Carroll to accompany the committee to Canada, to assist them in such matters as they shall think useful:

"That this congress will make provision to defray any expenses which may attend this measure."

This mission being a matter of extreme delicacy, as well as of great interest, the instructions to be given to the committee, seem to have required profound deliberation. Congress was occupied from time to time, from the above period until the 20th March, ensuing, before those instructions were definitely arranged and agreed upon. On the 23d of the same month, a vote giving the following comprehensive powers to this delegation, passed congress.

*Resolved*, That the commissioners appointed to go to Canada, or any two of them, be empowered, if they think it necessary for the service of the united colonies, to raise a number of independent companies, not exceeding six, and to appoint the officers; that they also be empowered to fill up all vacancies that may happen in