

the army of the United Colonies in Canada, while they are there."

During the continuance of the commissioners upon this duty, which it is believed was performed entirely by Mr. Chase and Mr. Carroll, other very extensive powers and duties were from time to time entrusted to them, as the immediate representatives of congress in the northern department. On the 11th June, 1776, according to the journals of congress, "Mr. Chase and Mr. Carroll, of Carrollton, two of the commissioners, being arrived from Canada, attended and gave an account of their proceedings and the state of the army in that country."

It was on the 7th June, four days previous to the return of those commissioners, that "certain resolutions respecting independency, were moved and seconded," in congress, and continued to occupy much of the attention of that body, until its final passage, on the 4th July ensuing.

On the 10th June, the resolution agreed to in committee of the whole congress, being read,

*Resolved*, That the consideration of the first resolution be postponed to Monday, the first day of July next; and, in the mean while, that no time be lost, in case the congress agree thereto, that a committee be appointed to prepare a declaration to the effect of the said first resolution, which is in these words: "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; that they are ab-