

solved from all allegiance to the British crown; and that all political connexion between them and the state of Great Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

Although it would appear by the instructions of the delegation in congress, from Maryland, that their authority would cease on the 25th March 1776, yet some further instructions must have been given them, which do not appear on the journals of congress; for the names of Mr. Tilghman, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Paca, and Mr. Stone, are mentioned from time to time, as members of committees, in the progress of the business before that body, between that date and the 1st July ensuing, when the instructions passed by the convention at Annapolis, on the 23th June, were laid before congress, wherein the restrictions contained in the previous instructions of December, 1774, are removed "and the deputies of the said colony or any three or more of them, are authorised and empowered to concur with the other United Colonies, or a majority of them, in declaring the United Colonies, free and independent states."

Immediately after reading these latter instructions, congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the resolution respecting Independency. The resolution to that effect was agreed to on the 2d: but the 'Declaration' continued to occupy con-