

the body of inhabitants of this province; and that therefore it was requested, they would not accept the said commission, but return the tea, to the proprietors thereof, in the same bottom that brought it.

Mr. Smith, and Messrs. Leger and Greenwood, accordingly attended; and Mr. Chairman having delivered what he had in charge, those gentlemen severally shewed the regard they had for their country, by declining to receive the tea, as the people had requested—and Mr. Smith added, to his lasting honour, that he had determined some weeks before it arrived, not to have any concern in a business, which his countrymen conceived to have so fatal a tendency. This was followed by repeated thanks, and loud shouts of applause.

Capt. Culling apprehending himself involved in some difficulties, by this determination, then desired to be informed, how he should extricate himself from them. He was answered, "by keeping all the tea on board his vessel, and returning with it to England."

A committee was then appointed, to wait, the next day, upon such gentlemen in trade, and other importers, as were not present, with the agreement already signed by several, not to import any more teas, subject to the aforesaid duty, in order that they might and their names: and the committee were, Capt. Gadsden, Col. Pinckney, Thomas Fergufon, Charles Cotefworth Pinckney, Esqrs; and Mr. Daniel Cannon. Then the meeting was dissolved, after unfeigned thanks had been returned to the chairman, &c.

On Saturday the said committee diligently and faithfully performed what was requested of them: and we have the pleasure to inform the public, that upwards of fifty respectable names were that day subscribed to the agreement. Some gentlemen were absent, others desired a little time to consider of the matter; they will both have an opportunity to subscribe their names as soon as it is determined in whose hands the agreement shall be lodged.

In the mean time, the principal planters and landholders have thought it proper to enter into another agreement, which is signing very fast, and, we are told, runs in these words, viz.

"We the undersigned, inhabitants of this province, being now fully convinced, that we have vainly flattered ourselves, with hopes of the repeal of an act of parliament of Great-Britain, passed in the year 1767, imposing a duty on teas imported from thence, for the purpose of raising a revenue upon us, in America, without our consent, do hereby solemnly promise and agree, each for him or herself, that we will not, either directly or indirectly import, buy or sell, or any way encourage or countenance the importation, buying or selling, any teas that will pay the aforesaid duty: and that we will not purchase any goods of any person or persons whomsoever, that shall hereafter import, buy or sell any such teas: and this we do, because we conceive, that the payment of such duties, will be acknowledging a power which the British parliament hath assumed, and which we deny them to have under our excellent constitution, "to tax against our consent."

#### WILLIAMSBURG, December 24.

In captain M'Lasty's ship came passenger Mr. Godfrey M'Neil, a gentleman of fortune in Argyleshire, with the view to fix upon a settlement for a number of families from that part of the Highlands of Scotland, who intend for America as soon as he returns. The spirit of migration is become so universal there that it is thought the country must soon be almost depopulated, unless the landholders take some speedy and effectual means to quiet their poor tenants, who are now determined not to bear their oppressions any longer.

#### NEW-YORK, December 20.

On Thursday the following advertisement was handed about the city, viz.

The members of the association of the sons of liberty, are requested to meet at the city hall, at one o'clock, to-morrow, (being Friday) on business of the utmost importance;—and every other friend to the liberties and trade of America, are hereby most cordially invited, to meet at the same time and place.

The committee of the association.  
Thursday, New-York, December 16, 1773.

December 17, 1773.  
IN pursuance of this advertisement, although the weather was bad, at one o'clock P. M. a very numerous and respectable number of the citizens met at the city-hall, when Mr. John Lamb, a member of the association, addressed the meeting, and informed them, that he was desired, by a number of his fellow citizens, to communicate to them, that there were several letters received from the committee of correspondence of the town of Boston, and a letter from Philadelphia, relative to the importation of the East-India company's tea; which it was desired might be communicated. The letters were accordingly read; and a committee of fifteen gentlemen was chosen to answer those letters, and to correspond with our sister colonies on the subject of the duties on tea. The association of the sons of liberty was then read, and is as follows, viz.

#### The association of the sons of liberty, of New-York.

IT is essential to the freedom and security of a free people, that no taxes be imposed upon them but by their own consent, or their representatives. For "what property have they in that which another may, by right, take when he pleases, to himself?" The former is the undoubted birth-right of Englishmen, to secure which they expended millions and sacrificed the lives of thousands. And yet, to the astonishment of all the world, and the grief of America, the commons of Great-Britain, after the repeal of the memorable and detestable stamp-act, reassumed the power of imposing taxes on the American colonies;

and insisting on it, as a necessary badge of parliamentary supremacy, passed a bill, in the seventh year of his present majesty's reign, imposing duties on all glass, painters colours, paper, and teas, that should after the 20th of November, 1767, be imported from Great Britain into any colony or plantation in America." This bill, after the concurrence of the lords, obtained the royal assent. And thus, they, who from time immemorial, have exercised the right of giving to, or withholding from the crown, their aids and subsidies, according to their own free will and pleasure, signified by their representatives in parliament, do, by the act in question, deny us, their brethren in America, the enjoyment of the same right. As this denial, and the execution of that act, involves our slavery, and would sap the foundation of our freedom, whereby we should become slaves to our brethren and fellow subjects, born to no greater stock of freedom than the Americans; the merchants and inhabitants of this city, in conjunction with the merchants and inhabitants of the ancient American colonies, entered into an agreement to decline a part of their commerce with Great Britain, until the above-mentioned act should be totally repealed.

This agreement operated so powerfully to the disadvantage of the manufacturers of England that many of them were unemployed. To appease their clamours, and to provide the subsistence for them, which the non-importation had deprived them of, the parliament in 1773, repealed so much of the revenue act as imposed a duty on glass, painters colours, and paper, and left the duty on tea, as a test of the parliamentary right to tax us. The merchants of the city of New-York and Philadelphia, have strictly adhered to the agreement, so far as it related to the importation of articles subject to an American duty; have convinced the ministry, that some other measure must be adopted to execute parliamentary supremacy over this country; and to remove the distress brought on the East-India company, by the ill policy of that act. Accordingly, to increase the temptation, to shippers of tea from England, an act of parliament passed the last session, which gives the whole duty on tea, the company were subject to pay, upon the importation of it into England, to the purchasers, and exporters; and when the company have ten millions of pounds of tea, in their warehouses, exclusive of the quantity they may want to ship, they are allowed to export tea, discharged from the payment of that duty, with which they were before chargeable. In hopes of aid in the execution of this project, by the influence of the owners of the American ships, application was made by the company, to the captain of those ships to take the tea on freight; but they virtuously rejected it. Still determined on the scheme, they have chartered ships to bring over the tea to this country, which may be hourly expected, to make an important trial of our virtue. If they succeed in the sale of that tea, we shall have no property that we can call our own, and then we may bid adieu to American liberty—Therefore, to prevent a calamity, which of all others, is the most to be dreaded—slavery, and its terrible concomitants—We, the subscribers, being influenced from a regard to liberty, and disposed to use all lawful endeavours in our power, to defeat the pernicious project, and to transmit to our posterity, those blessings of freedom, which our ancestors have handed down to us; and to contribute to the support of the common liberties of America, which are in danger of being subverted, do, for those important purposes agree to associate together, under the name and stile of the sons of liberty of New-York, and engage our honour, to and with each other, faithfully to observe and perform the following resolutions, viz.

1st. Resolved, That whoever shall aid, or abet, or in any manner assist, in the introduction of tea, from any place whatsoever, into this colony, while it is subjected by a British act of parliament, to the payment of a duty, for the purpose of raising a revenue in America, shall be deemed an enemy to the liberties of America.

2d. Resolved, That whoever shall be aiding, or assisting, in the landing, or carting of such tea, from any ship or vessel, or shall hire any house, storehouse, or cellar, or any place whatsoever, to deposit the tea, subject to a duty as aforesaid, he shall be deemed an enemy to the liberties of America.

3d. Resolved, That whoever shall sell, or buy, or in any manner contribute to the sale, or purchase of tea, subject to a duty as aforesaid, or shall aid, or abet, in transporting such tea, by land or water, from this city, until the 7th. Geo. III. chap. 46. commonly called the revenue act, shall be totally and clearly repealed, he shall be deemed an enemy to the liberties of America.

4th. Resolved, That whether the duties on tea, imposed by this act, be paid in Great-Britain, or in America, our liberties are equally affected.

5th. Resolved, That whoever shall transgress any of these resolutions, we will not deal with, or employ, or have any connection with them.

#### New York, November 29, 1773.

Mr. Lamb then put the question, whether they agreed to these resolutions? it passed in the affirmative, nem. con.

The mayor and the recorder came into the meeting, and informed them that they had a message from government to deliver to the people; and to take their sense upon it. Whereupon it was agreed that the mayor should deliver the message; which he accordingly did in the words following.

"Gentlemen, I have a message from government to deliver to you. The governor declares that the tea will be put into the fort at noon-day; and engages his honour that it shall continue there, till the council shall advise it to be delivered out, or till the king's order, or the proprietor's order is known: and then the tea will be delivered out at noon-day. Gentlemen, is this satisfactory to you?" no, no, no.

Mr. Lamb then read to the people the act of parliament, that imposes the duty on tea imported into America, and after making some pertinent remarks on the commons of Great-Britain's giving and granting the property of the Americans, and that the duty was due on the landing of the tea, put the following question.—"Is it then your opinion, gentlemen, that the tea should be landed under this circumstance?" this was carried so generally in the negative, that there was no call for a division.

Whereas this body is informed, from unquestionable authority, and the letters that have now been read; that the patriotic inhabitants of the city of Philadelphia, and the town of Boston have determined, that no tea, subject to a duty by a British act of parliament, for the purpose of raising a revenue in America, should be landed in either of those places, Resolved, Nem. con. that this body highly approve of that spirited and patriotic conduct of our brethren, of the city of Philadelphia, and the town of Boston, in support of the common liberties of America. Then the question was put, whether this meeting should be adjourned, till the arrival of the tea ship, or be dissolved. It was carried, that the meeting should be adjourned, till the arrival of the tea ship.

Voted, That these proceedings should be published, and transmitted to the committee to the other colonies.

Dec. 22. Last night an express arrived here from Boston, who left it on Friday last, and brings sundry letters, among which is the following, viz.

Boston, 17th December, 1773.

Gentlemen,

Yesterday we had a greater meeting of the body than ever. The country coming in from twenty miles round, and every step was taken that was practicable for returning the teas. The moment it was known out of doors, that Mr. Rotch could not obtain a pass for his ship, by the castle, a number of people huzzaed in the street, and in a very little time, every ounce of the teas on board of capt. Hall, Bruce, and Coffin, was immersed in the bay, without the least injury to private property.

The spirit of the people on this occasion surprised all parties, who viewed the scene.

We conceived it our duty to afford you the most early advice of this interesting event, by express, which, departing immediately, obliges us to conclude.

By order of the committee.

P. S. The other vessel, viz. capt. Loring, belonging to messrs. Clark, with fifty-eight chests, was, by the act of God, cast on shore, on the back of Cape Cod.

#### PHILADELPHIA, December 24.

At two o'clock this afternoon arrived in this city a gentleman, who came express from New-York, with the following interesting advices from Boston, which were sent there by express also.

#### BOSTON, December 16.

It being understood that Mr. Rotch, owner of the ship Dartmouth, rather lingered in his preparations to return her to London, with the East-India company's tea on board, there was on Monday last, P. M. a meeting of the committee of several of the neighbouring towns, in Boston, and Mr. Rotch was sent for, and enquired of whether he continued his resolution to comply with the injunctions of the body assembled, at the old fourth meeting-house, on Monday and Tuesday preceding. Mr. Rotch answered that in the interim he had taken the advice of the bell council, and found that in case he went on of his own motion, to send that ship to sea in the condition she was then in, it must inevitably ruin him, and therefore he must beg them to consider what he had said at the said meeting, to be the effect of compulsion and unadvised, and in consequence that he was not holden to abide by it, when he was now assured that he must be utterly ruined in case he did.

Mr. Rotch was then asked whether he would demand a clearance for his ship in the custom-house, and in case of a refusal enter a protest, and then apply in like manner for a pass, and order her to sea. To all which he answered in the negative. The committee, doubtless, informing their respective constituents of what had passed, a very full meeting of the body was again assembled at the old fourth meeting-house on Tuesday afternoon, and Mr. Rotch being again present, was enquired of as before, and a motion was made and seconded, that Mr. Rotch be enjoined forthwith to repair to the collector of the customs and demand a clearance for his ship, and ten gentlemen were appointed to accompany him as witnesses of the demand. Mr. Rotch then proceeded with the committee to Mr. Harrison's lodgings, and made the demand. Mr. Harrison observed, he could not give answer till he consulted the comptroller, but would at office hours, next morning give a decisive answer. On the return of Mr. Rotch and the committee to the body with this report, the meeting was adjourned to Thursday morning at ten o'clock.

#### THURSDAY, December 17.

Having met on Thursday morning, 10 o'clock, they sent for Mr. Rotch, and asked him if he had been with the collector, and demanded a clearance, he said he had; but the collector said, that he could not, consistent with his duty, give him a clearance, till all the dutiable articles were out of his ship; they then demanded of him whether he had protested against the collector; he said he had not: they ordered him upon his peril to give immediate orders to the captain, to get his ship ready for sea, that day, enter a protest immediately against the custom-house, and

\* By the act, any dutiable goods on board a vessel after lying 20 days in a harbour become liable to the payment of the duties. The people waited till the last day, and in a few hours the ship, (to secure the duties then payable) was to have been delivered to the custody of the man of war.