

scarcely possible that they should not succeed in preferring their liberties; and the preservation of their liberty ought to be an object of the last concern to all in this country; for it is only among them we can hope to find it, after luxury, dissipation, a servile parliament, and an overwhelming load of debts and taxes have completed its ruin here. I cannot help believing that this will be the last struggle which America will have with us. If they are now steady and succeed, they will have no reason to fear any future attempts to enslave them. But if they now submit, they will be subdued for ever, and the only nursery of freemen now in the world will be lost. May heaven avert such a calamity! I cannot indeed imagine a state of worse slavery than that in which the colonies would be, were they on this occasion to submit. To be not only subject to many hard restraints in acquiring their property, but to hold it, after being acquired, at the discretion of our rulers; to have no constitution of government of their own, but to have their laws made and their governments modelled by a legislature on the other side of the Atlantic, which cannot judge of their circumstances, in which they have no voice, and all whose acts are but little more than the echoes to the will of the fool of the tyrant who happens to be minister in this country. What an abject condition would this be! The present state of our parliament is such that it is our own greatest calamity to be governed by it. How base would it be to wish the Americans involved in the same calamity! The mode of opposition which the Americans are likely to adopt must do them the greatest service, by checking luxury among them, and obliging them to save the money they now spend among us in purchasing superfluities. At the same time it must essentially injure us, for such are our present circumstances, that we hang upon the American trade; and the loss of it would sink the revenue, and soon bring on riots and insurrections, and a public bankruptcy. But I am not frightened by these consequences. The preservation of American liberty I think of as unspcakably more important than any temporary sufferings which can come upon us. I also consider our present state as so corrupt, and our excellent constitution of government as so intirely subverted by the unbounded influence of the crown, that my only hopes arise from the prospect of a convulsion (dreadful while it lasts) which shall delivry artificial wealth and all the means of corruption, reduce us to poverty and simplicity, overturn the whole present system of policy, and be followed by the re-establishment of public liberty and virtue.

I have been concerned to see, in the Pennsylvania instructions to their deputies, a proposal that, previous to any other measures, a memorial or remonstrance should be presented to our government. The colonies have, I think, already sufficiently tried such methods as these. Our government, if consistent, would not receive any memorial from an assembly which they consider as illegal. It is now too late for negotiation, nor can it issue in any good to the American cause. Vigorous measures alone can be successful. And some think that, had the Americans fled immediately to the last resource, the quarrel might by this time have been almost decided; for the present ministry could not have found supplies for so horrid a service, and a change of men and measures must have soon taken place. The sentiments I have expressed are those of the greatest part of my acquaintance, some of whom are persons of the first weight. I chuse to mention this, because I wish the Americans not to direct their resentment against all indiscriminately in this country. They may be assured that they have a large body of friends here, who, from a sense they have of the rights of human nature, detest what has been done against them. Perhaps the most provoking and mean of all the measures against them is the Quebec bill, the plain design of which is to fix a body of popish slaves behind them, subject to the king's will, who may serve as a curb upon them.

Last Saturday afternoon the Scarborough man of war which went express from hence to England, the beginning of September last, returned hither again, with dispatches for his Excellency the Governor, the contents have not yet transpired. The Scarborough sailed from Plymouth the 24th of October, and it is said three ships of the line, viz. the Asia, Boyne, and Somerset, with the Hynd frigate, and Falcon sloop of war, with 500 marines on board each of the large ships, were to sail soon after for this place. The public prints to the 18th of October, contain little else than accounts of preparations and solicitations from the many candidates to the electors in the different boroughs, towns, &c. for their votes and interest to be elected their members in the ensuing parliament. Upwards of 70 had already been chosen; and we are told, that when the above ship came away, the elections were nearly completed, and that there was a large majority of the old members elected again.

Another letter from London, dated after the arrival of the Scarborough from hence, says, "That bets are laid there of twenty to two that General Gage is killed, and that seven eights of the people there join with North America."

In provincial congress, Cambridge, Dec. 3, 1774. WHEREAS by the rigorous operation of the Boston port-bill, the metropolis of this province and the neighbouring towns of Charlestown have been brought into a most distressful state, many of the inhabitants being deprived of the means of their subsistence, and reduced to the cruel alternative of quitting their habitations, or perishing in them by famine, if they had not been supported by the free and generous contributions of our sister colonies, even from the remotest parts of this continent.

Resolved, That the grateful acknowledgements of this congress be returned to the colonies, for having so deeply interested themselves in behalf of said towns under their present sufferings in the common cause; and that the congress consider their donations not only as unexampled acts of benevolence to this province in general, which has also greatly suffered, and of charity to those towns in particular, but as convincing proofs of the firm attachment of all the colonies, to the glorious cause of liberty, and of their fixed determination to support them in the noble stand they are now making for the liberties of themselves and of all America.

Signed by order of the provincial Congress, JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Friday last the provincial congress made choice of the hon. John Hancock, Esq; the hon. Thomas Cushing, Esq; Mr. Samuel Adams, John Adams, Esq; and Robert Treat Paife, Esq; as delegates to represent this province at the continental congress; to be held at Philadelphia the 10th of May next.

N E W Y O R K, December 5.

Extract of a letter from London, dated October 3, 1774. "The critical situation of affairs at present, and the important consequences, which will flow from the conduct of your congress, are very interesting to every lover of his country, and have induced me to address to you a few indigested sentiments on the topics of the day.

"The grounds on which your opposition to the claims of parliament are founded, seem to be consonant to natural equity and the first principles of civil society. The proper mode of asserting your liberties is at present the material question. No person loves America and the rights of mankind more than I do; you will therefore, if I should happen to differ in sentiment with you, impute that difference rather to defect of knowledge, than want of zeal for the interest of the cause in which you are engaged.

"I have ever been an enemy to all attempts of deciding the present contest by violence; the issue of which is generally not owing to the goodness of a cause, but to superior strength or art, and the ill consequences are commonly felt as well by the successful as the subdued. The dispute between America and Great-Britain is a dispute between two grand branches of the same state, and therefore an injury done to either must be detrimental to the common body. In this view, every person of prudence must have seen the propriety of avoiding the introduction of violence, and the wisdom of endeavouring to settle the difference by friendly debate and argument. On this foot I confess I disapprove of the conduct of the Bostonians in first recurring to force, by violently destroying the teas of the company. Any excuse drawn from the danger of their being purchased by their own people, is an argument against their virtue, and an inadmissible plea: Because, if the teas had been landed without their consent, and the duties (which is putting it in the most favourable light) paid without their concurrence, it could never have been urged as a PRECEDENT against them. I mean not this as an apology for the severe measures which have been adopted against them. The Boston port bill seems to be replete with injustice and cruelty, and utterly indefensible. Yet as they were undoubtedly aggressors by their resistance and violence, it would have been an honour to your cause, if their proceedings had been disavowed, and a compensation made, at the same time that you declared your resolutions of supporting them in defence of the same general rights, and of uniting in the maintenance of your common liberties.

"The instructions of the Philadelphians to their committee are drawn up with the true spirit of patriotism, and have gained more proteities to your cause than any other procedure. The prudence, love of liberty, and attachment to Great-Britain, which they breathe, and the firmness and moderation which they express, are more alarming to your opponents than all the enthusiastic ravings, and indiscriminate abuse, which have been poured out from every quarter. In a letter which I wrote you some time since, I briefly stated the mode of conduct, which if your congress pursued, it was thought, by men acquainted with the views of government, would tend to the amicable adjustment of the present unhappy dispute. I bat if the members of your congress unitedly advised their several assemblies to present an humble and resolute petition, stating what you demanded as your rights, and what you would concede, such a petition from your assemblies would be attended to, and perhaps produce a convention, which might terminate in a firm and lasting settlement of the dispute." I am afraid that letter came too late to be of any service, as well as others on the same subject, addressed to persons of some weight amongst you.

"The congress has I suppose by this time met, and the decisive measure been adopted. Whatever it may be, let me conjure you, as a lover of your country; to promote mild and peaceful measures. If the sword of civil war is once unheathed, mutual injuries will but produce the more raging animosity, and those who are now your friends may become your enemies.

"Some time since, I scarce met a person who was not violently opposed to you, from indignation at the insult which they conceived was offered by the destruction of the teas at Boston. Since that time their resentment have been subduing, and an unforeseen incident made them loud in your favour, and as vindictive against the ministry. You have undoubtedly seen the Quebec bill, and carefully considered its contents. Occasion has been taken from it to attack the ministry as friends to popery, and to represent them as intending by it to induce the papists to assist in reducing the protestants in America to slavery. The project has answered beyond expectation. The cry of the enjoyment of popery, and the cruelties exercised against you, has reached all parts of the country, and inflamed the people with zeal in your favour, and indignation against the administration.

"As the issue of your congress would be the subject of the most important debates, and probably require vigorous measures, it was thought proper to dissolve the present Parliament, and suddenly issue out writs for a new one; for it was judged that if the present, or rather late Members, had been obliged to use measures against you which were unpopular, they might not have had a chance of being re-elected, but a majority unfavourable to the ministry brought in; the consequences of which you may easily conjecture. All parties are now therefore busy in making interest for the ensuing election.

"The election for mayor of London is now carrying on, and there is no doubt but Mr. Wilkes will be appointed to that office. Mr. Bull and he are candidates in opposition to Ekdale and Kennet, two ministerial gentlemen.

"You will ask me whether the ministry will be able to gain a majority in the ensuing parliament? Had not the house been so artfully and unexpectedly dissolved, I am of opinion that they would not; but by this project they will undoubtedly succeed, as they have had an advantage of making their interest sure, while their op-

ponents were off their guard; and to leave those measures, which would have been fatal to them, to the sanction of the futura parliament.

"The bulk of the people, especially of the lower class, is now in your favour, but if you adopt violent measures, I dare assert that they will not continue so. Should any of their countrymen be insulted in America, should the blood of any of the soldiery be shed, national pride (which is so characteristic in all their wars) will prompt them to espouse the cause of this country against you, and to look upon the quarrel as not with the ministry only, but with them. On this account, as well as from the uncertainty and miseries which will flow from a contest by force, I intreat you to exert your influence in the promotion of moderate councils and measures. Let not persons who are desirous of change and fond of confusion and disorder (because from them they can expect that eminence which they are not willing to aspire after by the slow methods of industry) assume the lead in your deliberations; but men whose honesty and wisdom have been long tried by their fellow-citizens, and whose property may give you security of their being really interested in the welfare of the community."

Dec. 11. We hear that at a meeting of the general committee of this city and county, two sub-committees were appointed to superintend the sales of two cargoes of goods arrived here since the first day of December. And that it was the opinion of the committee, that all goods, wares, and merchandize, enumerated in the first article of the association of the continental congress, should be subject to the regulations contained in the sixth article.

Last week several parcels of goods were sold here agreeable to the association entered into by the continental congress; and many more will be disposed of this week in the like manner, as the Lady Gage, Capt. Mearns, that arrived here last Friday night, has a tolerable cargo on board. Capt. Bernard sails this day for Boston, and has on board, being part of the donations of this city, for the poor inhabitants of Bolton, 180 barrels of flour, 9 of pork, and 22 firkins of butter, also 21 barrels of wheat and rye, sent from the inhabitants of Marble-Town in Ulster county.

PHILADELPHIA.

In assembly, Dec. 10, 1774. A. M. The house taking into consideration the report of the committee appointed to attend the general congress and the papers therein referred to,

Resolved unanimously, That this house approve the proceedings and resolves of the congress, and do most seriously recommend to the good people of this province, a strict attention to, and inviolable observation of the several matters and things contained in the journal of the said congress. On motion, ordered, That the above resolution be immediately made public.

Extract from the journals, Charles Moore, Clk. of Af.

As by accounts from England, it is to be feared there will not be so great a change in the members returned to parliament as could be wished, and as administration do not seem to relax, it behooves the Americans seriously to attend to that part of the address of the congress to the inhabitants of the colonies, where they say, "But we think ourselves bound in duty to observe to you, that the schemes agitated against these colonies have been so conducted, as to render it prudent, that you should extend your views to the most unhappy events, and be in all respects prepared for every contingency."

ANNAPOLIS, December 22.

In compliance with the recommendation of the deputies of the several counties of this province, at their late convention; to such of the gentlemen, freeholders, and other freemen of this province, as are from sixteen to fifty years of age, to form themselves into companies, and to chuse their officers on Saturday last; a number of the citizens met, formed themselves into two companies, and chose their officers, agreeable to the recommendation: the companies are composed of all ranks of men in this city, gentlemen of the first fortunes are common soldiers; this example, it is not doubted, will be followed by every town and county in this province.

It is said that there are a sufficient number of citizens to form another company, which it is hoped will be immediately done.

The committee for the upper part of Frederick county, Maryland, having met at Elizabeth Town, on Saturday the 26th of November, which was the day appointed for the delivery of John Parks's chest of tea, in consequence of his agreement published in the Maryland Journal of the 16th ult.

After a demand was made of the same, Mr. Parks offered a chest of tea, found on a certain Andrew Gibson's plantation; Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, by the committee for that place, which tea he declared was the same he promised to deliver.

The committee are sorry to say that they have great reason to believe, and indeed with almost a certainty, that the said chest of tea was in Cumberland county at the time Parks laid upon oath it was at Christen-Bridge. After mature deliberation, the committee were of opinion, that John Parks should go with his hat off, and lighted torches in his hands, and set fire to the tea, which he accordingly did, and the same was consumed to ashes, amongst the acclamations of a numerous body of people. The committee were also of opinion, that no further intercourse should be had with the said Parks: Every friend to liberty is requested to pay due attention to the same.

Voted, the thanks of this committee to that of Cumberland county, for their prudent and spirited behaviour upon the occasion.

Signed by order of the committee, JOHN STULL, president.

N. B. The populace thought the measures adopted by the committee were inadequate to the transgression, and satisfied themselves by breaking his door and windows.

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