

concerning to all goods, wares, and merchandizes, of the growth, production, or manufacture of any part of Europe, or any other part of the world, imported from Great Britain or Ireland, in case they have been entered and cleared in any port of either of those Kingdoms, as fully as the goods, wares, and merchandizes of the growth, production, and manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, and that the said first article ought to be so construed by all concerned, and in that universal sense carried strictly into execution.

Signed by order of the provincial congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

In provincial congress, Cambridge Dec. 9. 1774.

WHEREAS this congress, at their sessions in October last, taking into consideration the alarming state of this colony, were, upon the most mature deliberation, fully convinced, that to provide against the danger to which it was then exposed, by a standing army, illegally posted in Boston, and from time to time reinforced, for the purpose of subverting our ancient Constitution, and the liberties of all North America, it was indispensably necessary that a considerable sum of money should be immediately raised for the just defence of this people; and whereas by a resolve of the Congress, bearing date the 18th of October, and published in the Acts of the Province, it was among other things earnestly recommended to the several towns and districts, that they should cause to be paid into the hands of Henry Gardner, Esq; all the province monies due from them respectively, to supply the said pressing exigencies of the colony; and whereas the danger which then threatened the Province is still continued, and daily increasing;

Resolved, and hereby most earnestly recommended to all the inhabitants of the towns and districts aforesaid, as the means of their own safety, and the preservation of their inalienable rights and liberties, that they cause the duties aforesaid to be paid forthwith to the said Henry Gardner, Esq; who has given bonds, with sufficient securities, to the satisfaction of this Congress; and that they cause their respective proportions of the tax granted by the general court in June last, and all other the province monies due from them respectively, to be supplied in some way that shall be more expeditious than the usual mode of collecting the taxes, in order to prevent any delay in providing against the imminent danger above-mentioned; and the members of the Congress are hereby obliged to use their utmost industry for having this resolve speedily and punctually complied with; and the several and deputy sheriffs of the several counties to pay the province monies in their respective hands, as has been already recommended.

Signed by order of the provincial congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

A true extract from the minutes,

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, January 2.

Committee-chamber, December 22, 1774.

ORDERED, That the committee of correspondence do transmit to the committees of the several counties in this province, a copy of the RESOLVES passed this evening, with a letter. And the letter being prepared and read, was approved; and is as follows, viz.

Philadelphia, December 22, 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

By order of the committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, we have the pleasure to transmit you the following resolves, passed this day with great unanimity, viz.

Resolved, That this committee think it absolutely necessary that the committees of the counties of this province, or such deputies as they may appoint for this purpose, be requested to meet together in provincial convention, as soon as convenient.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the county committees, to meet in said convention, on Monday, the 13th day of January, next, in the city of Philadelphia.

From a view of the present situation of public affairs, the committee have been induced to propose this convention, that the sense of the province might be obtained, and that the measures to be taken thereupon may be the result of the united wisdom of the colony.

The obvious necessity of giving an immediate consideration to many matters of the greatest importance to the general welfare will, we hope, sufficiently apologize to you, for naming so early a day as the 13th of January.

We are, Gentlemen, respectfully,

Your very humble servants,

The committee of correspondence.

To the committee of inspection for

the county of

From the minutes of the committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia.

JONATHAN B. SMITH, Secretary.

Newcastle, December 5, 1774.

THE committee chosen in the several hundreds of this county on the 28th of last month, in pursuance of notice for that purpose given, this day assembled at the court-house, in the town of Newcastle, and unanimously chose

JOHN MCKINLEY, Esq; chairman, and

DAVID THOMPSON, Clerk.

On motion, by order,

The association entered into by the continental congress, at the city of Philadelphia, on the fifth day of September last, was read; and the committee taking the same into consideration;

Resolved, that this committee highly approve the said association, and earnestly recommend to their constituents a strict and due observance thereof.

Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this committee be given to the gentlemen who represented this government as deputies in the said continental congress, for their faithful discharge of that important trust.

Resolved unanimously, That to increase the number of sheep, this committee will use their utmost endeavours to prevent the killing of any ewe mutton or lamb from this day until the first day of May next, and any ewe lamb from the first day of May next till the first day of October next; and this committee do particularly recommend to their constituents a full and faithful compliance with the 8th, 9th, and 13th articles of the said association.

Then the committee adjourned till Wednesday the 11th inst. at 10 o'clock.

Wednesday December 21, A. M.

The committee met according to adjournment. Resolved unanimously, that pursuant to an intimation given by the said continental congress, as well as from a full persuasion that a well regulated militia, composed of the gentlemen, free-holders, and other free men is the natural strength and stable security of a free government; therefore it is recommended by this committee to such of the inhabitants of this county, as are from 16 to 50 years of age, that they assemble themselves on the second Tuesday in January next, at such places as shall be appointed by the committees of their respective hundreds; and then and there associate and enrol themselves into companies of not less than 50 nor more than 75 men, according to the several districts, will admit, and choose a captain, two lieutenants, an ensign, four sergeants, two corporals and one drummer for each company; and use their utmost endeavours to make themselves masters of the military exercise. That each man be provided with a well fixed firelock and bayonet, half a pound of powder, two pounds of lead, and a cartouch box with powder-horn, and bag for ball, and be in readiness to act on any emergency.

Resolved unanimously, That the committees of the respective hundreds do divide the same into suitable districts, as they severally will admit thereof.

Resolved unanimously, That contributions from this county, for supplying the necessities and alleviating the distresses of our brethren in Boston, ought to be continued in such manner and so long as their occasions may require; and that it is the duty of the committee of correspondence of the said county to collect and transmit the same as soon as possible.

Extract from the minutes of the committee.

DAVID THOMPSON, Clerk.

A meeting of the committee of observation for the county of Gloucester, on the 19th day of December, 1774. Samuel Harrison, Robert Friend Price, John Hinchman, John Cooper, Joseph Ellis, Isaac Mickle, John Sparks, Jos. Cooper, Joseph Low, Peter Cheefman, Doctor Benjamin Vanlier, Joseph Hugg, and Samuel Cooper, were unanimously chosen as a committee of correspondence for said county, who have appointed Robert Friend Price, John Hinchman, John Cooper, John Sparks, Joseph Ellis and Joseph Hugg, as a committee to meet the committees of the other counties, at such time and place as shall be hereafter agreed on; and that three or more of said committee shall attend for choosing delegates to serve in the continental congress at Philadelphia on the 10th day of May next.

By order of the committee,

JOSEPH HUGG, Clerk.

ANNAPOLIS, January 12.

In consequence of the recommendation from the provincial convention for the respective hundreds in Anne-Arundel county meeting and forming themselves into companies, the inhabitants of Elk-Ridge hundred met on the 31st ult. and chose their proper officers, being of opinion that a well regulated militia will contribute to the preservation of American liberty.

By the committee for Anne-Arundel county, and city of Annapolis, December 24, 1774.

A LETTER from the committee of Philadelphia, with one from Thomas Charles Williams to that, and another to this committee, were read and considered, and thereupon it is resolved, that the concessions of the said Thomas Charles Williams contained in his said letters, are not precise or full, and therefore not satisfactory.

Resolved, that upon an acknowledgment being made in writing by the said Thomas Charles Williams, and inserted in the Maryland gazette, that after he had knowledge of the resolutions of this county and city, and after the merchants of this province had declined to import tea, he with design to avail himself of an advantage from an expected scarcity of that article, imported tea into this province, and that he thereby as far as such example would influence, supported the assumed power of parliament to tax America, and endangered the rights and liberties of America;—that he is sincerely sorry for his offence, that he will not commit the least infringement of the continental association, or any resolution of this province, but will contribute his assistance to the support of the American opposition; it is the opinion of this committee, that no further proceedings ought to be had against him.

Test. true copy. JOHN DUCKETT, cl. com.

THOMAS FRENCH, jun.

JOHN PURVIANCE.

The above named Thomas C. Williams, do hereby certify, that the above resolve is published at his fire, and as a proof of my acquiescence therein, I do hereby give my assent to the several engagements therein required of me; witness my hand, this second day of January, 1775.

THOMAS C. WILLIAMS.

The following is the PETITION of the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

To the KING's most excellent majesty.

Most gracious sovereign,

We your majesty's faithful subjects of the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Bay,

Rhode-Island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of Newcastle Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, who have deputed us to represent them generally by this our humble petition, beg leave to lay our grievances before the throne.

A standing army has been kept in these colonies since the conclusion of the late war, without the consent of our assemblies; and this army, with a considerable naval armament, has been employed to the collection of taxes.

The authority of the commander in chief, under the name of the brigadiers general, has, in time of peace, been rendered supreme in all the civil governments in America.

The commander in chief of all your majesty's troops in North-America has, in time of peace, been appointed governor of a colony.

The charges of usual offices have been greatly increased, and new, expensive, and oppressive offices have been multiplied.

The judges of admiralty and vice-admiralty are empowered to receive their salaries and fees from the effects condemned by themselves.

The officers of the customs are empowered to open and enter houses, without the authority of civil magistrates founded on legal information.

The judges of courts of common law have made intirely dependent on one part of the legislature for their salaries as well as for the duration of their commissions.

Counsellors, holding their commissions during pleasure, exercise legislative authority.

Humble and reasonable petitions from the representatives of the people have been fruitlessly presented, and governors have been instructed to prevent the payment of their salaries.

Assemblies have been frequently and unjustly dissolved, and commerce burthened with many and oppressive restrictions.

By several acts of parliament made in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth years of your majesty's reign, duties are imposed on us, for the purpose of raising a revenue, and the powers of admiralty and admiralty courts are extended beyond their usual limits, whereby our property is taken from us without our consent; the trial by jury, in many civil cases, is abolished; enormous forfeitures are incurred for offences; vexatious informers are exempted from paying damages to which they are justly liable, and every five security is required from owners before they are allowed to defend their rights.

Both houses of parliament have resolved, that the colonists may be tried in England, for offences alleged to have been committed in America, by virtue of a statute passed in the thirty-fifth year of Henry the Eighth, and in consequence thereof attempts have been made to enforce that statute.

A statute was passed in the twelfth year of your majesty's reign, directing that persons charged with committing any offence therein described, in any place out of the realm, may be indicted and tried for the same in any county within the realm, whereby inhabitants of the colonies may, in sundry cases by that statute made total, be deprived of a trial by their peers of the vicinage.

In the last session of parliament, an act was passed blocking up the harbour of Boston, another imposing the governor of the Massachusetts-Bay to indict persons indicted for murder in that province, to any colony, or even to Great-Britain, for trial, where such offenders may escape legal punishment; and for altering the chartered constitution of government in that province; and a fourth, for extending the limits of Quebec, abolishing the English, and restoring the French laws, whereby great numbers of British men are subject to the latter, and establishing an absolute government and the roman catholic religion throughout those vast regions that border on the westerly and northerly boundaries of the free province of English settlements; and a fifth for the better residing suitable quarters for officers and soldiers in majesty's service in North-America.

To a sovereign, who glories in the name of British monarch, the bare recital of these acts must, we presume, be the loyal subjects who fly to the foot of his throne.

From this destructive system of colony administration adopted since the conclusion of the late war, have flowed those distresses, dangers, fears, and jealousies which overwhelm your majesty's dutiful colonists with tribulation; and we defy our most subtle and inveterate enemies to trace the unhappy differences between Great-Britain and these colonies, from an earlier period than from other causes than we have assigned; had we proceeded on our part from a restless levity of temper, just impulses of ambition, or artful suggestions of seditious persons, we should merit the opprobrious and frequently bestowed on us by those we revere. But far from promoting innovations, we have only opposed them, and can be charged with no offence, unless one to receive injuries and be sensible of them.

Had our creator been pleased to give us existence as a land of slavery, the sense of our condition might have been mitigated by ignorance and habit; but, thank to his adorable goodness, we were born under the freedom, and ever enjoyed our rights under the smiles of your royal ancestors, whose family was seated on the British throne to rescue and secure a persecuted and gallant nation from the popery and despotism of a perfidious and inexorable tyrant. Your majesty are confident, justly rejoice, that your title to the crown is thus founded on the title of your people's liberty; and therefore we doubt not but your wisdom must approve the sensibility that teaches us to anxiously to guard the blessing they receive from divine providence, and thereby to rove the performance of that compact which elevated the illustrious house of Brunswick to the imperial dignity it now

possession of being degraded into a slave from the pre-eminence rank of English freemen. We retain the strongest love of liberty, and the most ardent desire of preserving our rights, and we should not be deterred by the passions of our hearts, or the artifices of our enemies, from the pursuit of our just claims, and thinking as subjects of a king, as men, and as Christians, we should do, we should do all in our power to support the great objects of your royal care, the great objects of your government, and the welfare of your people.

By your majesty, and your people, the primary object of your government, and the welfare of your people, and as your majesty enjoys the crown, we should not be deterred by the passions of our hearts, or the artifices of our enemies, from the pursuit of our just claims, and thinking as subjects of a king, as men, and as Christians, we should do, we should do all in our power to support the great objects of your royal care, the great objects of your government, and the welfare of your people.

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