

meria, be repealed, and to explain an act of the 35th of Henry VIII. for the trial of treason, &c." Passed in the negative.

8. "That from the time when the general assembly, &c. of any colony or plantation in North-America shall have appointed by act of assembly duly confirmed, a settled salary to the offices of chief justices and judges of the superior court, it may be proper that the said chief justices, &c. of the superior court of such colony, shall hold his or their office and offices during their good behaviour; and shall not be removed therefrom, but when the said removal shall be adjudged by his Majesty in Council, upon a hearing, on complaint from the general assembly, or on a complaint from the governor or the council, or the house of representatives severally, of the colony in which said chief justice, &c. have exercised the said office." It passed in the negative.

9. "That it is proper to regulate the courts of admiralty, or vice admiralty, authorized by the 13th chapter of 4th George II. in such a manner as to make the same more commodious to those who sue or are sued in said courts." It passed in the negative.

On Thursday at one o'clock Mr. Lane, Mr. Mollen, and Mr. Bridgen, from the committee of North-American merchants, waited on his Majesty at St. James's, and presented the petition of the merchants of the city of London trading to North-America, which his Majesty received very graciously.

March 27. It is said that the future establishment for America, is to consist of ten thousand foot two regiments of light horse, two battalions of artillery, and a complete hospital staff.

March 28. The house of lords appointed managers yesterday, who held a conference with the managers on the part of the commons in the painted chamber, on the Newfoundland bill, when the corrections made by the commons to the amendments of the said bill as sent from the house of lords were agreed to by their lordships: which being reported by their managers, the house broke up without doing any other business; and his Majesty is expected to-morrow to sign the said bill.

On Friday (evening) Dr. Benjamin Franklin, agent for Philadelphia, set out from his house in Craven-Street, in order to embark for North-America. Two days before he had received the melancholy account of the death of his wife, which is supposed to have hastened his departure. Other advices say, that the ministry had at last applied to him, soliciting his good offices at the ensuing congress, in order to heal the present unhappy divisions, and bring about a reconciliation between the colonies and the mother country. Certainly no man living is more able to effect this than the great American philosopher, who has been unjustly persecuted by some persons in power, and deprived of his office, merely because he was an American; and because he openly and uniformly asserted the rights and liberties of America.

It is certain, that Dr. Franklin gave notice to the premier of his intention of setting out for Philadelphia, in order to be present at the congress; and it is also said, that the great man has promised to restore the venerable philosopher to the office he held before, or else a better place, "provided he would pour the oil of his sage counsels on the troubled sea of American politics."

March 29. The earl of Bristol having attended the king's levee on Monday last, and delivered up the key of the room of the stole, belonging to his late brother, his Majesty was pleased to deliver it to lord Weymouth.

The late earl of Bristol died immensely rich. He has left his brother (the present earl) an estate worth almost twenty thousand pounds per annum, besides large legacies to many of his nearest relations.

Lord Bristol by his will has left his collection of medals to his Majesty, valued at five thousand pounds.

March 30. Yesterday the right hon. lord Weymouth kissed his Majesty's hand at St. James's, on being appointed groom of the stole in the room of the late earl of Bristol, and was invested with the gold key.

This day his Majesty will go to the house of peers, and give the royal assent to such bills as are ready.

Yesterday gen. Conway took the oaths and his seat in the house of commons as member for Bury St. Edmund's, in the room of the present earl of Bristol, called up to the house of peers.

PHILADELPHIA.

An ADDRESS from the provincial convention of the province of Massachusetts-Bay, to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, transmitted to the congress now sitting in this city, and published by their order.

In PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, Water-walk April 26, 1775.

To the inhabitants of GREAT-BRITAIN.

Friends and fellow subjects,

HOSTILITIES are at length commenced in this colony, by the troops under the command of general Gage, and it being of the greatest importance, that an early, true, and authentic account of this inhuman proceeding should be known to you, the congress of this colony have transmitted the same, and from want of a session of the honourable continental congress, think it proper to address you on the alarming occasion.

By the clearest depositions relative to this transaction, it will appear, that on the night preceding the nineteenth of April instant, a body of the king's troops, under command of colonel Smith, were secretly landed at Cambridge, with an apparent design to take or destroy the military and other stores provided for the defence of this colony, and deposited at Concord--that some inhabitants of the colony, on the night aforesaid, whilst travelling peaceably on the road between Boston and Concord, were seized, and greatly abused by armed men, who appeared to be officers of general Gage's army--that the town of Lexington, by these means, was alarmed, and a company of the inhabitants mustered on the occasion--that the regular troops, on their way to Concord, marched into the said town of Lexington, and the said company, on their approach, began to disperse--that, notwithstanding this, the regulars rushed on with great violence, and first began hostilities, by firing on said Lexington company, whereby they killed eight, and wounded several others--that the regulars continued their fire until those of said company, who were neither killed nor wounded, had made their escape--that col. Smith, with the detachment, then marched to Concord, where a number of the provincials were again fired on by the troops, two of them

killed and several wounded, before the provincials fired on them--and that these hostile measures of the troops produced an engagement that lasted through the day; in which many of the provincials, and more of the regular troops, were killed and wounded.

To give a particular account of the ravages of the troops, as they retreated from Concord to Charlestown, would be very difficult, if not impracticable; let it suffice to say, that a great number of the houses on the road were plundered and rendered unfit for use; several were burnt; women in child-bed were driven, by the soldiery, naked into the streets; old men peaceably in their houses were shot dead; and such scenes exhibited as would disgrace the annals of the most uncivilized nation.

These, brethren, are marks of ministerial vengeance against this colony, for refusing, with her sister colonies, a submission to slavery; but they have not yet detached us from our royal sovereign. We profess to be his loyal and dutiful subjects, and so hardly dealt with as we have been, are still ready, with our lives and fortunes, to defend his person, family, crown, and dignity. Nevertheless, to the persecution and tyranny of this cruel ministry we will not tamely submit--appealing to heaven for the justice of our cause, we determine to die or be free.

We cannot think that the honour, wisdom and valour of BRITONS will suffer them to be longer inactive spectators of measures, in which they are so deeply interested--measures pursued in opposition to the solemn protests of many noble lords, and expressed sense of conspicuous commoners, whose knowledge and virtue have long characterized them as some of the greatest men in the nation--measures executing contrary to the interest, petitions, and resolves of many large, respectable, and opulent counties, cities, and boroughs in Great-Britain--measures highly incompatible with justice, but still pursued with a specious pretence of easing the nation of its burthens--measures which, if successful, must end in the ruin and slavery of Britain, as well as the persecuted American colonies.

We sincerely hope, that the great Sovereign of the universe, who hath so often appeared for the English nation, will support you in every rational and manly exertion with these colonies, for saving it from ruin, and that in a constitutional connection with the mother country, we shall soon be altogether a free and happy people.

Per order, JOSEPH WARREN, president, pro tem.

By the last ships from London, we have an account that, on the 21st of March last, died the honourable THOMAS PENN, Esq; one of the proprietaries of this province, and last survivor of all the children of its illustrious founder, WILLIAM PENN, whose virtues, as well as abilities, he inherited in an eminent degree.

To the Right Honourable John Wilkes, Lord Mayor of the city of London, at his mansion-house.

MY LORD,

I AM not informed of any person who has business with some merchants in Maryland or Pennsylvania. I read the London Chronicle but I could not find out any direction: Therefore I think it very excusable for a stranger to take the liberty to address these lines to you, as the chief magistrate of all the British dominions; especially as it gives me at the same time the opportunity to pay you my respects, and to tell you, that I admired and defended in our Germany (where slavery prevails) always your spirit and intrepidity towards bad ministers, being a great lover and well-wisher of true English liberty. I live in a great city in Germany: Some weeks ago a printer came to me, and shewed me two bank notes (not knowing the language nor the contents) which two foreigners brought to him, to reprint them exactly; I found the one to be a bank-note of Annapolis in Maryland, and the other of Pennsylvania, of 50 and of 5 shillings, both of 1774. I was surprized, and told the printer he should not at all meddle with the rascals who brought him these papers. Afterwards I heard that they have been at two engravers, to get two others counterfeited, and they refused likewise. But as I don't doubt they will find out in another town, some ignorant or hungry engraver, or printer, I beg your Lordship to communicate these contents of my letter to the public, in the London Chronicle, to prevent any mischief and imposition on the honest Americans, vexed not only by taxes, but also by bad bank notes. It will give me great pleasure to read in this paper my notice, to frustrate the designs of these impostors. I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, My Lord,

Your most humble and most obedient servant, BRITANNOPHILUS.

The above is a true copy of an original letter, delivered to me by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of London. ARTHUR LEE.

London, March 22, 1775. Meaning our bills of credit.

VIRGINIA.

At a council held at the palace, May 3, 1775. Present his excellency the governor, Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, Ralph Wormley, jun. Esquires, John Camm, clerk; and John Page, Esq;

The governor was pleased to address himself to the board in the following manner:

GENTLEMEN,

COMMOTIONS and insurrections have suddenly been excited among the people, which threaten the very existence of his Majesty's government in this colony; and no other cause is assigned for such dangerous measures than that the gunpowder which had, some time past, been brought from on board one of the king's ships to which it belonged and was deposited in the magazine of this city, hath been removed, which, it is known, was done by my order, to whom, under the constitutional right of the crown which I represent, the custody and disposal of all public stores of arms and ammunition alone belong; and, whether I acted in this manner (as my indispensable duty required) to anticipate the malevolent designs of the enemies of order and government, or to prevent the attempts of any enterprising negroes; the powder being still as ready and convenient for being distributed for the defence of the country upon any emergency as it was before, which I have publicly engaged to do, the expediency of the step I have taken is equally manifest; and therefore it must be evident that the same head-strong and designing peo-

ple, who have already but too successfully employed their artificers in deluding his Majesty's faithful subjects, and in seducing them from their duty and allegiance, have seized this entirely groundless subject of complaint, only to enflame afresh, and to precipitate as far as possible of the unwary into acts, which involving them in the same guilt, their corruptors think may tend to the same plans and schemes which are unquestionably meditated in this colony, for subverting the present and erecting a new form of government.

Induced by an unaffected regard for the general welfare of the people, whom I have had the honour of governing, as well as actuated by duty and zeal in the service of his Majesty, I call upon you, his council in this colony, for your advice upon this pressing occasion, and I submit to you whether a proclamation should not issue conformable to what I have now suggested; and, before our fellow subjects abandon themselves totally to extranities, which must inevitably draw down an accumulation of every human misery upon their unhappy country, to warn them of their danger, to remind them of the sacred oaths of allegiance which they have taken, and to call up in their breasts that loyalty and affection, which upon so many occasions have been professed by them to their king, their lawful sovereign, and further, to urge and exhort, in particular, those whose criminal proceedings on this occasion have been, and are still, so alarming; to return to their duty, and a due obedience to the laws; and, in general, all persons whatsoever to rely upon the goodness and tenderness of our most gracious sovereign to all his subjects, equally, and upon the wisdom of his councils, for a redress of all their real grievances, which redress can only be obtained by constitutional applications; and, lastly, to enjoin all orders of people to submit, as becomes good subjects, to the legal authority of their government, in the protection of which their own happiness is most interested.

The council thereupon acquainted his excellency, that as the matters he had been pleased to communicate to them were of the greatest consequence, they desire time to deliberate thereon till the next day.

At a council held at the palace, May 3, 1775. Present his excellency the governor, Thomas Nelson, Richard Corbin, William Byrd, Ralph Wormley, jun. Esquires, John Camm, clerk, and John Page, Esq;

The board, resuming the consideration of the subject laid before them yesterday by the governor, advised him to issue the following proclamation; and the same was ordered accordingly.

By his excellency the right hon. JOHN earl of DUNMORE, his Majesty's lieutenant and governor general of the colony and dominion of Virginia, and vice-admiral of the said colony.

A PROCLAMATION.

VIRGINIA, to wit.

WHEREAS there is too much reason to suppose that some persons, in the different parts of this colony, are disaffected to his Majesty's government, and by their weight and credit with the people are endeavouring to bring the country into such a situation as to afford them the fairest prospect of effecting a change in the form of it, covering their wicked designs under the specious appearance of defending their liberties, and have taken advantage of the unhappy ferment, which themselves have raised in the minds of their fellow subjects, in prosecution of their dangerous designs to oppose the most undoubted prerogative of the king, which in a late instance I thought it expedient to exert by removing on board his Majesty's ship the Fowey, a small quantity of gunpowder, belonging to his Majesty, from the magazine in this city; I have thought fit, by advice of his Majesty's council, to issue this my proclamation, with a view of undeceiving the deluded, and of expunging to the unwary the distraction into which they may be precipitated, if they suffer themselves to be longer guided by such insatuated counsels.

Although I consider myself, under the authority of the crown, the only constitutional judge, in what manner the munition, provided for the protection of the people of this government, is to be disposed of for that end; yet for affecting the salutary objects of this proclamation, and removing from the minds of his Majesty's subjects the groundless suspicions they have imbibed, I think proper to declare that the apprehensions which seemed to prevail throughout this whole country of an intended insurrection of the slaves, who had been seen in large numbers, in the night time, about the magazine, and my knowledge of its being a very insecure depository, were my inducements to that measure, and I chose the night as the properest season, because I knew the temper of the times, and the misinterpretations of my design which would be apt to prevail if the thing should be known. Acting under these motives, I certainly rather deserved the thanks of the country than their reproaches. But, whenever the present ferment shall subside, and it shall become necessary to put arms into the hands of the militia, for the defence of the people against a foreign enemy or intestine insurrections, I shall be as ready as on a late occasion to exert my best abilities in the service of the country. In the mean time, as it is indispensably necessary to maintain order and the authority of the laws, and thereby the dignity of his Majesty's government, I exhort and require, in his Majesty's name, all his faithful subjects, to leave no expedient untried which may tend to that happy end. Such as are not to be influenced by the love of order for its own sake, and the blessings it is always productive of, would do well to consider the internal weakness of this colony, as well as the dangers to which it is exposed from a savage enemy; who, from the most recent advices I have received from the frontier inhabitants, are ready to renew their hostilities against the people of this country. But, as on the one hand, nothing can justify men, without proper authority, in a rapid recurrence to arms, nothing excuse resistance to the executive power in the due enforcement of law, so on the other, nothing but such resistance and outrageous proceedings shall ever compel me to avail myself of any means that may carry the appearance of severity.

Anxious to restore peace and harmony to this distracted country, and to induce a firmer reliance on the goodness and tenderness of our most gracious sovereign to all his subjects equally, and on the wisdom of his councils for a redress of all their real grievances, which can only be obtained by loyal and constitutional applications; I again call upon and require all his Majesty's

subjects, officers, both civil and military, removing the said munition, which submission to the king, which shall interest and happiness shall continue.

William Byrd, Esq; 5th year of

May 6. A few entered the public number of guns for which his diligent search to

THE town letter from Majesty's ship Nelson, Esq; p. Guinea; and a committee, and is as follows: "I have this that his excellency, in the morning, at though your per ship under my therefore from your to prevent racked, as in t fire upon this To the ho

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