

At 10 o'clock this morning, a heavy firing of small arms and cannon occasioned our drums to beat to arms; the army was immediately ordered under arms to the point where the firing continued in three different quarters, extending several miles in the mouth of the Chesapeake river, and at the advanced posts on the river bank. One hour elapsed before we knew the design of the enemy which was this; we had surrounded some of their out guard the night before, which induced them to serve our sentries in like manner.

They sent two flat-bottomed boats to Sewell's point to attack our redoubt there; talked out at Cox-hury, and set fire to the George tavern, our advanced guard being our people attacked, beat them, and took one prisoner, who is expected here every minute. The flat-bottomed boats, after an useless fire of man to man, retired; the piquet guard of the enemy on the town beach attacked and drove in our advanced guard of 60-- who being reinforced by general J. Lee's order, recovered their ground, and beat off the enemy, killed several and brought off 17 ven muskets, without losing a man although our men engaged them upon their knees within point blank shot of their lines. We are just informed that 250 of the Marblehead soldiers have landed on a low hill near Bunker's, and have drove in all the out guards of the enemy. The enemy do not appear to be very fond of coming out. We still harass them continually, and for this reason want the aid of the rifle-men; only one company as yet come in.

Extract of a letter from New York, August 10. "We are informed that 13 fail of vessels have arrived at the east end of Long Island, 8 whereof are supposed to be men of war; what they will do I imagine a few days will inform us.

The express who was sent by the congress, is returned here from the Eastward, and says he left the camp last Saturday; that the British men had picked off 3 men in one day, three of whom were field officers, the word reconnoitring; one of them was killed at the distance of 20 yards, when only half his head was seen.

Express who arrived here last night from the camp, and who was in conversation with some of the prisoners taken at the night-house informs, that many of them declared they had not tasted a morsel of fresh provisions since the middle of April--he also informs that it was generally supposed there were between 80 and 90 prisoners taken on board each of the transports at Calco bay.

ANNAPOLIS.

In Provincial Convention, Annapolis, August 14, 1775.

RESOLVED, That in all suits and actions now depending or commenced within this province, where there is no real dispute, the suitors and attorneys proceed, with all convenient speed to settle the same, by judgment, reference, or other amicable way; and that all suits and actions, now depending or commenced (where there are real disputes and which cannot be settled in an amicable manner, or tried with justice to the parties) ought to stand a remand during these times of public calamity in their present state and condition or be continued until otherwise ordered by act of assembly, or some future convention; save and except only that bail may surrender their principals in their own discharge, and for want of other bail that the principal may be committed; and that hereafter proper provision ought to be made, by act of assembly, for re-instituting re-establishing, and prosecuting the business of the courts, and for barring the act for the limitation of suits.

RESOLVED, That in all suits, and actions, now depending, or commenced, the depositions of any witnesses, or witnesses, taken before two justices of any county court, or one of the justices of the provincial court of this province, in presence of the adverse party to him that requires such depositions to be taken; if upon due notice he thinks fit to be present, or upon notice doth refuse to be present (the notice being proved) ought to be received, as good evidence, in any of the courts of this province, as if such evidence were personally present upon the trial, and should declare the same *quod verum*; provided such witnesses, or witnesses, cannot be had at the trial of the cause, in which such depositions shall be taken.

RESOLVED, That no civil original writ, suit, or action, shall be commenced, or renewed, in any court of law, or any magistrate's warrant of a civil nature issued, within this province, after publication and due notice of this resolve, unless in the following cases, to wit, actions founded in wrong done to the person, or property; such as ejectment, trespass, trover, replevin, detinue; also all real actions, actions for wares, and for money, or tobacco, actually had and received, by one person for the use of another; attachments under the late act of assembly, and against persons non-resident; actions, or process on loan-office bonds; without the licence or permission of the committee of observation of the county, where the debtors or defendants reside; which shall or may be granted in the instances and manner herein after mentioned, and not otherwise; that the said committees respectively do, upon application, give licence for bringing, or prosecuting, suits in the following cases, that is to say: when debtors refuse to renew their obligations, or other securities; or to give reasonable security; or to liquidate and settle their accounts, and give promissory notes for the balances; or to refer their disputes, if any, to one or more indifferent persons; or are justly suspected of intention to leave the province, or to defraud their creditors; and that the said committees may, in their discretion, grant licences in the following cases, to wit: for the bringing actions by and against executors and administrators, as such, and their securities; and for the bringing actions against guardians for the recovery of filial portions, or the rents and profits of orphan's estates.

RESOLVED, That no execution shall issue upon any judgment obtained in the provincial court, after April term last; or in the county courts, after the last March adjourned courts, without such licence as aforesaid; save only in the cases above specified, or where the original actions shall be brought by licence from the committee of observation.

RESOLVED, That the committees of observation now in being, in each county, and the committees of Bre-

derick county, in their respective districts, meet as soon as they conveniently can, after publication, and due notice of this resolve, and that the committees hereafter to be chosen, meet as soon as they conveniently can, at the court-house, or some other place, agreed upon by themselves, and appoint, by ballot, seven of their number, to be a committee for receiving suits; which said committee shall meet on the first and third Mondays in every month for the purpose of receiving applications, and give notice of the place where they intend to meet.

RESOLVED, That it is earnestly recommended by this convention, to all the inhabitants of this province, to make payment without compulsion, when they are able, or give security as above mentioned; and particularly that they pay the public taxes, and interest money due in the loan-office; it being the design of this convention to prevent oppression and imprisonment of poor debtors, but not to give any pretence of non-payment to those who are of sufficient ability to pay their just debts.

Signed, by order of the convention, G. DUVALL, clerk.

In Provincial Convention, Annapolis, August 14, 1775.

COURTS being entertained, whether merchandise, or other commodities taken on board craft, or in any manner water borne, before the 10th day of September next, may not be considered as exported within the 4th article of the continental association, although the said merchandise, or commodities, be not before that time taken on board the ship, or vessel, which shall export the same, RESOLVED, That where any such merchandise or other commodity, whatsoever is, or shall be before the same 10th day of September, be laden on board the ship or vessel that shall actually export the same, such loading on board shall be deemed a sufficient exportation, with the spirit and intention of said article, and not otherwise.

Signed, by order of the convention, G. DUVALL, clerk.

To Col. Joshua Beall, Bladenburg, Aug. 2, 1775.

SIR, The letters which Mr. Johnson the adjutant brought, were read at the head of the company on Monday, according to your orders; and the question being put on Tuesday, for every man who would risk his life in defence of American liberty, to repair to the colours, every man present made up to them.

Mr. Munro was put under arrest on Monday, because one of the company would agree to see him forth-coming, as I was greatly provoked, on reading a letter, from one of my family, containing sentiments so different from mine; but I was prevailed on afterwards, to become answerable for his appearance before the committee, who were to meet the next day.

When I was employed with the company on Tuesday, a great body of people came into the town, with loaded arms, and expressed a resolution to tar and feather him, whatever might be the determination of the committee; and a lean horse was also brought, upon which he was to be fet and drummed through the town. This so frightened the young man that he got one of the horses belonging to the store and rode off in such haste, that he carried away the key of the money drawer. As soon as it was known that he had gone off, two gentlemen were immediately appointed by the people out of doors to ride after him, and bring him back, who were supplied with money and horses at my expense.

The question then with the people out of doors arose, what was to be done with me. And with great difficulty, after I had offered to do every thing that I could possibly do, they consented that the committee should allow me till Monday next, to get Mr. Munro back.

I am sure, Col. Beall, no person who knows me, can harbour the smallest suspicion that I am an enemy to America, where I have so many children and all my property. My sentiments I never concealed, they have invariably been the same, and ever friendly to America.

On Monday next our committee are again to meet, I have every reason to expect, that a great concourse of people will assemble on the occasion. Mr. Munro's return is uncertain, and I, an innocent man, may be a victim to their resentment. In these times of general distress, it will, I hope, appear to the convention, to be necessary to prescribe some certain rules to be observed by the people, who ought surely, for the sake of order, to be directed by the committees, as the committees at the same time ought to be by the convention.

I flatter myself, that my conduct hath ever been such that I have the general esteem, of most in the circle of my acquaintance; yet I know I am not without enemies. As this matter of Mr. Munro's will spread far over the country, and many may hear that I am answerable for him, may perhaps, that I am myself guilty of some enmity to America; I think it incumbent upon me to have this letter printed, and also the copy of a letter which I wrote to Mr. Corbett, who had been my assistant, dated July 30th, 1774, and which Mr. Charles Wallace of Annapolis saw at my house, and approved of last winter, in order that the public in general, as well as my friends and acquaintances may be satisfied with regard to my conduct, concerning the present unnatural and unhappy dispute, between the mother country and her colonies.

The immediate necessity of the conventions coming to some determination, relative to the present case, I hope will appear evident to the gentlemen there. Their determinations, and the opinions of the committees, together with the rules of the congress, I hold it my indispensable duty, as a friend to the cause of America, strictly to observe, without either falling short of, or going beyond those rules.

I am, Sir, Your very humble servant, RICHARD HENDERSON.

Mr. Cunningham Corbett, (COPY.) Dear Sir, Bladenburg 30th July, 1774.

I WROTE you what I thought would be the consequence of the act for blockading Boston, and now since the second act destroying the charter of Massachusetts Bay, and the third, giving new powers in favour of the military, there is an amazing union of sentiment from South Carolina to New-England, as to the principle; but the means of obtaining relief, are to be settled by a congress of the first patriots, deputed from all

the colonies to meet early in September, at which I do not think it will be all commercial intercourse with Britain stopped. Importation from Britain will be stopped, either wholly, or very nearly so--but every honest heart is shocked at the idea which a general taxation would bring on individual traders in Britain who have put faith in us; yet even this measure has many public advocates, and I believe, many more private ones--and it will assuredly take place, as the contract is lost, before the Americans will yield their rights. You know something of the disposition that rules the people here--as you go northward they are not less zealous, but more so; and it is to be wished that those who attempt to give law to this country had correspondents among that set of men whom we call the country gentlemen of America, to correct the advices which they receive from other quarters. These men have ideas of liberty resembling the old English ideas--they have always hitherto been, as King Alfred said the English ought to be, free as their own thoughts--they have commonly have never been used to stand in awe of rank and nation; they are a well informed, reasoning cause of the free intercourse between man, and man that prevails in America; their free access to courts of law, as parties and jurors where they hear the rights of the subject nobly debated--their frequent and free elections, which give occasion for candidates to scan each others principles and conduct before the tribunal of the people, together with the freedom and general circulation of news papers and the *Magazines* and *Leisure* of the people to read them, or to attend to those who do, in such a country it is plain, that the sentiments of the best patriots soon become the general sentiments. Our ancestors, say they, with a view of enlarging, not of diminishing the rights of their posterity, emigrated to a waste country, then useless, stipulating allegiance to a crown, and conscience of laws with those of England; and retaining all the rights of Englishmen, especially exemption from taxes, unless they should tax themselves. This contract was solemnly ratified in the face of the world, by oaths--England breaks the contract--claims a right of taxation--and sends an army to enforce it--if a contract, say they, must bind both parties, or else neither party, and we break it too, now are we bound? If the result our dependence by contract, and claim it by power, the pursuit a measure towards us, upon a reluctance to which, her own constitution is founded, if her ancestors were right in retaining slavery, and we are not right?

If dependence on the will of others, for the enjoyment of political liberties, constitutes political slavery, does not the right claimed by the people of England, of granting at their will, to the crown, the property of Americans, constitute political slavery, in America? The rights derived from our fathers we hold in trust for our children, to whom we owe protection from injuries during their infancy. Political slavery is the greatest of injuries, are we not therefore most unparliamentarily to guard our infant children from it? We have, say they, answered the end of their original emigration--we have aggrandized the British empire. All the spare produce of our lands, all the sweat of our brows goes to Britain, in obedience to her regulations of trade. We take in return, manufactures charged with the British taxes, and after paying all the produce of our lands, being still in debt for these taxed manufactures, it is plain that the produce of our lands pays the British taxes. Where is the difference whether we be personally present in Britain, paying taxes, or be here enabling men in Britain to pay them in our stead? Our taxation by commerce is constitutional, being consented to by us--A right of internal taxation without our consent is arbitrary--in proportion as arbitrary taxes are levied on us (since we are in debt more than all the precious metals among us can pay) we shall be disabled from consuming British manufactures, consequently our constitutional taxation will be less, as our arbitrary taxation becomes more. But our constitutional taxation coming through the medium of the manufacturers, needs no addition of tax-gatherers. An arbitrary taxation of America would provide places for infinite swarms of ministerial tools, these we suppose a tyrant minister and his dependents have dared to call *the riot of a few*, in consequence of arbitrary taxation, *the rebellion of all*; attempting to cover, under specious names, their iniquitous contumacious and innocent and guilty, untried, unacquainted, unbreach of national faith, in overthrowing charters, and their hostile invasions to force arbitrary taxes upon us. We have granted our property in aid of the empire in time of war--we even granted beyond our ability and parliament, sensible of this, refunded.

The constitution of the empire would cease if one legislative might grant aids out of the property of another. The idea of property would cease if one had a right to bestow what belongs to another. The regulation of trade is a power capable to govern the motions of the whole system--if that be lodged in the parent state it is enough. These are some of the reasonings prevailing in America, and although they come weak from my pen, yet they will be amusing to you, more especially as it is impossible but that all the attention of Britain must be drawn towards a measure big with the fate of the empire. Farewell, and believe me to be, &c.

RICHARD HENDERSON. To Mr. Cunningham Corbett, merchant in Glasgow.

Mr. Green, IN justice to Mr. Henderson, I must beg leave, through the channel of your press, to inform the public, that the above letter, dated July 1774, was shown me last fall at his house, as he gave me a copy: And I must further say, that I have frequently conversed with him upon our present disputes, and he has always expressed principles the most friendly to the freedom of America.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, CHARLES WALLACE.

At a meeting of the committee of Bladenburg, in Prince George's county, on Tuesday the 11th of August, 1775.

Mr. CHRIS. LOWNDES, chairman, THO. WILLIAMS, clerk.

RESOLVED, That George Munro's letter to Messrs. Bruce and Ritchie be published in the Maryland Gazette, and his letters to the committee.

COPY. "Dear gentlemen, Bladenburg, 18th Jan, 1775.

"I RECEIVED your's of the 30th ult. by which I was glad to understand that our friend William found

way at last... am not surpr... reduced... the c... enable... ear friend... far that you... antage, alth... fruits of it... disputes betw... might car... which wou... mes contin... much at... his summe... did what... ppi, and li... about th... budge than a... rator, that i... particular fi... proceeding... take the... plye (ship t... pack, or an... says the... ould find... confusions w... for some tim... they left, is... But says, an... prudent, an... present with... mind--tha... please--... determined... take, bu... a wife me t... with him... n's. he... with a ver... (some mu... We hear o... depende... about the... n't worth... i. true th... cnder ga... ders were... diars in th... muiter to... people; ou... we are all... onet, and... come to b... solution no... as it is r... paper, as... ward, an... place will... arrived lat... upon his... express, t... the place... upon hor... and then... are all g... news I r... write yo... You may... possible.