

ment, under the allegiance
I will now proceed to shew
in view this great object of
and that the necessity of a total
is not yet arise.
stantly for an immediate sub-
stitution would do well to
its points of view, and look
e consequences. They will
ledge of the history of man-
stitution, when conducted on
is the most perfect form of
yet has been invented by the
er on politics agrees in this
wledge the truth of the asser-
tem of legislation, which fo-
lines the different forms of di-
monarchy, secures a sufficient
people, while it curbs the am-
ers. It is free from those ne-
e out of either of the other
er to be the object of a wise
mber, that the primary object
ation of this constitution. And
necessity of taking up arms in
ights, it is our duty to avoid
an unjustifiable subversion of
e determined purpose of never
e have recovered our rights,
stablishment of our original, as
a sufficient fruit of our victory,
inds all the benefits which we
iginal country: She hath erer
e defence against the ambitious
urope. She hath served as a
o prevent and heal those civil
ealousy and emulation. We too
s growing up in each other's
influence of her excellent con-
for that peace and prosperity
enjoyed; and while we coa-
possession of our rights, under
wn of England, we must go on
ndless career (of which there is
ry) until the seat of empire shall
to America.
on one side. Let us now see
will present us. A public de-
ndence will exclude us for ever
Britain, and either create us a
will have it in her power to
e reduce us to the most abject
ents of war are uncertain; and
e related with our present loca-
ian will keep within his own
oting a continuance of success,
terms on a reverse of fortune,
have manifested an early incli-
while we contend for our confi-
Her ministry have found it diffi-
es; but the moment a declara-
comes out every man in England
Numbers in America, too,
in their opposition to uncon-
will conscientiously stand forth
vation. Already the evil has
nd the Jerseys have declared for
the two Carolinas for a total
will be let those reflect that
cause of disunion among us.
it? If we are victorious, we
to command our own terms;
against us, what terms can we
in the evil end?
urther. Were we this moment
uccess of victory, I should still
nd happiness of America to en-
vantage of a free trade, and a
nce, under the allegiance of the
n of absolute independence would
of religion, of oaths, of laws, of
interest, of commerce; of all
which hold us united among the
fluence of the common parent.
a rendering to pieces must reach
the very life of the colonies?
ood fortune to escape the fatal
will it be an easy matter for
new form of government? Is it
establish a form on the same fa-
old one; or is it practicable
do so, who among us has pre-
But if (as is most probable) de-
cies, should be the modes, who
onsiderable loser by the change?
become a separate and distinct
ions among them! Should such
nonwealths, where the diversity
of riches, the variety of prod-
ct, the seeds of opposition in in-
form a con-ederated union; how
ch should hold in it, and the in-
d possessions, in proportion to their
portance? Jealousy, and a hum-
which so early divided the states of
discord through a multitude of co-
e but transient and indignation-
e weighed principles of a natural
Their confederacy will continue
y of opposing the common en-
ty ceases, the turbulent spirit of
se; the strong will over-run the
urn for the peaceful influence of
All these considerations seem to
divorce from Britain would be a
fortune to these colonies.
of innovation) it is both unrat-
for the sovereign of America to
nd miles distance. This I look
r greatest blessings. A king at a
e that personal influence, which
e of every subversion of the rights
though some inconveniences may
situation, the good by far over-
thers have asked, how can we a-
e a people who hath declared an
ge allegiance to a king who has
the subject, and broke through
stitution? I answer, that I care
larations, for as long as we

power of retaliation in our hands, they will not dare
treat us as rebels; and although I detest the prin-
ples of George III, and shall think it my duty at all
times to oppose his unjust encroachments, yet I mean to
reserve the constitution by restraining the king. All
men are intoxicated with power, and it is the duty of
the people to watch over those who must of necessity be
vested with supreme command. The same caution
exists in monarchies, aristocracies, and republics.
I am told your scheme is merely visionary. The
people of England will never agree to such a reconcili-
ation as renders the crown independent of parliament;
let us beat them into compliance; they will be glad
to receive us on those terms, rather than lose us alto-
gether. And while we acknowledge allegiance to the
crown of England, let us assert our natural, our constitu-
tional rights to a free government, and oppose an in-
flexible resistance to every shadow of parliamentary
influence over these colonies.
With much more shew of reason it is alleged, that
necessity and our common safety, call out aloud upon
us to separate for ever. The advocates for this doc-
trine tell us, that as long as we continue under the al-
ligiance of the crown of England, the nations of Eu-
rope will not lend us any assistance. And have we then
no bad an opinion of our own strength as in despair to
call in the assistance of foreigners? No (say they) but
an alliance with foreigners will be an advantage
to us, by enabling them to supply us with the necessaries
of carrying on the war; that on a declaration of inde-
pendence, and not before, our seas and rivers will be
rouded with French and Spaniards, a ready market will
be had for our produce, and gold and silver will pour in
upon us. Alas! I fear it will prove but a golden dream,
out of which we shall awake restless, dissatisfied, and in
despair. The very reverse appears to me to be the most
probable. While Britain is mistress of the seas,
and blocks up every port of our country, how are the
French and Spaniards to get in amongst us?—Have we
not seen her over-matched for France and Spain united?
And while she continues in alliance with Russia
and Holland, is it not probable that she will beat the
rest of the united world on that element? But I will
suppose France and Spain able to lend effectual assis-
tance; yet I affirm that it is neither their interest to give
it, nor our interest to accept it, with a view to abso-
lute independency. Cut the knot which ties old Eng-
land to the new, and soon would the northern colonies
alone possess more force than they now have united with
Britain. This vast continent, let loose from every con-
nexion in Europe, would enjoy the liberty, the com-
mand of all her own movements. It would then be-
come a measure of equal importance and facility for her
to seize those lands whose treasures she supplies what
the mediocrity of her own productions afford her. Her
independent position would enable her to complete the
preparations for invasion before the rumour of them
would reach the European climates. She might chuse
her enemy, the field, and the moment of her victories.
Her thunder would always discharge itself on coasts
where it was least expected, on seas but feebly guarded
by distant states. Those countries, for the defence of
which forces were sent over, would be conquered before
they could be succoured. They could neither be recov-
ered by treaty, without great sacrifices, nor prevented
from falling again under that yoke from which an en-
feebled hand had delivered them. The colonies of these
states would hasten to acknowledge a master who would
offer them no conditions so onerous as that of their
own government; or else, animated by the example of
the English provinces, they would break the chain which
fastens them so shamefully to Europe. Sound policy
then will prevent the rival nations of England from pre-
cipitating, by their secret councils, by clandestine suc-
cours, or by open assistance, the total independence of
America, which can only deliver them from a neigh-
bouring rival, by giving them a conqueror at a distance.
I will go further, and assert, however paradoxical it
may appear, that although the other nations of Europe
will not assist in bringing about a total separation, it will
be their true interest to join the Americans in that con-
stitutional independence which gives them a free trade
under the allegiance of the crown of England. England,
it is true, derives the influence she is mistress of, espe-
cially in the new world, from the extent and population
of her northern colonies. It is they who put it in her power
to attack at all times, with advantage, the Isles and the con-
tinent of other nations, to conquer their lands, and to ruin
their commerce. But let it be considered, that this
crown hath, in the other quarters of the globe, interests
which may run counter to her progress in America,
which may hamper or retard her enterprises there,
which may annihilate her conquests by the necessity of
restitutions. France and Spain have nothing more to
gain from a total separation of the colonies, but what
they will receive from their independent trade under the
crown of England. They have a great deal more to
lose. This reasoning, it is said, may hold good with re-
spect to Spain, but the French territories in America
are so insignificant that an extensive commerce with the
continent, and the prospect of a powerful fleet, will
vastly overbalance the other considerations. And can
we be serious in our wish to aggrandize the power of
France? That nation is lately aspired at universal
empire, and only wanted to carry her scheme
into execution. Shall we furnish short-sighted politi-
cians as to furnish her with that fleet? Soon would the
give laws to the whole American continent. Or suppose
the power of France should be only an equal match for
Britain, what shall we gain by the conflict? A diversion
of the British forces perhaps in our favour. But is it
not more probable that the contending powers, being
wearied with their mutual losses, would join to divide
the colonies between them? Thus every great and pow-
erful motive combines to mark the line of American
politics—the rights of a free trade under the crown of
England, and the power of granting supplies as the free
gift of the people, until, in the fulness of time, the seat of em-
pire shall be transferred from Britain to America.

they have been appointed, during the unhappy
differences with Great Britain.
Resolved, That the said oaths be dispensed with dur-
ing the said differences, and that the persons already
appointed, or who may hereafter be appointed, do qual-
ify themselves for their trusts by taking the respective
oaths of office to which they are or may be appointed;
and all persons concerned either in administering or tak-
ing the said oath of office independent of the said oaths
to the government, may rest assured, that proper care
shall be taken; upon the settlement of those differences,
an event we most ardently wish for, to indemnify them
against any penalties directed by any laws, to be in-
flicted on persons acting as aforesaid without having first
taken said oaths.
Monday, 20 May, 1776.
The president laid before the Convention a letter
from the deputy of this province in Congress, includ-
ing the following Resolution, to wit:
"In CONGRESS, May 15, 1776.
"WHEREAS His Britannic Majesty, in conjunc-
tion with the lords and commons of Great-Britain, has,
by a late act of parliament, excluded the inhabitants of
these United Colonies from the protection of his crown
—And whereas no answer whatever, to the humble peti-
tions of the colonies for redress of grievances and recon-
ciliation with Great-Britain, has been; or is likely
to be given, but the whole force of that kingdom, aided
by foreign mercenaries, is to be exerted for the destruc-
tion of the good people of these colonies—And whereas
it appears absolutely irreconcilable to reason and good
conscience, for the people of these colonies NOW to
take the oaths and affirmations necessary for the support
of any government under the crown of Great-Britain;
and it is necessary that the exercise of every kind of au-
thority under the said crown should be totally suppress-
ed; and all the powers of government exerted under the
authority of the people of the colonies for the preserva-
tion of internal peace, virtue, and good order, as well
as for the defence of their lives, liberties and properties,
against the hostile invasions and cruel depredations of
their enemies—Therefore
Resolved, That it be recommended to the respective
assemblies, and conventions, of the United Colonies,
where no government sufficient to the exigencies of their
affairs has been hitherto established, do adopt such go-
vernment as shall, in the opinion of the representatives
of the people, best conduce to the happiness and safety
of their constituents in particular, and America in gen-
eral.
"Extract from the minutes,
CHA. THOMSON, secretary."
Which was read and ordered to be postponed for con-
sideration till next day.
Tuesday, 21 May, 1776.
The Convention resumed the consideration of the re-
solution of Congress of the 15th day of this instant, and
thereupon came to the following resolutions:
Resolved unanimously, That the people of this province
have the sole and exclusive right of regulating the in-
ternal government and police of this province.
Resolved unanimously, That it is the opinion of this
Convention, that this Convention hath ample power to
draw the whole force of this province into action against
the armed force that is, or may be employed to carry
into execution the several unconstitutional and oppress-
ive acts of the British parliament for laying taxes in Am-
erica, to enforce the collection of those taxes, and for
altering and changing the constitution and internal
police of some of the United Colonies.
Resolved unanimously, That this province hath hitherto
exercised itself, and will upon all occasions continue to
exert itself, with cheerfulness and alacrity, in the com-
mon cause, agreeable to the faith pledged in the union
of the colonies; and if it shall appear to this province
necessary to enter into a further compact with the other
colonies for the preservation of the constitutional rights
of America, this province will enter into such further
engagement for that purpose.
Resolved unanimously, That this Convention, by a re-
solution of the 15th day of this instant, hath made suf-
ficient provision to prevent a necessity for any person
within this province now taking the oaths for the sup-
port of government under the crown of Great-Britain,
and that it is the opinion of this Convention, that it is
not necessary that the exercise of every kind of autho-
rity under the said crown should be now totally sup-
pressed in this province, and all the powers of govern-
ment exerted under the authority of the people.
Resolved, That the honourable Matthew Tilghman,
Esq; and Thomas Johnson, jun; Robert Alexander,
Samuel Chase; Robert Goldborough, William Paca,
Thomas Stone, and John Rogers, esquires, deputies
now re-elected by ballot to represent this province in
Congress, be, and they or any three or more of them
are, empowered to represent this province in Congress
until the end of the next session of Convention, as fully
as they might, until the end of this session of Con-
vention, have done the same, under their former appoint-
ment.
Resolved unanimously, That as this Convention is firm-
ly persuaded that a re-union with Great-Britain on con-
stitutional principles would most effectually secure the
rights and liberties and increase the strength and pro-
mote the happiness of the whole empire, objects which
this province hath ever had in view, the said deputies
are bound and directed to govern themselves by the in-
structions given to them by this Convention in its ses-
sion of December last, in the same manner as if the said
instructions were particularly directed to them.
Published by order of Convention,
G. DUVAL, cl.

whose occupations are stop and others obliged to take
the small fruits of their trade in country produce, whilst
THESE MEN have the peculiar privilege of gathering
their interrupted incomes in money, and rising upon the
ruins of their distressed fellow countrymen. The con-
ventions fully sensible of the difficulties that the people
would be laid under by a suspension of their comm-
passed resolutions, for the prevention of undue advan-
tages being taken by individuals therefrom; particu-
ly in restricting suits at law, and the prohibiting the rec-
overy of rents in money, where country produce should be
tendered though contracts were subsisting for payment
of such rents in money. Which regulations have had the
salutary effects intended by them. It is hoped with all
due deference to superior judgments that equal atten-
tion will be paid to this grievance; and that it will be
effectually removed, by a resolution passing to the fol-
lowing effect—THAT ALL INTEREST OF MONIES MAY
BE PAID AND SHALL BE RECEIV'D IN COUNTRY PRO-
DUCE AT A REASONABLE VALUE TO BE SET BY THE
COMMITTEES OF OBSERVATION.
Where there is any deviation from, or neglect of the
interest of, the people it may be easily corrected, or
prevented, by early care, and the precaution which
good policy suggests.
The PEOPLE'S MAN.
TO THE P R I N T E R.
S I R,
I ENCLOSE you a further account of Mr. Wright,
which you'll please insert in your next paper, and you'll
oblige
Your humble servant,
RICHARD WILLSON.
Queen-Anne's county, 21st May, 1776.
I OBSERVE in the Maryland Gazette of the 16th
instant Mr. Turbutt Wright's confession of cowardice
—Mr. Wright afterwards says he boxed my ears; it is
false. Mr. Wright did in a public company give me
one blow, and before I could get my great coat off, the
people interposed. I did not incline to box with Mr.
Wright in that company, but offered to walk out by
ourselves and end it in his own way; he refused. If
Mr. Wright expects a scrutiny of my past conduct for
his satisfaction, he must excuse me as long as I look
upon his disesteem as reputable. I should not think it
my duty to challenge any man for mentioning a report
as they heard it. If Mr. Wright had met me at Ches-
ter church, we could have walked in five minutes to a
private place as necessary; as it is, I think his objec-
tions of no weight. I did apply to the hon convention
for an appointment in the army, and met with the same
success Mr. Wright's friends did in making him a
field officer.
RICHARD WILLSON.
On Saturday the first day of June next will be exposed
to public sale, for the benefit of the under-writers
at Fell's-Point, the east end of Baltimore-Town, for
cash or good London bills of exchange,
TWO hundred and seventy hogheads of tobacco,
part of the cargo of the brigantine Nancy, capt.
Gabriel Sund; one hundred and twenty-five hogheads
whereof being damaged, will be sold separate from the
residue thereof, landed safe. Also about eleven thou-
sand pipe, hoghead and barrel staves, part of the said
cargo. THOMAS BRERETON, broker.
THREE POUNDS REWARD.
St. Mary's county, Maryland, May 20, 1776.
RAN away from the subscriber, on the night of the
5th instant, an indentured servant man, named
Michael Ferroll, a common labourer, born in Ireland,
and I believe between 20 and 25 years of age, well set,
about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches high, but little beard, black
hair, and fond of liquor: had on when he went away,
a new broad cloth coat and waistcoat of a darkish cla-
ret colour, a pair of new sheepskin breeches with strings
in the knees, an osnabrig shirt, black stockings, and
half worn shoes. It is likely he may change some of
his cloaths and his name. I am inclined to think he
will make toward Baltimore, or Alexandria in Virgi-
nia, and endeavour to enlist in some company. Who-
ever apprehends the said servant, so that I get him a-
gain, shall be entitled to receive the above reward and
all reasonable charges paid by me.
W. J. ATHANASIOS FORD.
Prince-George's county, Maryland, 19 May, 1776.
COMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a ne-
gro man who calls himself Will, and says he be-
longs to Mr. William Patterson near Colchester in Vir-
ginia. His master is desired to pay charges and take
him from
R. FORSTER, sheriff.
Elk Ridge, May 13, 1776.
STRAYED about a week ago from the subscriber, a
small sorrel mare, about 13 hands high, has a large
mane and very short tail, a large ear above her tail,
which is very remarkable, her brand is unknown.
Two dollars shall be paid to the person who will bring
her to Joseph Wilkins near Annapolis, or
RICHARD WHITTLE on Elk-Ridge.
THERE is at the plantation of Robert Farmer, in
Charles county, taken up as a stray, a small
bright bay horse, appears to be old, branded on the
off buttock U, trots and gallops, has a small saddle
spot on the off side of his back, and a very small it-
en his forehead. The owner may have him again on
proving property and paying charges.
THERE is at the plantation of John Daily, in
Charles county, taken up as a stray, a black
mare, about 12 hands and a half high, with a few
white hairs in her face, is a natural pacer, and has
no perceivable brand. The owner may have her
again on proving property and paying charges.

HAMPDEN.
ANNAPOLIS, May 23.
IN CONVENTION.
Wednesday, 23 May, 1776.
WHEREAS it is necessary that the peace and
good order of the province should be maintained as
much as possible; and it appearing to this Convention
that sundry officers appointed for that purpose have re-
fused to take upon them the respective trusts to which

TO THE P R I N T E R.
I TAKE it is the natural right of every individual
freely to disclose his sentiments on any subject wherein
he apprehends the public is in any way concerned.
Under this impression I shall venture to exercise that right.
This I hope is a sufficient apology.
Among the various necessary regulations which have
been made during this time of general distress I have
not had the satisfaction to see one which would shield the
people from the future oppression of MONEY LENDERS.
They are permitted to reap in time the produce of their
trade in money out of the exhausted substance of others
who are laid under the most strict