

PHILADELPHIA, June 17.
The following is the circular letter sent to the committees of the different counties in this province, by the committees of inspection and observation for this city and liberties.

GENTLEMEN,
Philadelphia, May 23, 1776.
We have, in a former letter to you, referred to the instructions given by the assembly of this province to their delegates, and they are published in the votes of the house; you will, therefore, not be surpris'd to hear that the delegates of Pennsylvania did not give their voice in con- sideration of the question "for establishing government throughout the continent on the authority of the people;" but, by declining to vote on this momentous occasion, did, as far as was in their power, withdraw the province from this union of the colonies, both in council and action.

By the inclosed papers you will perceive the city and liberties have been convened, and have expressed their sense on the said resolve of congress.

We judge the number of people met, on this occasion, exceeded four thousand, and consisted of that class of men who are most to be depended on in times of danger.

A change of such importance as that now proposed is not brought about without some contest, arising from the opposition of interests, and the force of prejudice in favour of old and established forms. The associators will have to contend, in the present instance, against the proprietaries and all their dependants, influenced by self-interest, and holding lucrative offices under them—with all whom they can influence, joined by all the avowed as well as secret enemies of the cause of American freedom.

It will, however, be absolutely necessary for us to unite with firmness, and pursue our measures with a steady perseverance, which will undoubtedly carry us through every difficulty that may arise.

This committee have thought the object before us of such consequence to the safety and happiness of the province; as to induce us to send some of our committee and fellow-citizens into each county, to incite such of the good people as are friends to liberty, and determined to oppose the cruelty and injustice of Great-Britain, to a spirited and manly exertion of their undoubted rights and privileges, in the present favourable opportunity of *establishing them for ever*.

We have judged this the more necessary, as we are inform'd the party we have already mentioned as our opponents will be indefatigable in their endeavours to frustrate, by falsehood and every other means in their power, every attempt which shall be made to emancipate the people of this province from the bondage in which they have been long held.

To point out the necessity, in our present alarming situation with respect to Great-Britain, of establishing a form of government capable of exerting, in the most effectual manner, the whole strength of this province, in conjunction with the other colonies, for the common defence, by cold reasoning on the subject, would be to affront your feelings as men.—The insults and barbarities of our enemies are unequalled, and the supineness of our government can only be pardoned in consideration of the fatal obligations of allegiance which they seem to hold themselves bound to, by their sacred oaths—a supineness which, being continued, will involve us in distresses too great to be borne and make our last struggles for liberty but the convulsive efforts of expiring life.

From a free government, established on "the authority of the people," and having their interest alone in view, we may reasonably expect the manly and effectual exertion of that strength which God hath given us for our defence, and on which, next to the providence of Almighty God, will depend the future peace, liberty and safety of the whole people.

We have seen, and some of us have felt, the melancholy effects arising from the opposing interests of the proprietary and the people—Who can recollect the horrors of the late Indian war, and not shudder at the idea it brings to his mind.—Fire, sword, desolation, and death in the most infernal forms, will be presented to our view—Parents and children weltering in their blood—Infants torn with savage brutality from their mothers wombs, and made the food of dogs!!!—Objects yet more terrible than these will press upon our reluctant minds; objects which our fond affection for the foster sex forbid our recollection!—Little does it avail to inquire *who was most to blame*, the proprietary, or the people then in power.—It is plain, beyond the possibility of a doubt, that the horrid ravages of that dreadful war were long permitted to spread through this devoted province, by means of the unjust claims of haughty and "absolute proprietaries." To rid yourselves for ever of their tyranny is now in your power.—If you embrace it, your descendants will glory in their ancestors.—If you neglect it, you will entail slavery on your posterity, and they will justly execrate your memory as unworthy of a parent's name. Liberty and slavery is before you, take then your choice.—For us, we are determined to be free, and invite you to partake with us of that freedom which all are intitled to. If you wish this province to be restored to their rank in the continental union, we recommend to you to nominate such a number of your committee as you may think proper, to meet, throughout the province, deputies from the other committees, in Philadelphia, on Tuesday the 18th day of next month, in order to agree upon, and direct the mode of electing members for a provincial convention, to be held at such time and place as the said conference of committees may appoint for the express purpose of forming and establishing a new government, "ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE PEOPLE" only, and for the security of their peace, liberty, and safety, according to the enclosed recommendation of the honourable continental congress.

We are, gentlemen, your humble servants.

Copy of a circular letter from the committee of safety to the committees of inspection and observation in the several counties of this colony.

IN COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

GENTLEMEN,
Philadelphia, 22d May, 1776.
WE are under frequent necessity of addressing you upon subjects of public concern, of which the present is not the most unimportant. It is upon occasion of the uneasiness and dissatisfaction that we are told have prevailed in some parts of the country, on account of the high prices to which many of the imported articles of merchandise, and some necessaries of life, have advanced. But before we proceed further, it is proper to declare our opinion, that the scarcity productive of these

high prices is not an artificial, but a real one, proceeding from the late absolute prohibitions of one important branch of our trade, and the risque and danger which have attended every other.—From whatever fatal source a general discontent arises, it cannot fail, in this critical season of our affairs, to have the worst consequences, but in our capacity, as guardians in some measure of the public welfare, it would give us infinite satisfaction if the evil in question, which will be removed with better times could be referred to its true cause; the peculiar situation in which this country is placed; rather than to a general inclination in individual traders, to rapaciousness and extortion. If even it should be supposed, that avarice has no small share in producing this complaint, this, although highly blameable, should be patiently submitted to; for at what time, or in what country, has there not been some fordid minds ready to prey upon the public necessities? such disposition to extortion may indeed be but too common; we find it prevail where at least one of the motives to it mentioned above, cannot be pretended.—We have seen one of the articles of our own produce, flax, lately raised in price to twice its former value.

We know not where a remedy can be applied, for a knowledge of human nature should teach us, that so inordinate and crafty a vice as avarice has ways to elude all the force and restraints of authority; and truly, in such cases, the interposition of power would sometimes produce more mischievous consequences than the evil it affected to cure.

We lament, as the greatest misfortune, any cause that has a tendency to sow discord among us, and promote dissention, at a time when nothing short of the closest union can save us from destruction. We lament that clamours should be excited where they cannot but be unavailable;—we would rather our countrymen should consider whether the real, although temporary inconvenience, they now feel, may not, by care and industry, be converted into as real and permanent benefits. It may, if rightly improved, teach us the arts of supplying our own wants by our own hands. Had it not been for the excessive dearthness of foreign linens, probably we should not have the present prospect of relief in that article, which the abundant quantities of flax-seed lately sown affords us. Happily there are few wants which this country cannot of itself supply; if we look about us, every farm can afford some substitute for almost every necessary article that is now imported; these need not be pointed out, being well known.

It is these sentiments which only can produce a cheerful acquiescence under the present circumstances of our affairs, and a determined spirit of exertion to resist the efforts of tyranny; such sentiments, we expect, will be inculcated by all men of understanding and influence, in their respective neighbourhoods, and such we make no doubt, from your public duty, as well as from your patriotism and well known attachment to the common cause, you will lose no opportunity whatever to excite.

We are, gentlemen,
Your very humble servants.

By order of the committee,
GEORGE CLYMER, chairman.

IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, NEW-JERSEY.

Burlington, June 14, 1776.
RESOLVED, That, in the opinion of this congress, the proclamation of William Franklin Esq; late governor of New-Jersey, bearing date on the thirtieth day of May last, in the name of the king of Great-Britain, appointing a meeting of the general assembly to be held on the 20th day of this instant, June, ought not to be obeyed.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this congress, the said William Franklin, Esq; by such his proclamation, has acted in direct contempt and violation of the resolve of the continental congress of the fifteenth day of May last.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this congress, all payments of money, on account of salary or otherwise, to the said William Franklin, Esq; as governor, ought from henceforth to cease; and that the treasurer or treasurers of this province shall account for the monies in their hands to this congress, or to the future legislature of this colony.

By order of congress,
SAMUEL LUCKER, president.

A true copy, WM. PATTERSON, secretary.

IN CONGRESS, June 14, 1776.

WHEREAS it has been represented to this congress, that great quantities of salted beef and pork have been purchased for exportation, which, if not restrained, may render the supplies of the army difficult and uncertain,

Resolved, therefore, That no salted beef or pork, except as much as may be necessary for the use of the crew, be exported from any of the United Colonies, in any vessel, under any pretence whatever, until the farther orders of this congress.

By order of congress,
JOHN HANCOCK, president.

June 18.

Resolved, That no man in these colonies, charged with being a Tory, or unfriendly to the cause of American liberty, be injured in his person or property, or in any manner whatever disturbed, unless the proceeding against him be founded on an order of this congress, or the assembly, convention, council, or committee of safety, of the colony, or committee of inspection of the district wherein he resides. Provided, that this resolution shall not prevent the apprehending any person found in the commission of some act destructive of American liberty, or justly suspected of a design to commit such act, and intending to escape, and bringing such person before proper authority, for examination and trial.

Extra from the minutes,
CHARLES THOMPSON, secretary.

June 19. Yesterday the deputies from the counties of this province met in provincial conference in this city, in consequence of the resolution of the continental congress of the fifteenth of May, declaring it "to be necessary that the exercise of any kind of authority under the crown of Great-Britain should be totally suppressed, and all the powers of government exerted under the authority of the people." Colonel Thomas M'Kean was chosen chairman, col. Joseph Hart, vice-chairman, Messrs. Jonathan B. Smith, and Samuel C. Morris, secretaries. We hear deputies are appointed from every county."

Copy of a letter from the hon. John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, to the convention of this city, dated Philadelphia, June 11, 1776.

GENTLEMEN,
THE congress have this day received advice, and are fully convinced, that it is the design of general Howe to make an attack upon New-York as soon as possible; the attack, they have reason to believe, will be made within ten days; I am therefore most earnestly to request you, by order of congress, to call forth your militia, as requested in my letter of the 4th instant, and to forward them, with all dispatch, to the city of New-York: And that you direct that they march in companies, or any other way that will hasten their arrival there. The important day is at hand that will decide not only the fate of the city of New-York, but in all probability of the whole province. On such an occasion there is no necessity to use arguments with Americans; their feelings, I well know, will prompt them to their duty, and the sacredness of the cause will urge them to the field. The greatest exertions of vigour and expedition are requisite to prevent our enemies from getting possession of that town; I must therefore again most earnestly request you, in the name, and by the authority of the congress, to send forward the militia, agreeable to the requisition of congress, and that you will do it with all the dispatch which the infinite importance of the cause demands.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,
JOHN HANCOCK, president.

IN PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

Resolved, New-York, June 8, 1776.
THAT the thanks of this congress be presented to his excellency general Washington, for the important services he has rendered to the United Colonies, and for the attention he has paid to the interest and civil authority of this colony; and that he be assured of the readiness of this congress to afford him all the aid in their power, to enable him to execute the important trust reposed in him.

Ordered, That the president wait upon general Washington, and communicate the said resolution to him.

June 9. The president informed the congress, that pursuant to the order of yesterday, he waited upon his excellency general Washington, and communicated to him the resolve therein mentioned;—that his excellency was pleased to return the following answer, and requested the president to communicate the same to congress.

"Gentlemen,
I am extremely obliged for the high sense you entertain of my services, and for your promises of every possible assistance in the discharge of my important duty.

"You may rest assured, that my attention to the happiness of this colony shall not be wanting, nor my regard to its civil authority remitted, whilst I am honoured with the command I now hold.

ANNAPOLIS, June 27.
IN CONVENTION.

Annapolis, 24 June, 1776.
THE letters of capt. Montagu, and of Robert Eden, Esq; of this day, to the Council of Safety, were laid before the Convention, and on consideration thereof,

RESOLVED unanimously, That the said capt. Montagu, by detaining several servants belonging to the inhabitants of this province, and by refusing to deliver up a soldier who deserted from the service of this colony, hath violated the truce and acted in manifest violation of his promise to preserve the same sacred.

ORDERED, That the commanding officer do not permit any baggage or effects belonging to Robert Eden, Esq; or any other person on board the Fowey, to be carried on board the said ship; and to take care that all communication with the said ship immediately cease.

ORDERED, That the letters of capt. Montagu to Robert Eden, Esq; of yesterday, and the several letters from the Council of Safety, of this day, to capt. Montagu and Robert Eden, Esq; and their answers, together with the above resolve and order, be immediately published.

Extra from the minutes,
G. DUVAL, clk.

FOWEY, of Annapolis, Maryland, 23d June, 1776.

SIR,
I HAVE the happiness to acquaint you, that last night I arrived here with his Britannic majesty's ship the Fowey under my command, agreeable to an order from captain Hamond of his majesty's ship the Roebuck, and senior officer of his majesty's ships at Virginia: and in consequence of your application to him, I have hoisted the flag of truce at my fore-top-gallant-mast-head, to shew that I am not come in an hostile manner, and of which I desire you will be pleased to acquaint the inhabitants, that they may not offer any insults to my officers and boats, and on my part I shall hold the truce most sacred.—I have the pleasure to acquaint you that every accommodation the Fowey can afford is at your, and your friends service, and that my boats shall at any time be ready to attend your coming off; and sent for your property. I am,
Sir,
Your very humble servant,
GEO. MONTAGU.

To ROBERT EDEN, Esq;
IN COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

SIR,
Annapolis, June 24, 1776.
REPRESENTATIONS have been made to the Council of Safety this morning by Mr. Samuel Galoway and others inhabitants of this province, setting forth that a number of white servants belong-

ing to the way from vince ha A flag quett should they wil the Con vince w that cap By ors
GEOR In C S I APPL by Mr. this prov ber of se we send believe t her tend We re pose you delivery if they st rized by this prov fidence t By ord I am
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CHA. C H S I R IN ans have juir by Mr. G runaway fe gu's orde tention to, tive, and consistenly request. He says any violati and will n that he is b tions; th along side, never sent deserters. tion of my mult prove I hope w delayed by stock, of th off. Wishi on constitut
CHARLES v. p. of the C FOWEY S I R I HAVI turn of the nor's bagga ceive she is t terday receiv of your boar that is the c now substitin command, a I desire th the reason of