

honorable MATTHEW TILGHMAN, Esq. EDWARD CHAMBERLAIN, EDWARD LLOYD, THOMAS, and POLLARD FIDMOR, Attorneys for ALBION county, in court sitting.

S of part of the FREEMEN of the said county.

importance of the dispute now subsisting between Great Britain and the North American colonies, the consequences that must attend the success of that dispute, and the effects they may have on us in common with the neighbouring colonies, sufficiently justify your constituents in their sentiments before you, on the present occasion the measures taken for carrying into effect the plan proposed for the preservation of our peace and the most imminent danger.

in virtue of that right which the constitution has vested in you, as our great concern and sorrow, that you have taken the measures pursued in the late Convention. We have seen, with grief and concern, the Convention of Maryland, in matters of importance, resolving in direct opposition to the resolutions of the late Convention. We have also seen, with grief and concern, the Convention of Maryland, in matters of importance, resolving in direct opposition to the resolutions of the late Convention.

Its resolves, in opposition to those of the 15th of May, declaring it to be the exercise of any kind of authority under the Great-Britain should be totally suppressed, and the Government of the Colonies to be exercised by the Colonies themselves, and to have a direct and separate authority at the same time, and to have a direct and separate authority at the same time, and to have a direct and separate authority at the same time.

That for that purpose four battalions be instantly raised, each of them to consist of nine companies, and each company to consist of ninety men, to wit, one captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and seventy-six privates; each of the said battalions to be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, and one major, and that to each battalion there be allowed a quarter-master, an adjutant, a surgeon, and two assistants; and that over and above the said battalions, there be also instantly raised one other company, to consist of one captain, three lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and ninety-six privates; and that the whole of the said militia to be raised, be commanded by a brigadier-general, who shall have the appointment of a brigade-major.

That warrants immediately issue to such persons as shall be appointed by this Convention to take the enrollments of the said non-commissioned officers and privates, which enrollments shall be made up of those who shall voluntarily offer themselves for the said service, and subscribe an enrollment in the following words, to wit: We the subscribers do hereby enroll ourselves to serve as militia of Maryland in the middle department, that is to say, from this province to New York, inclusive, until the first day of December next, unless sooner discharged by the honorable Congress, according to the resolutions of the Convention of Maryland, held at Annapolis the 21st day of June, 1776.

By the Convention of Maryland, June 25, 1776. YOU are empowered to enroll effective freemen, to act as militia of this province in the middle department, according to the resolutions of this Convention, and the form of enrollment herewith delivered to you, on your doing which, and their passing as effective, you are to be entitled to, and shall receive a commission as captain, or first or second lieutenant or ensign, as the case may be, of a company to be composed partly of those you enroll.

To of county. That thirty men be expressed in the warrant to a captain, twenty men in the warrant to each of the lieutenants, and sixteen men in the warrant to the ensign of the said companies.

That all enrollments be returned to the Convention or Council of Safety, as soon as filled up, or if not completed by the 20th day of July at farthest, and if any of those to whom warrants shall be directed cannot enroll the full number of effective freemen by that day, the Convention or Council of Safety will, or the Council of Safety in the recesses of Convention shall, give a commission to the person to whom the warrant shall have been directed, or to any other person who may best promote and forward the service, but a commission shall issue of course in every case where the full number shall be enrolled according to the warrant.

Fourth. That you use your utmost endeavours to put a stop to the executing the writs of election we understand are already issued in the name of the proprietary or by the authority of the king of Great-Britain, as no fair elections can be held, or the people legally represented, under the present circumstances of this province, for reasons too obvious to require being mentioned.

Fifth. That you use your endeavours and influence to have the members of the Council of Safety appointed from among the delegates in Convention only, they being persons duly elected by the people, who are the source of all power.

Sixth. That you endeavour to procure a resolve of Convention, to prevent any undue influence being used at elections by military officers over the men they command, a danger which may possibly arise from the attachment natural enough in the soldier to his commander.

Seventh. That you move for and promote a reasonable regulation to enable debtors to pay off their creditors in country produce especially in the case of rents and interest due on obligations or otherwise, and also the public levies now due.

Eighth. That you endeavour to procure a resolve of Convention to exclude all officers civil or military from holding seats in Convention or Congress, after appointment to each office, until rechosen; and to exclude all members of Congress from a seat in the Convention.

Ninth. That you endeavour to reduce the enormous allowance of £25 per week, given to each of our delegates in Congress, this being a time when strict economy is necessary; and also reduce the allowance of members in Convention to a sum adequate to their necessary expence, as we are persuaded you will agree with us in opinion that the present state of this province will by no means admit of profusion.

In CONVENTION. June 25, 1776.

RESOLVED Unanimously, That this province will furnish 3405 of its militia to form a flying camp, and to act with the militia of Pennsylvania and the Delaware government, in the middle department, that is to say, from this province to New York, inclusive, according to the resolutions of the Congress in their resolutions of the third day of this instant, June.

That for that purpose four battalions be instantly raised, each of them to consist of nine companies, and each company to consist of ninety men, to wit, one captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and seventy-six privates; each of the said battalions to be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, and one major, and that to each battalion there be allowed a quarter-master, an adjutant, a surgeon, and two assistants; and that over and above the said battalions, there be also instantly raised one other company, to consist of one captain, three lieutenants, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and ninety-six privates; and that the whole of the said militia to be raised, be commanded by a brigadier-general, who shall have the appointment of a brigade-major.

That warrants immediately issue to such persons as shall be appointed by this Convention to take the enrollments of the said non-commissioned officers and privates, which enrollments shall be made up of those who shall voluntarily offer themselves for the said service, and subscribe an enrollment in the following words, to wit: We the subscribers do hereby enroll ourselves to serve as militia of Maryland in the middle department, that is to say, from this province to New York, inclusive, until the first day of December next, unless sooner discharged by the honorable Congress, according to the resolutions of the Convention of Maryland, held at Annapolis the 21st day of June, 1776.

That the said warrants be in the following form, to wit:

By the Convention of Maryland, June 25, 1776. YOU are empowered to enroll effective freemen, to act as militia of this province in the middle department, according to the resolutions of this Convention, and the form of enrollment herewith delivered to you, on your doing which, and their passing as effective, you are to be entitled to, and shall receive a commission as captain, or first or second lieutenant or ensign, as the case may be, of a company to be composed partly of those you enroll.

To of county. That thirty men be expressed in the warrant to a captain, twenty men in the warrant to each of the lieutenants, and sixteen men in the warrant to the ensign of the said companies.

That all enrollments be returned to the Convention or Council of Safety, as soon as filled up, or if not completed by the 20th day of July at farthest, and if any of those to whom warrants shall be directed cannot enroll the full number of effective freemen by that day, the Convention or Council of Safety will, or the Council of Safety in the recesses of Convention shall, give a commission to the person to whom the warrant shall have been directed, or to any other person who may best promote and forward the service, but a commission shall issue of course in every case where the full number shall be enrolled according to the warrant.

That none of the said militia be compelled to serve out of the said limits, or beyond the said first day of December next, and during the time of their service shall be under the command of the general officer, or such, who shall be appointed by the Congress, and shall be subject and liable to the rules and regulations already provided by this Convention for the government of the militia when called into actual service, and no other.

That as camp-kettles cannot be had, the said militia be supplied with 850 small iron pots or kettles, with bales, at the expence of this province, and that they be also furnished with cartouch-boxes, and as far as may be with tents.

That such of the militia who have effective firelocks, use the same, that such of them as have firelocks not effective, but that may be made so by small repairs, have such repairs done at the expence of this province, and use their own firelocks, and those who have not sufficient firelocks be furnished by the Council of Safety out of the arms now belonging to, or that shall be procured for the use of the public, and by the committees of observation in the respective county where they inlist, out of the arms in their keeping, delivered in by, or taken from those who have not subscribed the association, or have not enrolled in the militia, so far as such arms will extend, and the deficiency shall be made up by borrowing the firelocks of such of the militia as will lend on the public faith, which is hereby pledged to return the same in the like order as received, or in case of loss, the value thereof. And all firelocks so to be lent shall be valued by two freeholders, and a certificate given to the owner by the officer who enrolled the men supplied therewith, of the receipt and value of the same arms.

That all arms so furnished by the Council of Safety, or committees of observation, or lent as aforesaid, as well as the tents, cartouch boxes, kettles, and pots, shall be carefully preserved and returned; and if any shall not be returned from gross negligence shall be suffered, shall be answerable to the public for the loss, and the immediate delinquent to the captain.

That the Council of Safety, in the recesses of Convention, direct the formation of the companies in battalions, and appoint what companies shall compose such battalions.

That for the ascertaining the rank of the captains, lieutenants, and ensigns of the said companies, commissions shall issue by the Convention, or Council of Safety, and be dated of the day such captain, lieutenant, or ensign, shall have enrolled the number of men expressed in his warrant; and rank as between officers of equal degree, shall take place according to such date, but where there shall be enrollments completed on the same day by officers of the same degree, the rank shall be settled by ballot between such officers, and the commissions marked accordingly.

That on the issuing of the warrants or granting of commissions as aforesaid, there be paid by the treasurer of the shore where such person resides, on producing an order from the Council of Safety, the sum of £.69 : 15 : 0 to each captain, £.46 : 10 : 0 to each lieutenant, and £.37 : 5 : 0 to every ensign, out of the bills of credit; to be advanced to the non-commissioned officers and privates in part of their wages, at the discretion of the officer, who shall be answerable for, and accountable to this province for the money advanced as aforesaid.

That as some of the militia may be under contracts to perform particular services by the year, month, or other time, any such who shall enroll as aforesaid, shall be entitled to their wages for the time they shall have continued in the service of their employer, in consequence of such contract, in proportion to the time they shall have served.

That the several companies shall be mustered and passed by some one of the field officers of the county where such company shall be raised, and the captain shall return two copies of his muster-roll, certified by the field officer who musters the men, to the Council of Safety, who shall transmit one of the copies to the Congress.

Extract from the minutes, G. DUVALL, clk.

In CONVENTION. 29 June, 1776.

RESOLVED, That the bills of credit issued by the Congress and the Conventions of this province, be received by the commissioners of the loan office in payment of any interest due to the said office.

Extract from the minutes, G. DUVALL, clk.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.

THERE never was a time in which it was more necessary for you to enquire into the conduct of your representatives. If on examination and a strict scrutiny you approve, let your honour and confidence be given to your present delegates. If you find good cause to suspect their political principles or probity, discard, without hesitation, such men from your service, with contempt, disgrace and infamy. If you discover a want of judgment and fortitude if their conduct is weak, timid and irresolute, dismiss them with silence, as unfit to advise or govern in the present state of your affairs, which demands wisdom to plan and firmness to execute. If only an error in judgment can be imputed to them, correct it by your advice and instructions.

The December Convention appointed a committee to prepare a draught of instructions for the deputies in Congress, who reported the following, as unanimously agreed to by them.

In CONVENTION.

To the hon. M. Tilghman, Esq; T. Johnson, jun. S. Chale, Robert Goldborough, W. Paca; T. Stone; Robert Alexander, and John Rogers, Esquires. The Convention taking into their most serious consideration, the present state of the unhappy dispute between Great Britain and the United Colonies, think it proper to deliver you the following instructions, and to instruct you in certain points relative to your conduct in Congress as representatives of this province.

James Holaday, Charles Carroll, barrister, James Tilghman, Gubawut Sotir, and Benjamin Knefel, Esq.

The experience we and our ancestors have had of the mildness and equity of the English government under which we have grown up to, and enjoyed a state of felicity not exceeded by any people we know of, until the grounds of the present controversy were laid by the ministry and parliament of Great-Britain, has most strongly endeared to us that constitution from whence these blessings have been derived, and makes us ardently wish for a reconciliation with the mother country, upon terms that may insure to these colonies an equal and permanent freedom. To this constitution we are attached not only by habit, but by principle, being in our judgments persuaded, it is of all known systems, best calculated to secure the liberty of the subject, to guard against despotism on the one hand, and incertitude on the other.

Impressed with these sentiments, we warmly recommend to you, to keep constantly in your view the avowed end and purpose for which these colonies originally associated — the redress of American grievances, and securing the rights of the colonists.

The remarkable success which has attended the American arms afford so happy an opportunity of vindicating to our sovereign, to our brethren of Great-Britain, and to the world, the sincerity of our frequent declarations of our strong desire of reconciliation, that as representatives of this province, we think it our duty to instruct you, to take the first opportunity to move for in Congress, and use your utmost endeavours to have prepared and transmitted, in a humble petition to the throne, disavowing in the most solemn manner, all designs in these colonies of independence, and declaring in explicit terms, that they have nothing more in view than the establishment of their just rights, expressing their ardent desire to be restored to the confidence of their sovereign, and so that happy connection which subsisted between them, and the parent state before their present troubles began, and praying the royal interposition with parliament for the speedy restoration of peace and tranquillity to the divided empire. As upon the obtention of these great objects we shall think it our greatest happiness to be firmly united to Great-Britain in a constitutional dependence upon the imperial crown and parliament thereof, we think proper to instruct you, that should any proposition be happily made by the crown or parliament that may lead to, or lay a rational and probable ground for reconciliation, you use your utmost endeavours to cultivate and improve it into a happy settlement and lasting amity; taking care to secure the united colonies against the exercise of the right assumed by parliament to tax America, and to alter and change the charters and constitutions of the said colonies, which cannot be admitted without destroying the essential security of the lives, liberties and properties of the colonists.

We further instruct you, that you do not, without the previous knowledge and approbation of the Convention of this province, assent to any proposition to declare these colonies independent of the crown of Great-Britain; nor to any proposition for making or entering into alliance with any foreign power; nor to any union or confederation of these colonies which may necessarily lead to a separation from the mother country. Desirous as we are of peace with Great-Britain upon safe and honourable terms, we wish you nevertheless, and instruct you to join with the other colonies in such military operations as you shall judge proper and necessary for the common defence until such a peace can be happily obtained. At the same time that we assure you we have an entire confidence in your abilities and integrity in the discharge of the great trust reposed in you, we must observe to you as our opinion, that in the relation of constituent and representative, one principal security of the former is the right he holds to be fully informed of the conduct of the latter. We can conceive no case to exist in which it would be of more importance to exercise this right than the present, nor any in which we can suppose the representative would more willingly acquiesce in the exercise of it; we therefore instruct you, that you from time to time, as occasions may offer, lay before the Convention of this province the proceedings and the part you take in the general deliberations of the Congress, except such military operations as may be judged necessary to be kept secret.

To determine the propriety of this province urging the Congress to petition the king of Great-Britain in January last, it may be proper to observe, that the petition proposed was, in substance, and almost in words, the same with the one sent by the Congress, and then lying before the throne. The proclamation declaring all the colonies in rebellion, was issued a few days after the arrival and knowledge of our petition, and was published in all the news-papers. It was also well known that the parliament was called and expected to meet in October. The petition proposed would not probably arrive in England before the month of March, before which time the measures of parliament must have been taken, and would not be in the least influenced by the petition. To send a second petition of the same nature, before a knowledge of the fate of the first, could answer no other purpose but to discover an unreasonable fondness for peace, and encourage a wicked and implacable tyrant in the pursuit of his diabolical schemes. This part of the instructions were agreed to by the Convention, and struck out on the next day, after the receipt of the king's speech.

The instruction not to assent to any proposition of independence, for a foreign alliance, nor to any union of the colonies, which might necessarily lead to a separation, without the previous knowledge and approbation of the Convention, might have produced the most fatal consequences to all America. Cases might have happened in which it would have been expedient to have formed foreign alliances without any delay if they could not be entered into without the consent of Maryland, tho' a very great majority of the colonies should esteem such measure wise and absolutely necessary, the opportunity of saving America might have been lost. The Congress alone could have the best intelligence and comprehensive view of our affairs, and would be the most capable judges when this step ought to be taken. Interest, policy and necessity would induce this province not to separate from her sister colonies. Why then discover a distrust and want of confidence in the Congress, that is a majority of the colonies? Why disclose to the world that this province would not be bound to unite with a majority of them?

An AMERICAN.