

ond day of June, 1774. In that Convention they were represented equally, and recognized as equals, and were looked upon as parties competent to enter into confederation and agreement.

Each county sent its committee to represent its wishes and views; and the heading of its proceedings as found upon the third page of the journal reads thus: "At a meeting of the committees appointed by the several counties of the province of Maryland," &c. which shows plainly the principle adopted then is the same contended for now by my amendment, and is our true theory, and should be still perpetuated. As a further evidence in favor of county distinction and equality, and as parties to the work then to be performed, I will read the very first act of that body which shows beyond all doubt in what capacity they were acting. It reads thus: "It being moved from the chair to ascertain the manner of dividing upon questions, it was agreed, that on any division *each county have one vote*, and that all questions be determined by a majority of counties." This Convention after a session of three days adjourned, and its interesting proceedings can be found on pages 3, 4, and 5, of the journal.

In November 21st, following, another Convention assembled, and continued its session for four days, but there not being a full attendance it passed the following resolution and adjourned. "Several of the counties not being fully represented, from the want of sufficient notice of the time of this meeting, resolved that this meeting will adjourn to Thursday, the eighth December next; and that a letter be wrote to those counties, earnestly to request them to send *their deputies* to attend punctually on that day, as matters of very great importance," &c. [See page 5, of the journal.]

The Convention met again on the day appointed, viz: eighth December, 1774, and among its deeply interesting proceedings, may be found on pages eight and nine of its journal, the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That it is earnestly recommended by this Convention, to the people of this province—that the determinations of the *several county committees be observed and acquiesced in*: That no persons, except members of the committees, undertake to meddle with or determine any question respecting the construction of the association entered into by the continental Congress; and that peace and good order be inviolably maintained throughout this province.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That it is recommended to the committees of each county, to raise, by subscription, or in such other voluntary manner as they may think proper, and will be most agreeable to their respective counties, such sums of money, &c., &c., &c.; and that the committees of the respective counties, lay out the same in the purchase of arms and ammunition for the use of such county, to be secured and kept in proper and convenient places, under the direction of the said committee.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That it will be necessary that a provincial meeting of deputies chosen by the several counties of this province, should be held in the city of Annapolis, on Monday the

24th of April next, &c.; and, therefore, we recommend that the several counties of this province, choose deputies as soon as conveniently may be, to attend such meetings, &c.

That Convention met according to the time appointed, and another met also in July following, 1775, the latter of which adopted articles of association which contains a kind of provisional government, and a confederation of the counties.

See page nineteen to thirty-six of the journal.

In those articles of association, on page thirty, the following provision for future Conventions is made: "And on the same day, or the next, to which the said delegates are empowered to adjourn, the said electors also choose, by ballot, five of the most discreet and sensible of such freemen, as aforesaid, of their county, to be delegates for the same, in any provincial Convention to be held for this province, within one year then next following, with full power and authority to such delegates or any three or more of them, to appear and act for such county in such Convention; and to consent and agree to, and bind such county to perform and execute all such matters and things as such Convention or a majority of the counties of this province shall determine," &c.

The next Convention was called under the "Articles of Association," and assembled on the 7th of December, 1775. It transacted much business of importance, all tending to carry out the object and principles of the "Association." Among its proceedings may be found, on page eighty-five of the journal, a settlement by ballot of the rank of counties, and Somerset, the county I have in part the honor to represent, stands as first in the catalogue. This was a proud and lofty position, and well may she yet contend for those great principles of county equality, when only by lot she was made the "chief among equals."

The sixth Maryland Convention was held on the 8th of May, 1776, and its session was laborious and protracted, continuing until Saturday the 6th of July following, to the very noon of night. During its session, on page one hundred and eighty-four of the journal, provision was made for calling a new Convention for the express purpose of forming a new government. In that Convention, the counties were to be represented upon the usual footing of perfect equality, anticipating a division of Frederick county in three counties, which was done. Baltimore town and Annapolis were recognised as boroughs, and a representation of only half that allowed to a county, was reluctantly conceded to each. The resolution says, "nor shall the resolution be understood to engage or secure such representation to Annapolis or Baltimore town, but temporarily; the same bring, in the opinion of this Convention, properly to be modified, or taken away, on a material alteration of the circumstances of those places, from either a depopulation or a considerable decrease of the inhabitants thereof."

It will be seen by this, Mr. President, that the right was reserved to take away the representation of Annapolis and Baltimore, under certain circumstances; but no such right was given, reserved or acknowledged to have the like effect