

tified that mode would not answer the purpose, and if no other plan could be adopted, we had better give up the opposition, and make the best terms with Britain we could, upon which Mr. Wright asked him, and what give up independence, to which Mr. Wilson answered *yes*. On hearing which last expressions, Mr. Paca, who was in bed in a room which joined that in which Mr. Wright and Mr. Wilson had the conversation, arose, and came hastily in, and expressed himself with warmth to Mr. Wilson for declaring such a sentiment. Mr. Paca's warmth soon subsiding, he told Mr. Wilson he thought him an honest man, tho' his nerves were but weak.

The above is the substance of the conversation which passed between Mr. Wilson, myself, and others, at Kent island ferry, and is, I think, a just, general state of the whole of what did pass.

WILLIAM PACA.

On Mr. Wilson's proposing the following questions to Mr. Paca, he received the following answers.

Question. Did you hear me propose any plans for reinforcing general Washington's army, and what were they?

Answer. I think you proposed that the wealthy men should appropriate a part of their lands. You also I think proposed, that men of all ranks should embody and turn out in the public service, and you expressed your willingness to do either.

Question. Do you believe that my conduct and expressions at that time proceeded from any aversion to independence, or from the alarming apprehensions naturally arising from the ruinous situation in which our affairs were then represented to be?

Answer. My opinion was, that your declaration that you would give up our independence, arose partly from your ideas of the ruinous situation of our public affairs, and partly from apprehensions excited by the suggestions of some, not at least, the most zealous in the present contest.

The following is the relation delivered in by Joseph Nicholson, Esq;

ON my way to the general assembly, March, 1778, at Kent island, I met there with Mr. Paca, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Thomas. Soon after I had seated myself, Mr. Wilson asked me, what I thought of our public affairs; I cannot recollect what reply I made, but it led to conversation upon that subject, from which I discovered Mr. Wilson thought them in a very bad way. Soon afterwards Mr. Wilson was engaged with other company, and the conversation ended.

As the assembly were then called to fill up our quota of troops, we had repeatedly conversation on that subject, the gentlemen were for a draught, Mr. Wilson was against it, and said, he thought it would not answer.

On the subsequent morning, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Wright, and myself, happened to be first up, and being seated by the fire side, the conversation turned upon the mode of filling up our quota, and I think Mr. Wilson and myself differed about the mode, Mr. Wright and myself urged the necessity of a draught, and Mr. Wilson said, he was of opinion that mode would not be submitted to by the people, and said, it would be more eligible for the men of fortune to part freely with their property to raise the men, than to make the experiment by draught, and said he would most cheerfully part with his for that purpose.

The conversation continued some time between Mr. Wright and Mr. Wilson, and I heard Mr. Wilson say, that he thought we had better make peace with Britain and obtain the best terms in our power. I think Mr. Wright asked him if he was for giving up independence, and he replied that he was, if thereby we could obtain good terms. This brought Mr. Paca in great haste from his bed, which stood very near to us in the next room. He censured Mr. Wilson for that expression, and some heat and warm expressions took place between him and Mr. Wilson, but it soon ended.

From the whole of the conversation that passed, I never supposed Mr. Wilson wanted attachment to the cause, or that his conduct and expressions proceeded from an aversion to independence, but did apprehend that he was much alarmed at the situation of our affairs, and the prospect of a draught being made. I have thought that Mr. Wilson has not appeared of late so zealous in our cause as he did when he first came into the council of safety.

J. NICHOLSON, junr.

Mr. Wilson on the foregoing relations made the following observations.
Conscious as I am of my own good intentions, and of my real desire at all times to promote the common cause of the United States, and to support and maintain the government of this state as now established, I little expected to have been charged with being a traitor, or with being averse to the independence of America.

I have the consolation however to be persuaded, that when it is considered that the conversation from whence this charge arises happened at least twelve months before it was made, that I was then on my way to, and did attend at, the approaching session of assembly, that this conversation and circumstances attending were related immediately after in this city, and that I attended the next fall assembly, it will appear something extraordinary, that this charge should now be brought