

chose the latter, and for the express purpose of securing & defending the United Colonies and preserving them in safety, against all attempts to carry the above mentioned Acts into Execution by Force of Arms, Resolved, that the said Colonies be immediately put into a state of defence and now supports at the joint expense an army to restrain the further violence, and repel the future attacks of a disappointed and exasperated Enemy. — We therefore, Inhabitants of the Province of Maryland, firmly persuaded that it is necessary and justifiable to repel Force by Force, do approve of the opposition by arms to the British Troops employed to enforce obedience to the late acts and Statutes of the British Parliament, for raising a Revenue in America, and altering and changing the Charter and Constitution of the Massachusetts Bay, and for destroying the essential securities for the Lives, Liberties and properties of the Subjects in the United Colonies. And we do unite and associate, as one Band & firmly and solemnly engage and pledge ourselves to each other and to America, that we will, to the utmost of our power, promote and support the present opposition, carrying on as well by arms, as by the Continental Association restraining our Commerce. — And as in these times of Public danger, and until a Reconciliation with Great Britain on Constitutional Principles is effected (an event, we most ardently wish may soon take place) the Energy of Government may be greatly impaired, so that even Good untrained, may be productive of Anarchy & Confusion; We do in like manner unite, associate and solemnly engage, in maintenance of good order, and the public peace, to support the civil power in the due execution of the Laws, so far as may be consistent with the present plan of opposition, and to defend with our utmost power all persons from every species of outrage to themselves or their property, and to prevent any punishment, from being inflicted on any Offenders, other than such, as shall be adjudged by the Civil Magistrate, the Continental Congress, and Convention, Council of Safety, or Committees of observation.

That the Committees of Observation, in every County, as soon as conveniently may be, appoint persons in each Parish, or Hundred, to offer or carry the said Association to all Freemen resident within their County, (the household of His Excellency, the Governor excepted) and require their subscription to the same, which Associations, when subscribed, shall be returned by the Committees to the Convention. And in case any Freeman within their County, shall not subscribe upon application, or within ten days thereafter, his name shall be returned by the said Committee to the next Convention, to the end that the Convention may take order therein.

Resolved, That there be forty Companies of Minutemen enrolled in this Province, as soon as may be, each of which Companies to consist of one Captain, two Lieutenants one Ensign, four Sergeants, four Corporals, one Drummer, one Fifer and 68 privates, and that the said forty Companies be enrolled in the Counties and proportions following, to wit: