

nation! Cutters stationed in our Harbours? Severe Resolves, &c. Roused at the imminent Danger that threatened them, and their Posterity for ever, they endeavoured to interest, as formerly their Brethren, the Merchants and Manufacturers of *Britain*; and, if possible, to make them FEEL some Portion of the *American* Distress. For this Purpose Associations of Oeconomy and Non-importation of Superfluities took Place, and among others, one at *Annapolis*, on the 23d of *May* 1769, which was signed and agreed to, by the principal Traders and Gentlemen in that City and County. With Respect to *this* Association, *Three* Points are worthy of Notice, and to be kept in Mind throughout this whole Transaction:

- 1st, "That the People bound themselves not to send any Orders to *Great-Britain* for any Kind of Goods, until the 30th Day of *June* 1769.
- 2^{dly}, "That they would not import, or endeavour to import, from *Great-Britain*, any Goods whatever contrary to the Spirit and Design of that Association.
- 3^{dly}, "That a Copy of it was sent immediately to *London*, and arrived and was published there, early in *July*."

The Spirit which set on foot the *Anne-Arundel* County Association of the 23d of *May* soon spread over the neighbouring Counties, and similar Associations were entered into, by almost every County of the Province. This brought together, from the different Counties, Deputies to unite the whole Province in one Cause for the common Safety. Their Consultations produced, on the memorable 22d of *June* 1769, that Bond of Union, THE ASSOCIATION, which follows in these Words:

ANNAPOLIS, (*in Maryland*) *June* 22, 1769.

WE, the Subscribers, his Majesty's loyal and dutiful Subjects, the Merchants, Traders, Freeholders, Mechanics, and other Inhabitants of the Province of *Maryland*, seriously considering the present State and Condition of the Province, and being sensible, that there is a Necessity to agree upon such Measures, as may tend to discourage, and as much as may be, prevent the Use of foreign Luxuries and Superfluities, in the Consumption of which, we have heretofore too much indulged ourselves, to the great Detriment of our private Fortunes, and, in some Instances, to the Ruin of Families; and, to this End, to practise ourselves, and, as much as possible, to promote, countenance, and encourage in others, a Habit of Temperance, Frugality, Oeconomy, and Industry; and considering also, that Measures of this Nature are more particularly necessary at this Time, as the Parliament of *Great-Britain*, by imposing Taxes upon many Articles imported hither from thence, and from other Parts beyond Sea, have left it less in our Power, than in Time past, to purchase and pay for the Manufactures of the Mother Country; which Taxes, especially those imposed by a late Act of Parliament, laying Duties on Tea, Paper, Glass, &c. we are clearly convinced have been imposed contrary to the Spirit of our Constitution, and have a direct and manifest Tendency to deprive us, in the End, of all political Freedom, and reduce us to a State of Dependence, inconsistent with that Liberty we have rightfully enjoyed under the Government of his present most Sacred Majesty, (to whom we owe, acknowledge, and will always joyfully pay all due Obedience and Allegiance) and of his Royal Predecessors