

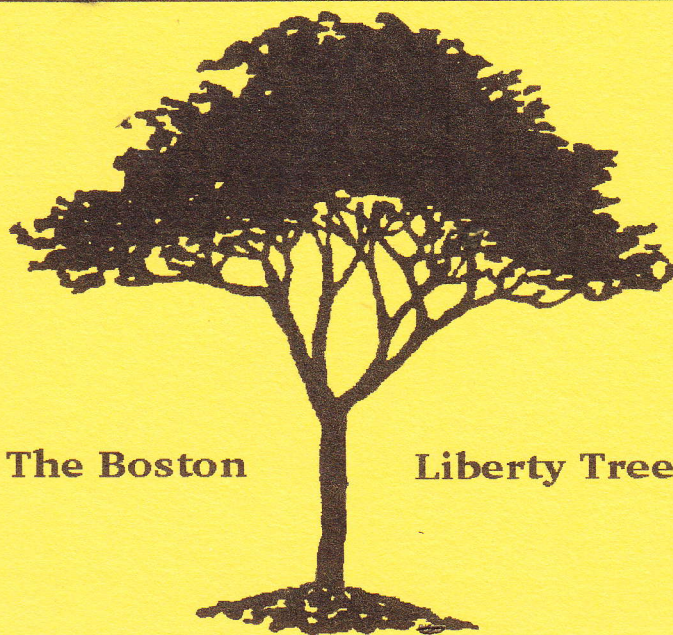
The
St. Joseph County
Committee of Safety

Presents

Historical Documents of
Colonial American Committees of
Correspondence and Safety
1773--1779

PUBLISHED 30 NOVEMBER 1995

Learn how our Founding Fathers dealt with tyrannical British rule and Tory sympathizers; how the towns and counties developed a "parallel" government; how these Committees developed the "Republic" form of government.



The Boston

Liberty Tree

The information contained herein has been duplicated from original documents put on microcards. The quality of some of these 222 year old documents has necessitated transcription of a few for ease in reading. To further help the reader, the double s's and some c's have been changed to modern usage, however, all spelling remains as in the original.

The order of appearance has been arranged primarily by geographical location so that the reader might get a sense of continuity as to what a particular committee was concerned with. The documents are then further arranged chronologically.

We hope the reader will see the similarities of the problems facing our colonial forefathers and ourselves in this present age. Perhaps reading the historical record of how they solved those problems might lead us to a solution of the same major problem--leaders who do not consider the will of the people!

For additional information on historical documents or information on how to set up a Committee of Safety, we encourage you to write us at:

St. Joseph County Committee of Safety
P.O.Box 406
Osceola, Indiana 46561

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45. A transcription of page 44.
46. Table of the Powers of the Committee of Safety, from Agnes Hunt's book.

From the book entitled, "The Provincial Committees of Safety of the American Revolution", by Agnes Hunt c1904, 180 pages:

ORIGIN: During the summer of 1642, the Puritan Revolution in England brought a final parting of King Charles and Parliament. Parliament appointed committees to advise and take charge of certain departments, such as, Committees for Quartering Soldiers, for receiving and answering dispatches, and for superintending the collection of money and plate. Its function embraced the oversight of the whole kingdom, whatever concerned "the Safety of the Kingdom, the Defense of the Parliament, the Preservation and Peace of the Kingdom, and the means of opposing any hostile force." It bought arms and ammunition and distributed them. It even took charge of the army. On 11 July 1647, the Parliament chose a committee of 12 Lords and 24 Commons to join with a committee of the London Militia, to care for the defense of City and Parliament. 12 years passed before a Committee of Safety was again used. From 7 May 1659 until 26 December 1659, the Committee of Safety *WAS* the entire civil government.

AMERICA: The appearance of Committees of Safety in Boston and New York in 1689 shows that the institution was not forgotten in the interim. 18 April 1689, the common people of Boston rose up, took arms, and imprisoned the chief officers of the government including Governor Andros. The prominent citizens associated with the common people and took the name of the Committee for the Safety of the People and Conservation of the Peace. The Massachusetts Committee of Safety took entire charge of the government, with the understanding that it was to be a temporary expedient. 22 May 1689, a Convention of the different towns in the Province voted to resume the old charter and the rule of the Committee ended.

On 31 May 1689, a popular New York rising took place. Headed by a German Militia Captain named Leisler, the fort was taken and Governor Nicholson abandoned resistance and sailed for England to make complaint. Leisler called a Convention from the neighboring towns, from which 16 delegates styled themselves a Committee of Safety. The Committee was the government from June to December, however on 10 December 1689, Leisler took the title of Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, chose his Council from members of the Committee of Safety, and that body dissolved.

The name appears once more before the Revolution, in Vermont in 1770. Vermont settlers' land was regranted to patentees from New York, so they met in Convention and resolved to resist the encroachments of New York by force. They formed themselves into a military association with Ethan Allen as Commander. Committees of Safety were appointed by the chief towns, whose special duty was to resist any intrusion of New York claimants on their lands. Persons found transgressing the resolutions of this body were brought before the individual Committees, tried and punished. These Committees of Safety were in active operation at the opening of the Revolution.

Other names for similar committees were, Councils of Safety, Committees of Protection, Inspection, and Correspondence. In 1673 Connecticut had Grand Committees or Councils of War. Colonists outside of New England had a system of Standing Committees. In 1748, Governor Glen of South Carolina wrote, "The executive part of the government is lodged in different sets of Commissioners named by the General Assembly." In 1752 New York, 1757 Maryland, N.H., Mass, and R.I. Assemblies showed they were no novices in performing executive duties, and that the Committees of Safety merely carried on with the work of the Provincial Congresses. In the years just previous to the Revolution, provincial Committees of Correspondence became the first channels of communication of the Continental Congress with

the colonies, a place later taken by the Committees of Safety. On 18 July 1775, the Continental Congress recommended to those colonies still without them, the appointment of Committees of Safety to direct and superintend all matters necessary for the security and defense of their respective colonies, in the recess of their Assemblies and Conventions.

From "Minutes of the Albany Committee of Correspondence", Vol.I, c1923, 999 pages, we find a further interesting history of Committees of Safety. This Albany County and City Committee of New York Province (State) consisted of members chosen from 19 districts (townships) within Albany Co. and from the city's 3 wards. Each district had its own Committee and kept minutes. Volume II is the Minutes of the Schenectady District.

From page v Introduction we read: One is almost immediately impressed with the orderly and legal way in which the Revolution was carried on. At the beginning the Committee seemingly merely regarded itself as a military committee to assist in raising and supporting troops. It was very particular not to interfere at first with the civil and judicial functions of government. It was only later, when the officials in charge of such matters either fled or failed to perform their duties, that the Committee felt called upon to intervene, and then only generally to the extent of seeing that other officials were properly chosen. No committee of revolutionaries showed a more careful regard for the fact that they owed their powers to the people who elected them and no suggestion is even found that the members should continue in power beyond the time for which they were chosen. Everything pertaining to the successful prosecution of the war they felt to be within their province.

The first entry in The Minutes of Albany begins on 24 January 1775 and the last entry is dated 10 June 1778. There is evidence to suggest that the Committee continued to function through late 1779, however failure to find references after 1779 would seem to indicate the Albany Committee had gone out of existence. ----James Sullivan, NY State Historian. You may find the following brief entries very interesting:

PAGE 5, 24 Jan 1775: 11 members present. First. Resolved. That this Committee proceed to the election of a Chairman. Secondly. Resolved, that a clerk (secretary) be elected. Resolved, that a Subcommittee be appointed to receive and open all letters and to answer same; and farther empowered to transact the ordinary business of this Committee. Resolved, that circular letters be wrote to the Supervisors of the several Districts who have not attended at this meeting, and that the said Supervisors signify their reasons for the non-compliance of their Districts.

PAGE 7, 1 Mar 75: Members (Representatives) of the General Assembly recommend that the House are not likely to appoint Delegates for the Province so the Committee of Correspondence is required to appoint Delegates to meet the Congress at Philadelphia on 10 May 1775. (The First Continental Congress)---(all statements in parentheses are this writer's comments)

PAGE 9, 21 Mar 75: A motion was made to appoint (elect) Deputies to represent the City and County of Albany, to meet the 20th day of April next (1775) at the City of New York, with the Deputies from the different Counties, to elect Delegates out of their body, to meet the Continental Congress in Phila the 10th day of May next. (1775) 5 Deputies were appointed to attend the Provincial Congress in NYC, 20 April. (One of these 5, Colonel Phillip Schuyler, was elected a Delegate to attend in Phila, cf page 38.)

PAGE 13, 26 Apr 75: In response to your letter on the 25th, (from Pittsfield, Mass.) we are extremely sorry to find that the Kings Troops have commenced Hostilities against your Province (19 Apr 1775 Lexington and Concord, Mass.) and as our Sub-Committee being not full, cannot yet answer your request for assistance. (Pages 14 and 15 refer to this request for assistance and are noteworthy but for sake of space, will not be printed)

PAGE 18, 1 May 75: Resolved, that each member be fined the sum of 2 Schillings for non-attendance at every future meeting, unless member has a satisfactory reason.

Paid Luke Cashady 3/ for beating the Drum to notify the People

Paid John Ostrander 3/ for going about and ringing the Bell

PAGE 23, 3 May 75: Met at the Common Council Room in the City Hall.

Resolved, that it is the Sentiments of this Committee that there should be a Burger's Watch kept in this City, during the Alarms and Commotions now prevailing. Therefore, copy's of the following Advertisement be fixed up: Notice is hereby given to the Inhabitants of the City of Albany that they assemble to form themselves into Companies from the ages of 16 to 60 , each Company consisting of a Captain, 2 Lieutenants, one Ensign, 4 Serjeants (sic), 4 Corporals, one Drum, and 51 Privates.

PAGE 29, 10 May 75: Deputies were chosen by ballot, then appointed to their duties.

PAGE 31, 12 May 75: We received a letter signed Ethan Allen acquainting us of the taking of Ticonderoga and wrote a letter to the Committee of New York by Captain Barent Ten Eyck express and each of us paid him a Dollar apiece for going.

PAGE 32, 18 May 75: To those who have arms and ammunition, notify the Committee, or he shall be held up to the Publick as an Enemy to this Country. Ordered that the same be published in Hand Bills.

PAGE 33, 22 May 75: Mr. Roseboom delivered a speech from an Indian commonly called Little Abram, a Chief of the Mohawks distressed over news that they may be attacked by the New England people. (very interesting) A letter was read from the Committee of Schenectady to join them in answering Little Abram's speech in person with an interpreter.

PAGE 38, 25 May 75: Read a letter dated 18 May from the Continental Congress acknowledging Albany's intelligence on the taking possession of the Post of Ticonderoga and suggesting you send a suitable quantity of provisions there.

PROCEEDINGS, JULY 1776: Many references to the Militia, Minute Companies, Tories, the Disaffected and their punishments like being confined in the Goal by the Goaler.

PAGE 495, 18 July 76: Resolved, that the Declaration of Independence be published and declared in this City tomorrow .

GEOGRAPHY LESSON: Albany is located on the Hudson River 158 miles due north of NYC, 80 miles due south of Ft. Ticonderoga, 15 miles east of Schenectady, and 30 miles west of Pittsfield, Mass.

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

Although during the course of colonial history many Committees of Safety were formed and operated under British government, frequently their actions were outside of the authority granted. They frequently co-existed alongside the "authorized" government of the Crown, creating a parallel government which was the direct representation of the people as opposed to the "legitimate" government of the Crown.

These "parallel" governments formed the nexus that would come together again in June, 1776 comprised of representatives of all thirteen colonies to form the Second Continental Congress. The outcome of this second congress was the Declaration of Independence.

SIR,

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F12689

THE Committee of Correspondence of this Town have received the following Intelligence, communicated to them by a Person of Character in this Place. We congratulate you upon the Acquisition of such respectable Aid as the ancient and patriotic Province of Virginia, the earliest Resolvers against the detestable Stamp-Act, in Opposition to the unconstitutional Measures of the present Administration. The Authenticity of this Advice you may depend upon, as it was immediately received from one of the Honorable Gentlemen appointed to communicate with the other Colonies.

We are,

Your Friends and humble Servants,

Signed by Direction of the Committee for Correspondence in Boston,

1773.

William Cooper, Secy. Clerk

To the Town-Clerk of *Massachusetts*, to be immediately delivered to the Committee of Correspondence for your Town, if such a Committee is chosen, otherwise to the Gentlemen the Secretaries, to be communicated to the Town.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman of Distinction in Virginia, to his Friend in this Town, dated March 14th, 1773.

"I RECEIVED the papers* you sent me, and am much obliged to you for them, our assembly having a few days after, they were of use to us. You will see by the enclosed Resolutions the true sentiments of this colony, &c. that we are endeavouring to bring our sister colonies into the strictest union with us, that we may RESENT in our SOUL any steps that may be taken by administration to deprive ANY ONE of us of the least particle of our rights & liberties; we should have done more but we could procure nothing but newspaper accounts of *B's* proceedings in Rhode-Island. I hope we shall not be then kept in the dark for the future, and we shall have from the different Committees, the earliest intelligence of any motion that may be made by the TYRANTS in England to carry their infernal purposes of enslaving us into execution; I dare venture to assure you the British attention will be given on our parts to these grand points."

In the House of Burgesses, in Virginia's March, 1773.

"WHEREAS the minds of his Majesty's faithful subjects in this colony have been much disturbed by various rumours and reports of proceedings tending to deprive them of their ancient, legal and constitutional rights.

"And whereas the affairs of this colony are frequently connected with those of Great Britain, as well as of the neighbouring colonies, which renders a communication of sentiments necessary,

* The Votes and Proceedings of the Town of Boston, and News-Papers, containing the Governor's Speeches, and the Answers of the two Houses.

in order therefore to remove the uncertainties and to quiet the minds of the people, as well as for the other good purposes above mentioned.

"Be it resolved, That a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry be appointed, to consist of eleven persons, viz. the Honourable Payton Randolph, Esq; Robert Carter Nicholas, Richard Bland, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison, Edward Pendleton, Patrick Henry, Dudley Digges, Dabney Carr, Archibald Cary, and Thomas Jefferson, Esqrs; any six of whom to be a Committee, whose business it shall be to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British parliament or proceedings of administration, as may relate to, or affect the British colonies in America, and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our Sister Colonies, respecting these important considerations, and the result of such their proceedings from time to time to lay before this House.

"Resolved, That it be an instruction to the said committee, that they do, without delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority, on which was constituted a court of inquiry, said to have been lately held in Rhode-Island, with powers to transport persons accused of offences committed in America, to places beyond the seas to be tried.

"Resolved, That the Speaker of this House do transmit to the Speakers of the different assemblies of the British colonies, on this continent, copies of the said resolutions, and desire they will lay them before their respective assemblies, and request them to appoint some person or persons of their respective bodies, to communicate from time to time with the said committee.

12689
Boston. Committee of Correspondence, 1773.
Boston, April 9, 1773. Sir, The Committee....
[Boston, 1773.] Broadside.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman of distinction in Virginia, to his Friend in this Town, dated March 14th, 1773.

" I RECEIVED the papers * you sent me, and am much obliged to you for them, our assembly sitting a few days after, they were of use to us. You will see by the enclosed Resolutions the true sentiments of this colony, and that we are endeavouring to bring our sister colonies into the strictest union with us, that we may RESENT in our body any steps that may be taken by administration to deprive any one of us of the least particle of our rights and liberties; we should have done more but we could procure nothing but news-paper accounts of the proceedings in Rhode-Island. I hope we shall not be thus kept in the dark for the future, and that we shall have from the different Committees the earliest intelligence of any motion that may be made by the TYRANTS in England to carry their infernal purposes of enslaving us into execution; I dare venture to assure you the strictest attention will be given on our parts to these grand points,"

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* The Votes and Proceedings of the Town of Boston, and News-Papers, containing the Governor's Speeches, and the Answers of the two Houses.

in order therefore to remove the (?) and to quiet the minds of the people, as well as for the other good purposes above mentioned,

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" RESOLVED, That it be an instruction to the said committee, that they do, without delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority, on which was constituted a court of inquiry, said to have been lately held in Rhode-Island, with powers to transport persons accused of offences committed in America, to places beyond the seas to be tried,

" RESOLVED, That the Speaker of this House do transmit to the Speakers of the different assemblies of the said resolutions, and desire they will request them to appoint some person or persons of their respective bodies, to communicate from time to time with the said committee.

Ms. H. 9. 2. 28

1773

IN consequence of a conference with the committee of correspondance for the towns in the vicinity of Boston, November 23, 1773. and with their advice the following letter is addressed.

GENTLEMEN,

THE profane pollution of affairs, engages the attention of all the friends of the happy constitution which our forefathers framed and their posterity have preserved with such wisdom and fortitude as rendered them the admiration of the age in which they lived, and will make their names glorious in all future times. Our rights have been for several years invaded by cruel and remorseless enemies; sometimes they have acted with open violence, at other times they have endeavoured by sly and artful measures to undermine our constitution. Our lives are now situated by the expectation of the immediate arrival of the tea shipped for the port of Boston, on account of the *East India* company, the landing and selling of which must be attended with consequences the most fatal to our liberties. We know that the independence is placed upon the satisfaction of selling for a reasonable price the purpose of establishing on the *East India* company have for some years past the artful and artful means of evading us, the *East India* company have for some months prevented the *tea* from departing that article from England; they have applied to admiral Boscawen for the repeal of that act, and so great is their influence, that the ministry found themselves under a necessity of consenting these methods of giving them satisfaction; that they might do this, without repeating their former act, by imposing a duty upon us for the purpose of raising a revenue in America, they proposed an act to be made in the last session of parliament whereby the *East India* company are allowed to export tea to America upon their own account. Now gentlemen if the *East India* company are prevented from reaping the advantages which they expected from the liberty granted them of landing tea on America upon their own account, they must still be obliged to sail upon the coast of America, and at least take off our heavy burthen from our own coast, and to sell it to the merchants of that country who are purchasing tea in this country under an arbitrary power of taking from the Americans their dearly acquired property without their consent. But if we are prevailed upon to submit to a knowledge of a right to tax us, by receiving and consuming our loaded vessels are loaded by the British parliament, we may be assured that a very short time, some of the laws of a more oppressive nature, will be laid on every article imported from Great Britain, which our country may support, or our *East India* company may bring us into the world, and when once they have found the way to rob us, their vessels will never be satisfied until our own manufactures, and even our land, purchased and cultivated by our hard labouring men, are used to support the extravagance and vice of *Europe*, whose citizens ought to banish them from the factory of *Asia*. We think therefore gentlemen, that we are in duty bound to set our most strenuous and judicious guard against the impending evil, and we are sure that upon a free and full inquiry into the nature and tendency of this mercantile plan you will think this we are doing ourselves to be divided than plague or pestilence, for there is no other way to destroy our capital cities, and to give a country without the destruction of their cities, the loss of which *Europe* and most other nations infinitely greater than the loss of this. And we earnestly request, that after having carefully considered this important matter, you would impart your minds to your friends, neighbours, and fellow-citizens, the necessity of carrying this resolution in a most determined and unanimous manner, to stop the progress of this oppressive generation from temporal and (we think we may with propriety say) eternal destruction.

We are Gentlemen, with great Esteem, your Obedient, and devoted Servants.

By Order of the Committee of Boston.

William Cooper Jun. Clerk

P.S. As the foregoing letter was draught in presence of a collected body of committees from the several adjacent towns, some particulars relating to the well consequences of admitting the *East India* company's tea into this and the other colonies, were not fully treated. The committee of this town have thought proper to make some further observations. When this and the other capital towns upon the continent, follow and stand the plan upon which the *East India* company are sending out their tea, they highly reflected in black a design upon their liberties, and resolved, that so long as the tea is to be landed and sold among them, it should be their business to spread the tea so broad, that whether they use the tea themselves, or be able to export it, for it is considered that they will not only cut off our tea, but that a year or two hence the tea will be a great sum to divide among our tea-makers, but drain the resources of one million of five hundred thousand dollars annually, to pay for the tea, the *East India* company having a constant demand for silver, and causing it to flow this country, and to make their remittance to the *East India*, this will in a short time exhaust our currency as if it were finally sink by every individual. For to the only article in the British code that is to be paid for, we must allow the public credit to be as good as nothing has been done to stop the private merchants for several years past, they being the only private merchants in the province of the country; the only great drain of our coin and way, is the custom house, which frequently and large quantities of dollars returned from the trade, which is finally paid by the consumer to support our country on debt and the other side of the water in luxury and debauchery. We wish therefore that should their obligations fully establish themselves, which Heaven forbid, to the exclusion of all others, we may depend upon their raising us to what ever price they please, promising that this people will mortgage their very lands rather than go without us; and should such a situation, and their movements in the above letter this town had a meeting the 23d instant, and by a respectable committee requested the committee to renounce their commission, and not to ruin their country, but they then declined; giving for reason that they could not yet tell what conditions the tea would come out on till further advice from England, we then waited until the 13th instant, when a vessel arrived in a short passage with one of the consignees on board, and the town was again assembled and renewed their former request; but still we are refused, for reasons you will see in the husband proceedings of the 23d, which, we are directed to forward to all the towns through the colony. Now gentlemen we are reduced to this dilemma, either to sit down quiet under this, and every other burthen that our enemies shall see fit to lay upon us, or good willed slaves, or rich and well this and every plan laid for our destruction as becomes with freedom. In this emergency we earnestly request your advice, and that you would give us the earliest intelligence you of the least your favored towns have, of the present situation of our public affairs.

12693
 Boston. Committee of Correspondence, 1773.
 In Consequence of a Conference . . . November 23, 1773.
 [Boston, 1773.] Broad-side.
 BPL copy.

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In consequence of a conference with the committees of correspondence for the towns in the vicinity of Boston, November 23, 1773, and with their advice the following letter is addressed.

GENTLEMEN,

THE present posture of affairs, engages the attention of all of the happy constitution which our fathers framed and for many years supported with such wisdom and fortitude as rendered them the admiration of the age in which they lived, and must make their memory glorious in all future times. Our rights have been for several years invaded by cruel and remorseless enemies; sometimes they have acted with open violence, at other times they have endeavoured by wicked artifice to undermine our constitution. Our fears are now excited by the expectation of the immediate arrival of the tea shipped for the port of Boston, on account to the East India company, the landing and selling of which must be attended with consequences the most fatal to our liberties. We know that great dependance is placed upon this master-piece of policy for accomplishing the purpose of enslaving us, the East India company have for some years felt the disadvantages arising from the duty laid on tea as it has in a great measure prevented the Americans from importing that article from England; they have applied to administration for the repeal of that act, and so great is their influence that the ministry found themselves under a necessity of contriving some method of giving them satisfaction that they might do this, without repealing their carting act by passing a duty upon tea for the purpose of raising a (?) revenue in America, they proctured an act to be made in the last session of parliament whereby the East India company are allowed to export tea to America upon their own account. Now gentlemen, if the East India company are prevented from reaping the advantages which they expected from the Liberty granted them of sending tea to America upon their own account, they must still be obliged to insist upon the total repeal of that unrighteous act; and we are convinced that administration must comply with the demand, and at least take off one heavy burden from us and we shall defeat the intention of those who are plotting to introduce in this crafty manner an arbitrary power of taking from the Americans their dearly acquired properties without their consent. But if we are prevailed upon so explicitly to acknowledge a right to tax us, by receiving and consuming teas loaded (?) -tax imposed by the British parliament, we may be assured that in a very short time taxes of the like or a more grievous nature will be laid on every article exported from Great Britain which our necessity may involve, or our shameful ministry may betray us into the use of, and when once they have found the way to rob us, their avarice will never be satisfied until our own manufactures, and even our land, purchased and cultivated by our hard labouring ancestors are taxed to support the extravagance and vices of wretches whose vileness ought to banish them from the society of man. We think therefore gentlemen, we are in duty bound to use our most strenuous endeavour to ward off the impending evil, and we are sure that upon a fair and equal inquiry into the nature and tendency of this ministerial plan; you will think this tea now coming to us more to be dreaded than plague or pestilence, for these can only destroy our mortal bodies, but we never knew a country enslaved without the destruction of their virtue, the loss of which every good man must esteem infinitely greater than the loss of life. And we earnestly request, that after having carefully considered this important matter, you would impress upon the minds of your friends, neighbours and fellow townsmen, the necessity of exerting themselves in a most serious and determined manner, to save the present and successive generations from temporal and (we think we may with seriousness say) eternal destruction.

We are Gentlemen, with great Esteem, your Friends,

and Honourable Servants,

By Order of the Committee of Boston.

William Cooper, Town Clerk

P.S. As the foregoing letter was droughted in presence of a collected body of committees from the several adjacent towns, some particulars respecting the evil consequences of admitting the East India company's tea into this and the other colonies, were not fully treated. The committee of this town have thought proper to make some further observations. When this and the other capital places upon the continent fully understood the plan upon which the India company are sending out their teas, they highly resented so black a design upon their liberties, and resolved that to suffer these teas to be landed and sold among them will so add to their chains and spread the net so broad, that neither they nor their children will be able to cast them off. For it is considered that they will not only collect 30,000 lb sterling a year at least, into the revenue chest a pretty sum to divide among our task-masters, but drain the colonies of one million six hundred thousand dollars annually, to pay for the tea, the India company having a constant demand for silver, and nothing else that this country produces to make their remittances to the East Indies, this will in a short time so affect our currency as to be sensibly felt by every individual. Tea is the only article in the British trade that (?) (?) (?), for we can assure the public that little (?) (?) they has been sent to Great Britain by private merchants for several years past, they having (?) their remittances in the produce of the country: the only present drain of our cash that way, is the customhouse (?) frequently send large quantities of dollars extorted from the trade, which is surely paid by the consumer to support our enemies on this and the other side of the water in luxury and debauchery. We also foresee that should these consignors may depend upon their raising tea to what ever price they please, presuming that this people will mortgage their very lands rather than go without tea; (?) these considerations, and those mentioned in the above letter this town had a meeting the 5th instant, and by a respectable committee requested the consignees to renounce their commission, and not (?) to ruin their country, but they then declined; giving for reason that they could not tell what conditions the tea would come out on till further advices from England, we then waited until the 12th instant, when a vessel arrived in a short passage with one of the consignees on board, and the town was again assembled and renewed their former request, but still we are refused, for reasons you will see in the inclosed proceedings of the (?), which we are directed to forward to all the towns through the colony. Now brethren we are reduced to this dilemma, either to sit down quiet under this, and every other burthen that our enemies shall see fit to lay upon us, as good natured slaves, or rise or resist this and every plan laid for our destruction as becomes wise freemen. In this extremity we earnestly request your advice, and that you would give us the earliest intelligence of the sense your several towns have, of the present gloomy situation of our public affairs.

WB

1774.

A

BOSTON, June 10, 1774.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEREAS several of our brethren, members of the committees of correspondence in the neighbouring towns, have since our letter of the 8th instant applied to us, to know whether it was expected that the form of the covenant which we inclosed in our letter should be literally adopted by the several towns: We have thought it necessary to inform our respectable fellow countrymen, that the committee, neither in this or any other matter mean to dictate to them, but are humbly of opinion, that if they keep to the spirit of that covenant, and solemnly engage not to purchase any goods which shall be imported from Great Britain after the time stipulated, and agree to suspend dealing with such persons as shall persist in counteracting the salutary design, by continuing to import or purchase British articles so imported, the end we proposed will be fully answered, and the salvation of North-America, under providence, thereby insured.

We are,

Gentlemen,

Your friends and fellow countrymen,

Signed by order and in behalf of the committee of
Correspondence for Boston.

William Cooper, Clerk
() () () ()

13158

Boston. Committee of Correspondence, 1774.

Boston, June 10, 1774. Gentlemen.

[Boston, 1774.] Broadside.

(The second title given by Evans is a separate broadside
for which see Supplement.)

AAS copy.

BOSTON, September, 27, 1774.


GENTLEMEN,

THE committees of correspondence of this and several of the neighbouring towns, having taken into consideration the vast importance of withholding from ^{THE TROOPS NOW} ~~the troops now~~ here, labour, straw, timber, flitwork, boards, ^{and} in short every article excepting provisions necessary for their subsistence; and being under a necessity from their conduct of considering them as real enemies, we are fully satisfied that it is our bounden duty to withhold from them every thing but what meer humanity requires; and therefore we must beg your close and serious attention to the inclosed resolves which was passed unanimously; and as unanimity in all our measures in this day of severe trial, is of the utmost consequence, we do earnestly recommend your co-operation in this measure, as conducive to the good of the whole.

We are,

Your Friends and Fellow Countrymen,

Signed by Order of the joint Committee;

William Boyer Clerk:


13162

Boston. Committee of Correspondence, 1774.
 Boston, September, 27, 1774. Gentlemen....
 [Boston, 1774.] [2] pp. p10f2
 AAS copy.

AT a Meeting, of the several Committees of the Towns of Boston,

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| Roxbury, | Charlestown, | Dedham, | Braintree, |
| Dorchester, | Cambridge, | Milton, | Woburn, and |
| Watertown, | Millicott, | Malden, | Ston |

September 27th, the following RESOLVE and VOTE were passed, viz.

WHEREAS the Inhabitants of the towns of Boston and Charlestown, by the operation of the detested and oppressive port-bill, are now suffering unspeakable distress arising from the entire prohibition of commerce, and the transportation of even the necessaries of life by water from one town to another, and Whereas, in addition to the severity of said execrable bill, General Gage the military commander of this province and the Admiral on his station, are now in the exercise of the most licentious and arbitrary acts of oppression by withholding provisions from this town allowed by said act of parliament, by embarrassing, unnecessarily detaining, and thereby preventing the usual supplies of fuel to said town, by harrassing, insulting, and villifying the inhabitants passing and re-passing to and from the town of Boston, by alarming the people with the most formidable fortifications at the entrance of said town, by continuing and encreasing their apprehensions, with a design, of erecting batteries and pickets to surround the town, thereby to awe and intimidate, if not to subjugate the inhabitants to a tame and unresisting state of servitude. Therefore,

RESOLVED, That it is the opinion of these joint committees that should any person or persons inhabitants of this or the neighbouring provinces supply the troops now stationed in the town of Boston acting in open hostility to the persons and properties of the inhabitants, with labour, lumber, joice, spars, pickets, straw, bricks, or any materials whatsoever, which may furnish them with requisites to annoy or in any way distress said inhabitants, he or they so offending shall be held in the highest detestation, be deemed the most inveterate enemies of this people, and ought to be prevented, opposed and defeated by all reasonable means whatever.

VOTED, That it is the opinion of these committees, that committees of observation and prevention should be appointed by each town, particularly in Roxbury, Milton, Dedham, Cambridge, Braintree, Millicott, Charlestown and Watertown, and that the committees of correspondence be desired to appoint committees to see that the resolves of the joint committees entered into this day be faithfully executed.

12
BOSTON, FEBRUARY 25, 1775.

GENTLEMEN,

THE following Proceedings and Votes of the joint committees of this and seven other towns are conveyed to you by their unanimous request. The importance of the subject at this critical time when our enemies are aided by some of our deluded fellow citizens, must strike you forcibly. We do not doubt but you will adopt the following, or a similar plan as your own salvation depends upon it. What you do, must be done soon or it will be ineffectual. The army by the number of waggons which they have engaged must be in want of a number of horses and cattle, it is wholly with our friends in the country to prevent their supply, but we need not dictate to them the mode. The cannon and baggage of the army must remain here unless you supply them with horses and cattle, but on your firmness and resolution we depend. We have a good cause, the thought is animating, take courage, and rely upon a kind providence for protection and success in your resistance, in case it becomes necessary by your being attacked. . We are, &c.

By Order of the Committee,

William Cooper Clerk,

14193

Massachusetts (Colony) Committee of Correspondence, 1775.

Boston, February 25, 1775. Gentlemen....

[Boston, 1775.] Broadside.

p 1 of 2

MHS copy.

*AT a meeting of the committees of Correspondence of the several towns
of Boston, Charlestown, Cambridge, Medford, Lexington, Watertown,
Brookline, and Concord,*

13

WHEREAS the representative Body of this province in Congress, assembled at Cambridge, considering that certain persons were employed in divers kinds of work for the army, in order to enable them to take the field and distress the inhabitants of the country, did strongly recommend to the committees of Correspondence and Inspection in the several towns and districts in this province, to see their Resolves of the 7th instant, relative to supplying the troops now stationed at Boston, with timber, boards, spars, pickets, tent-poles, canvas, bricks, iron, waggons, carts, carriages, intrenching tools, or any materials for making any of the carriages or implements aforesaid strictly and faithfully adhered to.

IN compliance with the above recommendation, and from a conviction of its being our duty to prevent such supplies, Voted, That the following method, if strictly adhered to, will, in our opinion, be effectual, Viz. That no teams be suffered to load in, or after loading to pass through, any town in this province for Boston, if their load, in whole or part, consists of any of the above-mentioned articles, or oats, except the teamster can produce from the committee of Correspondence for the town where he loaded, an instrument, certifying his name, place of abode, the particulars of his load, the person who sends, and to whom to be delivered in Boston, and that said certificate ought to be delivered to one or more of the committee of Correspondence for Boston before the teamster presumes to unload.

14193

Massachusetts (Colony) Committee of Correspondence, 1775.

Boston, February 25, 1775. Gentlemen....

[Boston, 1775.] Broadside. p2of2

MHS copy.

14

In Provincial Congress.

Concord, April 12, 1775.

WHEREAS the Preservation of our Country from Slavery, depends under GOD, on an effectual Execution of the Continental and Provincial Measures, for that Purpose;

RESOLVED, That there be appointed for each County in this Colony, a Committee consisting of Five Persons, any Three of whom to be a Quorum, whose Business it shall be, to receive from the Committees of Correspondence in their respective Counties, a State of the Conduct of the Towns and Districts, with Respect to their having executed the Continental and Provincial Plans as aforesaid; and it shall be the Duty of said Committees to meet on the first Wednesdays of *May, July, September, November, January and March*, and prepare a Report of the same, to be laid before the Congress at its then next Session, that any Neglect of such Towns and Districts in executing such Plans, may be speedily and effectually remedied.

Also, **RESOLVED**, That it be, and it is hereby strongly recommended, to the Committees of Correspondence in the several Towns and Districts in this Colony, some Time before the first Wednesday in *May, July, September, November, January and March* aforesaid, to render to any one of the Members of their County Committees aforesaid, a true State of the Conduct of their respective Towns and Districts, with Respect to their having executed each Plan recommended by the Continental and Provincial Congresses; and to use their utmost Diligence for this important Purpose.

And whereas some Towns and Districts in this Colony, may be destitute of so excellent an Institution as Committees of Correspondence:

RESOLVED, That it be, and it hereby is strongly recommended to such Towns and Districts, forthwith to choose them, and to afford them Assistance at all Times, in effectually suppressing the Efforts of the Enemies of AMERICA, whenever they shall make them.

Signed by Order of the Provincial Congress,

UNDER JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT
WAS:

A TRUE EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTE

BENJAMIN LINCOLN, SECRETARY

= CAPS

JOHN HANCOCK, President

14219
Massachusetts (Colony) Provincial Congress, 1775.
In Provincial Congress, Concord, April 12, 1775.

Whereas...
[Boston, 1775.]
Brookside.
MHS copy.

In Provincial Congress, Watertown, May 8th, 1775.

WHEREAS there are divers Persons now in this Colony, who have by their Conduct discovered themselves to be Enemies to the Rights of Mankind, and the Interest of America; and whereas our very peculiar Situation, renders it absolutely necessary, not only to discriminate them from those who have shewn a Disposition to be friendly to their Country; but likewise to put it out of their Power to join with the open and avowed Enemies of America, in their Endeavours to injure and subjugate their Countrymen to the full Operations of the tyrannical System of the British Administration, and the Ruin and Destruction concerted by the British Parliament against these Colonies—

Therefore RESOLVED, That it be and hereby is recommended to the several Committees of Correspondence in the several Towns and Districts where such Committees have been appointed, and to the Selectmen of such Towns and Districts as have not appointed them, to enquire into the Principles and Conduct of such suspected Persons, and that they cause all such to be disarmed who do not give them full and ample Assurances, in which they can with Safety confide, of their Readiness to join their Countrymen on all Occasions, in Defence of the Rights and Liberties of America; and likewise that they take effectual Steps to put it out of the Power of such Persons to obstruct by any Means whatever, the Measures which shall be taken for the common Defence; and it is also hereby recommended to the good People of this Colony, that they take effectual Care to secure Obedience to the several Resolves of Congress, for the Regulation of the Militia, and cause a due Regard to be paid to the Orders of the several Military Officers, who have been elected by the Suffrages of the several Companies and Regiments, agreeable to the Resolves of Congress.

JOSEPH WARREN, President P. T.

Attest, **SAMUEL FREEMAN, Secretary P. T.**

14227

Massachusetts (Colony) Provincial Congress, 1775.
In Provincial Congress, Watertown, May 8th, 1775.

Whereas there are

[Watertown, 1775.] Broadside.

AAS copy.

121.
123

Supply Chamber. Watertown, May 25th, 1775.

GENTLEMEN.

THE Quantity of bread daily expended by the Army raised by this Colony for the Preservation of the Lives, Liberties and Properties of the Inhabitants of this and the other American Colonies, is very large, and you are sensible that a Failure to supply this necessary and important Article will be attended with the most fatal Consequences. The Time which the Committee of Supplies have had to prepare, has been hitherto so short and taken up in equally important Matters, that we have not been able to make effectual Provision, and are under a Necessity of requesting your Assistance to accomplish it — We therefore desire, Gentlemen, that you will immediately purchase or cause to be purchased for the Colony Army, all the Flour, Wheat, Rye and Indian Corn in the Hands of the Inhabitants of your Town, which is not wanted for their private Consumption, and hire Teams for transporting the same to the Magazine under the Care of Mr. William Hunt, of this Place.

We assure ourselves that a Regard to the Salvation of your Country, as well as yourselves and Families, will induce you to conduct in this Affair, and we shall cheerfully allow for the Flour and Grain which you shall send us such Prices as you shall certify to be customary in your Town, and to the Teamers that you shall judge to be an adequate and usual Allowance for carting.

We are sincerely, Gentlemen, your Friends and humble Servants.

DAVID CHEEVER, per Order.

To the Selectmen or Committee of Correspondence.

P. S. Peas and Beans ~~can~~ be wanted.

42880

Massachusetts (Colony) Provincial Congress, 1775.
Supply Chamber, Watertown, May 25th, 1775. Gentle-
men, the Quantity of Bread...
[Watertown. 1775.] Broadside.
AAS photocopy.

In the House of Representatives, December 11, 1775.

RESOLVED, That it be and he hath is, strongly recommended to the Committees of Correspondence and Safety of the Town of [blank] and in Case of a Deficiency of both said Committees, to the Selectmen of said Town, that they cause to be made a true Return of the Number of Men in said Town, who are desirous of enlisting, and fit for Marine, or Seamen on board of armed Vessels, either in the Bay of the Continent, or of a Colony, or of private Adventure, who shall fit out said Vessels, with the Name and Tonnage, as well as the names of entering the Service, and the names of the Commanders, or other Officers, to be the Ships, the Names, Numbers, or Sloops, in said Town, suitable for armed Vessels, who are to be hired out, to whom they respectively belong; with their Names, the Depth of Water they draw, their Height, their Decks, and what other Particulars. And that said Return be made according to the Schedule herewith sent them, and without Delay, to be signed by the Secretary of said Town, to which it shall be sent.

RESOLVED, That Colonel Thompson, be a Committee to cause the foregoing Returns, and the Schedule annexed, to be printed and sent to the Towns mentioned therein.

Read and concurred
In Council, December 11, 1775.
Said up for Concurrence.
J. W. ARDEN, Speaker.
PEREZ MORTON, Depy Secy.

Confirmed to:
W. SEVER, ELDAD TAYLOR,
B. GREENLEAF, J. PALMER,
IV. SPOONER, CHARLES CHUNCEY,
GABRIEL CUSHING, TABEL FISHER,
JOSEPH GERKISH, S. HOLTON,
JOHN WHEATCOMB, MOSES GILL,
JEDEDIAH FOSTER, JOHN TAYLOR,
JAMES PRESIDENT, JOHN TAYLOR.

A true Copy. Attest.
PEREZ MORTON, Dep. Secy.

RETURN from the Town of [blank] of Persons qualified for Officers and Seamen, who are desirous of enlisting on board of armed Vessels, in the Service of the United Colonies, or of this Colony or private Adventurers:—Also, of the Dimensions of Vessels, fit for the Purpose aforesaid, to be sold or hired out in said Town; the Owner's Names; Age of the Vessels, &c. agreeable to the within Resolution of the General Court.

| NAMES of Persons qualified for Commanders | Number of Seamen. | No of Ships fit for arm'd Vessels | Tonnage. | Breadth | Depth of Water they draw | Years old. | Number of Decks. | Number of Brigs. | Tonnage. | Breadth | Depth of Water | Years old | Number of Decks. | Schooners and Sloops | Tonnage | Breadth | Depth of Water | Years old. | Decks. | Persons qualified for other Officers. | Owner's Names | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|--------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|----------|---------|----------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|----------------|------------|--------|---------------------------------------|---------------|--|
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13, 1776.

WHEREAS ...
 to the Safety and ...
 of common Danger, the ...
 one only for the specific Business of attending to the political and general Interest of the Colonies, while the Attention of the other Officers is employed about the particular Concerns of their respective Towns; In order to this, and to prevent the Confusion and Mischiefs which may arise by the multiplying of Committees, diversely denominated, for Purposes nearly the same

Resolved, That the several Towns in this Colony, be and hereby are directed and empowered, at their annual Town-Meeting in March, to choose by written Votes of such as are qualified by Law to vote for Representatives, or in Town Affairs, such a Number of the Freeholders, Inhabitants of said Town, respectively, as they shall think proper, whose Principles are known to be friendly to the Rights and Liberties of America, to serve as a Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety, for the Year then next ensuing; And any, or either of them, for Unfaithfulness in their Office, to remove, and others chuse in their Room, at any other Town-Meeting, legally assembled for that Purpose; whose Business shall be to communicate with Dispatch any Matters of Importance to the Public, that may come to their Knowledge, to the Committees of the same Denomination of any other Town, County or Colony, which it may particularly concern, or to the General Assembly of this Colony, or in their Recess, to the Council; and also to inspect whether there are any Inhabitants of, or Residents in their respective Towns, who violate the Association of the Continental Congress, or any other the Resolves, Directions or Recommendations of said Congress, or Acts or Resolves of the General Court, and preceeding Congresses of this Colony, respecting the present Struggle with Great-Britain: And if any such are found, that they proceed against them in such Manner as the Resolves of the Continental Congress, or the Laws or Resolves of this Colony do or shall direct.

That they make known to the General Court, or to the Council, all gross Breaches of Trust in any Officer, or other Person of this Colony, that may come under their Observation; That they also do, or shall, use all proper Measures to promote Peace and Amity in their respective Towns; as also faithfully to execute any Orders or Resolves of the Council, which may be directed from Time to Time, during their Continuance in Office. In order to enable said Committees to proceed in a regular and judicious Manner in the Discharge of the Duty assigned them, it is further

Resolved, That said Committees be duly furnished with all the Resolves of the Continental Congress, which have been or may hereafter be published, that have any Relation to their Office: And that Capt. BROWN, of Warrington, be a Committee, during the Recess of this Court, to procure and cause the same to be printed, and sent to the Town Clerks of the several Towns in this Colony, for the Use and Direction of said Committees, &c. And that he cause said Resolves to be printed in Hand-Bills immediately and sent to the several Towns in this Colony.

In Council, February 13, 1776. Read and Concurred.
 PEREZ MORTON, Dep. Secy.

- Consented to,
 BENJAMIN GREENLEAF, MOSES BELL,
 WALTER SPOONER, BENJAMIN LINCOLN,
 BENJAMIN WHITE, ELDAD TAYLOR,
 CALEB CUSHING, JABEE FISHER,
 THOMAS CUSHING, JOHN TAYLOR,
 FEDEDIAH FOSTER, MICHAEL FARLEY,
 JOHN WHETCOMB, SAMUEL HOLTEN,
 JOSEPH PALMER.

A true Copy, Attest BERRI MORTON, Dep. Secy.

43085
 Massachusetts. Laws, Statutes, etc., 1776.
 In the House of Representatives, February 13, 1776. ...
 Committee of Correspondence. ... In Council, February
 13, 1776.
 [Watertown, 1776.] Broad-side.
 AAS copy.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 16, 1776.

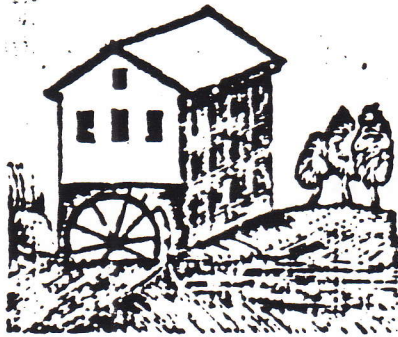
WHEREAS this Colony cannot be supplied with a sufficient Quantity of PAPER for its own Consumption, without the particular Care of its Inhabitants in saving RAGS for the Paper-Mills : Therefore,

RESOLVED, That the Committees of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety in the several Towns in this Colony be, and they hereby are required immediately to appoint some suitable Person in their respective Towns (where it is not already done) to receive RAGS for the Paper-Mills : And the Inhabitants of this Colony are hereby desired to be very careful in saving even the smallest Quantity of Rags proper for making Paper, which will be a further Evidence of their Disposition to promote the Public Good.

Sent up for Concurrence. WILLIAM COOPER, Speak. Pro. Tem.
 In Council, Feb. 16, 1776. Read and Concurred,
PEREZ MORTON, Dep'y. Sec'y.

Consented to, by the Major Part of the Council.
 A true Copy, Attest. PEREZ MORTON, Dep'y. Sec'y.

43056
 McLean, Hugh, and Co.
 In the House of Representatives, February 16, 1776....
 Papermills ... in Milton.
 Salem, Russell, [1776]. Broadside.
 AAS copy. p10f2



PAPER-MILLS,

At the SLITTING-MILL, in MILTON.

In Compliance with the foregoing RESOLVE,

and to Encourage the

PAPER-MANUFACTURE.

WE now propose to give *Three Coppers* per Pound for all white *Linnen*, and *Cotton* and *Linnen RAGS*, suitable for making *WRITING-PAPER*; which is *Three Pence O. T.* per Pound more than has been given:— Also, *One Copper* and an *Half* per Pound is now given for *Check* and *course Rags*, and *Two Coppers* for *Canvass*, that is either made of *Hemp* or *Flax*; and *Half a Copper* a Pound for *old Ropes* and *Junk*—*Ropes* and *Junk* that are too bad for *Oakum* will make good Paper.

It is therefore hoped, that more Attention will be paid to this Affair in future, both from a Principle of *Patriotism* and *Frugality*. The present alarming Situation of the *Colonies*, renders it entirely needless to point out the Utility of establishing this, and every Kind of *Manufecture* among us; and if each Family will but lend their Aid, to encourage this Business, by saving their *Rags*, there may be a Sufficiency of Paper made here, and entirely prevent the Importation of that Article into this Country.

Any Gentlemen, Traders, or others throughout this Country, that will so far promote the Interest of *AMERICA*, by receiving *Rags* for the aforesaid Purpose, shall be paid *Ten per Cent. Commissions*, and necessary Charges of Transportation, either by Land or Water to said Mills: And the smallest Favors gratefully acknowledged by their very Humble Servants,

HUGH M^cLEAN AND CO.

TO BE SOLD at said MILL, all Sorts of

PAPER,

Writing ditto, *London Brown*, *Whitish Brown*, *Bonnet Paper*: Likewise *Press Paper* for *Clothiers*, for glazing and goodnets superior to any made in *America*, and not inferior to the best made in *England*.

CASH given for RAGS by

SALEM: Printed by E. RUSSELL, Upper End of Mainstreet: Who gives CASH for all Kinds of Cotten and Linnen and Check RAGS, for the Use of the above PAPER-MILLS.

43056

McLean, Hugh, and Co.

In the House of Representatives, February 16, 1776....

Papermills ... In Milton.

Salem, Russell, [1776]. Broadside.

AAS copy.

p202

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

In the House of Representatives, February 5, 1777.

RESOLVED. That when any Waggon-Master shall be called upon, by the Council or the Board of War, to procure Teams for the Service of this or any of the United States, and he shall not be able timely to obtain a sufficient Number, at the Rate established by Law, he shall apply to the Committees of Correspondence of any Town, who are hereby directed and empowered to procure in their respective Towns, excepting Sea-Port Towns, by Impressment, or otherwise the Number of Teams wanted, provided it does not exceed one Team to every twenty Families in said Town, — and the Teams shall not be obliged to go more than forty-five Miles from the Place where they were loaded, and the Owners of the Teams shall be paid therefor, agreeable to the Establishment aforesaid.

And be it further *Resolved*, That the Owner of any Team so employed, shall be paid, if required, one half Part of the Hire of his Team, as soon as the same shall be loaded and ready to proceed on the Journey, and the other half upon producing a Receipt of the Delivery of the Goods committed to his Care, at the Place where he was ordered.

Sent up for Concurrence.

J. WARREN, Speaker.

In COUNCIL, February 7, 1777.

Read and concurred.

JOHN AVERY, Dep. Sec'y.

A true Copy.

Attest.

JOHN AVERY, Dep. Sec'y.

43292

Massachusetts. Laws, Statutes, etc., 1777.

.... In the House of Representatives, February 5, 1777.

Resolved, That when any Waggon-Master.... In Council,
February 7, 1777. Read and Concurred.

[Boston, 1777.] Broadside.

AAS copy.

43285

Massachusetts. General Court. House of Representatives,
1777.

.... In the House of Representatives, February 6, 1777.

Whereas these may be....

[Boston, 1777.] Broadside.

NYHS copy.

STATE of MASSACHUSETTS-BAY.

In the House of Representatives, February 6, 1777.

WHEREAS there may be, in some Instances, an Omission, to renew the Appointment of Committees of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety.

RESOLVED, That the Freeholders and other Inhabitants, qualified to Vote for Town Officers, in the several Towns and Plantations in this State, be, and they hereby are required, by written Votes, to renew the Appointment of the Committees abovenamed, at a Town-Meeting, next after the Receipt hereof (and in Plantations, at a Meeting, publicly notified) and afterwards, in March annually, 'till the further Order of this Court; and any of them for Unfaithfulness, to remove, and appoint others in their Place. Their Duty to be as contained in a Resolve of the General Court of this State, of February 12, 1776.

The good People of this State are requested to have special Regard to the Prudence, Integrity and Firmness of those they shall chuse to this Office; and it is presumed that such, who are willing to give the most substantial Proof of their Attachment to the American Cause, will not decline an Office however arduous, in which they may contribute so essentially to their Country's Welfare.

Ordered. That Mr. Story procure three Hundred printed Copies of this Resolve, and distribute the same to the several Towns and Plantations in this State.

Sent up for Concurrence.

J. WARREN, Speaker.

In COUNCIL, February 7, 1777.

Read and concurred.

JOHN AVERY, Dep. Sec'y.

Consented to.

Jeremiah Powell,
Thomas Cushing,
Caleb Cushing,
John Taylor,
Samuel Holten,
Jabez Fisher.

Benjamin White,
William Phillips;
Henry Gardner,
E. Thayer, jun.
Moses Gill,
Daniel Davis.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Notwithstanding the Advertisements from time to time, inserted in the several News-papers, for collecting the Prisoners of War in the different parts of the Eastern States; it has not been adheared to, but utterly rejected by detaining, and even risking them from persons employed by the Commissary for collecting the Prisoners: It is therefore requested, that all Officers, Civil and Military, exert themselves to apprehend them, agreeable to the Order of the Hon. Board of War, passed at Philadelphia, and the Order of the Hon. Council of this State, passed the 8th Instant, viz.

STATE of MASSACHUSETTS-BAY:

COUNCIL Chamber, December 8, 1779.

WHEREAS it has been represented to this Board, that great desertions of prisoners from the Barracks in Rutland have taken place, and that said Prisoners were now strolling about the Country.

Therefore, Ordered, That all Selectmen, and Committees of Correspondence, in the several towns within this State, be, and they are hereby directed, to aid and assist the Continental Commissary of Prisoners his Deputy, or Deputies, in taking and securing those Prisoners of War, that have made their escape from the Barracks in Rutland, or any other Continental Prisoners of War, and in conveying them to said Barracks.

True Copy, Attest.

JOHN AVERY, Dep. Sec'y.

AND WHEREAS, many complaints have been exhibited against the Commissary, to this Hon. Board for letting the Prisoners go at large, without the least foundation:—He is determined in future, to report, all Delinquents, to his Excellency General Washington, and have them punished, agreeable to the Law, for harboring Prisoners and Deserters. All Prisoners that have been employed in the British service, are to be apprehended and sent to the Barracks at Rutland, or confin'd in Goal, notifying the Commissary at Rutland, of the Number, Names and Regt. they belong to, and supplying them with two thirds of a Ration, allowed the American Soldiers, during their confinement, taking Receipt for the quantity of each Specie delivered: It is expected that all real Friends to their Country, will exert themselves in clearing their several Towns, and suffer no Prisoners in future, to harbor amongst them; as above 700 are bearing Arms against us with the Enemy, that have made their Escape from Gen. Burgoyne's Army, by taking the Oath to the States, getting Passes from the Justice, and listing in our Service, only for an Opportunity to make their Escape:—Which Desertion, General Burgoyne in the House of Parliament, call an honorable Desertion; let it not be said that Americans are so blind to their own Interest, as to be deceiv'd, by the artifice of designing Soldiers: That after being taken in Arms against us, they pretend to enlist only to make their escape.—Every American that has ever been a Prisoner, will no doubt exert themselves to prevent such Abuses,—and they will greatly oblige their most obedient humble Servant,

JOSHUA MERSEREAU,
D. C. G. of Prisoners.

16347

Massachusetts. Council, 1779.

Advertisement [Urging Apprehension of Prisoners of War].

[Boston, 1779.] Broadside.

NYPL copy.

of Safety, Cambridge.

1775.

YOU are hereby empowered immediately to call a Company, to consist of 56 able-bodied and effective Men, including Sergeants, as Soldiers in the Massachusetts Army, for the Protection of American Liberty; and to take them to pass Muller as soon as possible.

(Signed)

Cambridge,

WHEREAS you have this Day approved of the nomination of 56 Men, including 56 Soldiers, for the Protection of American Liberty; and whereas you are hereby requested that the Commission of a Captain in said Service shall be made out for you, as you have completed the said List; and whereas you are allowed to nominate a Subaltern to serve with you, who will receive Commissions accordingly; it is therefore ordered, that all approve of them.

By Order of the Committee of Safety.

In Committee of Safety, Cambridge 1775.

To

Sir,

YOU are hereby empowered immediately to inlist a Company, to consist of 56 able-bodied and effective Men, including Serjeants, as Soldiers in the Massachusetts Service, for the preservation of American liberty; and cause them to pass Muster as soon as possible.

Chairman

Cambridge

1775.

WHEREAS You have this Day received Orders for inlisting 56 Soldiers, including Serjeants for the Massachusetts Service, for the Preservation of the Liberties of America; You are hereby acquainted that the Commission of a Captain in said Service shall be made out for you as soon as you have completed the said Inlistment, and you will also be allowed to nominate a Subalterns to serve under you, who will receive Commissions accordingly, if the Committee shall approve of them.

By Order of the Committee of Safety,

Chairman



A NEW LIBERTY SONG.

Composed at the Camp of
PROSPECT-HILL, August, 1775.

By a SON OF LIBERTY.

I.

WAKE, awake, America, get cheerful courage on,
If tyrants oppress you wife and lay to you,
Let no Papist bear the sway, nor tyrants ever reign,
Yet such infringements of your rights you ever will disdain.

II.

We will be loyal subjects to any loyal King,
And in defence of such a Prince we'll now spend ev'ry thing,
But when our Prince a tyrant proves, and parliament grows worse,
New-England blood will never bear the ignominious curse.

III.

The navies do around us lay and troops invade our land,
We'll defend our liberties as long as we can stand,
Though fighting is our last address we'll bravely let them know
That we will fight with all our might before our rights shall go.

IV.

Twice for the sake of liberty our Fathers first came here,
Underwent hunger, cold, and hardships with severe,
I'll have no tyrants dare to think we're such a wretched breed,
As to give up those liberties our fathers bought with blood.

V.

We will consent to peace on any righteous terms,
And if we may enjoy the same gladly lay down our arms,
But such we will reign choicest as our Papists purchase it,
No, no, my brave Americans, we will never let them go.

VI.

Let North and Hutchinson and Bernard do their worst,
Their names to future ages e'er shall sound a curse,
But mortal rogues can scarce express the praise that will descend
Upon the head of ev'ry one that stands New-England's friend.

VII.

To our domestic enemies who dwell in ev'ry town,
Their names to unborn ages be always handed down,
As I may they wear distonoe's yoke and sink beneath disgrace,
As long the Sons of Liberty until itself shall cease.

VIII.

Come, unite, New-England, unite New-England's band,
If we divide we surely fall, if we unite we stand;
But let our words be all as one, and all our minds so free,
That we had rather bleed and die than lose our liberty.

IX.

Come all you brave Americans, let's drink a loyal bowl,
Let the dearest bond of Liberty sink deep in ev'ry soul;
Here's a health to North-America and all her noble boys,
Her Liberties and properties, and all that she enjoys.

Printed by E. Russell, next Door to John
Townsend, Esq. in the Main-Street, 1775.—Travelling-
Traders, &c. are desired to call at the above Place, where
they may supply themselves with ready New Pistons and
other very cheap by the Quantity.

42897
A New Liberty Song, Composed at the Camp of Pros-
pect Hill, August, 1775
Salem, [Mass. J. Russell, [1775]. Broadside.
BPL copy.

A
NEW LIBERTY**SONG,**Composed at the Camp of
Prospect-Hill, August, 1775.

By a Son of Liberty.

I.

AWAKE, awake, America, put cheerful courage on,
If tyrants oppress you arise and say be gone,
But let no Papish beat the sway, nor tyrants ever reign,
Lest such infringements of your rights you ever will disdain.

II.

We will be subjects to any loyal King,
And in defence of such a Prince we'll now spend everything
But when our Prince a tyrant proves and parliament grows worse
New-England blood will never bear the ignominious curse.

III.

Tho' navies do around us lay and troops invade our land,
Yet we'll defend our liberties as long as we can stand
Though fighting is our last address we'll bravely let them know
That we will fight with all our might before our rights shall go.

IV.

'Twas for the sake of liberty our Fathers first came here
Underwent hunger, cold, and hardships most severe
P! have no tyrants dare to think we're such a wretched brood
As to give up those liberties our Fathers bought with blood.

V.

We will consent to peace on any righteous terms
And if we may enjoy the same gladly lay down our arms
(?) think we will resign those rights our Fathers purchased so
No, no, my brave Americans, we will not let them go.

VI.

Let North and Hutchinson and Bernard do their worst
Their names to future ages e'er shall sound a curse
But mortal tongue can scarce express the praise that will descend
Upon the head of ev'ry one that stands New-England's friend.

VII.

To our domestic enemies who dwell in ev'ry town
Their names to unborn ages be always handed down
And may they wear dishonor's yolk and sink beneath disgrace
Amongst the Sons of Liberty until itself shall cease.

VIII.

Unite, unite, New-England, unite New-England's band,
If we divide we surely fall, if we unite we stand;
But let our minds be all as one, and all our minds so free,
That we had rather bleed and die than lose our liberty.

IX.

Come all you brave Americans, let's drink a loyal bowl
Let the dearest sound of Liberty sink deep in ev'ry soul;
Here's a health to North-America and all her noble boys,
Her Liberties and properties, and all that she enjoys.

SALEM: Printed by E. Russell, next Door to John
Turner, Esq; in the Main-street, 1775-Travelling-
Traders, &c. are desired to call at the above Place, where
they may supply themselves with sundry New Pieces of the
Muses very cheap by the Quantity.



AT a meeting of the Committee of Correspondence, &c. of the towns of Mendon, Uxbridge, and Douglas, on the 20th day of May 1776, in consequence of some articles of recommendation from the Committee of Correspondence, &c. for the County of Suffolk, convened in the month of April, 1776, which articles are as follows. *viz*:

ASSEMBLIES

1. That it is the judgment of this Convention that it is necessary and constitutional for to have County Assemblies created, the members to be chosen in each year, one or more in each town, with power to grant County Taxes, and to establish Roads, and to perform all acts proper for County Assemblies; these chosen to be paid by the towns that chose them.

2. That all deeds of lands be recorded in the town where the land lays, to be recorded by the Town Clerk for the time being, and that each town be at liberty, at each annual March meeting, to chuse a Register for that end, said Clerk or Register to have such fees for their services, as the same town they serve agree to give

3. That all Deceaseds Wills be proved and recorded, and Estates settled in each town, where the Deceased last lived, by the Selectmen, and recorded by the Town-Clerk in the same town; and that each town have liberty at each annual March meeting, to chuse a Committee (or town Council) to prove Wills and settle Estates; and a Register to record Wills and Settlements of Estates said Selectmen or Committee, and the Town-Clerk or Register's fees to be each year agreed by the same towns, and that any person aggrieved by the Decree of any Selectmen or Committee, on the last named premises, be allowed an appeal to this Colony's Council.

And it is the opinion of this body, that a general meeting of the Committee of Correspondence, &c. for the County of Worcester be had: Wherefore we desire their attendance at the widow Stearns's, innholder in Worcester, on Wednesday the 20th day of June next, at 9 o'clock forenoon, to consider on the aforesaid articles, or any other that then may be thought necessary.

Per order, JOHN TYLER, Chairman.



43066
Mendon, Mass. Committee of Correspondence, 1776.
At a Meeting of the Committee of Correspondence, &c.
of the towns of Mendon, Uxbridge, and Douglas, on the
20th Day of May 1776.
[Worcester? 1776.] Broadside.
AAS copy.

Ipswich, Mass. The Price Act... February 10, 1777. Salem, Russell, [1777]. Broadside. El copy.

PRICE ACT OF THE List of the Prices IN NOW IN FORCE IN THE TOWN OF IPSWICH,



FOR THE PREVENTION OF MONOPOLY AND OPPRESSION.

At a Meeting of the Selectmen and Committee of the Town of Ipswich, in the Court House, on the 10th day of February, 1777.

WHEREAS by an Act of the Great and General Court of the State for preventing Monopoly and Oppression... It is enacted that every Law... shall be null and void...

Wheat... Flour... Corn... Rice... Beans... Peas... Potatoes... Apples... Butter... Cheese... Eggs... Lard... Tallow... Oil... Sugar... Honey... Wine... Beer... Ale... Brandy... Rum... Spirits... Tobacco... Tea... Coffee... Spices... Dye-stuffs... Colors... Drugs... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects...

Wheat... Flour... Corn... Rice... Beans... Peas... Potatoes... Apples... Butter... Cheese... Eggs... Lard... Tallow... Oil... Sugar... Honey... Wine... Beer... Ale... Brandy... Rum... Spirits... Tobacco... Tea... Coffee... Spices... Dye-stuffs... Colors... Drugs... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects...

Wheat... Flour... Corn... Rice... Beans... Peas... Potatoes... Apples... Butter... Cheese... Eggs... Lard... Tallow... Oil... Sugar... Honey... Wine... Beer... Ale... Brandy... Rum... Spirits... Tobacco... Tea... Coffee... Spices... Dye-stuffs... Colors... Drugs... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects...

Wheat... Flour... Corn... Rice... Beans... Peas... Potatoes... Apples... Butter... Cheese... Eggs... Lard... Tallow... Oil... Sugar... Honey... Wine... Beer... Ale... Brandy... Rum... Spirits... Tobacco... Tea... Coffee... Spices... Dye-stuffs... Colors... Drugs... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects...

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Wheat... Flour... Corn... Rice... Beans... Peas... Potatoes... Apples... Butter... Cheese... Eggs... Lard... Tallow... Oil... Sugar... Honey... Wine... Beer... Ale... Brandy... Rum... Spirits... Tobacco... Tea... Coffee... Spices... Dye-stuffs... Colors... Drugs... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects...

Wheat... Flour... Corn... Rice... Beans... Peas... Potatoes... Apples... Butter... Cheese... Eggs... Lard... Tallow... Oil... Sugar... Honey... Wine... Beer... Ale... Brandy... Rum... Spirits... Tobacco... Tea... Coffee... Spices... Dye-stuffs... Colors... Drugs... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects... Minerals... Metals... Stones... Woods... Plants... Animals... Fish... Birds... Insects...

It is required that the said... Samuel Lord, Chairman.

133

In CONGRESS at Exeter,

November 16th, 1775.

Voted, **T**HAT the Committees of Safety or of Correspondence, in each Town or Parish, in this Colony, be desired to transmit to the Congress or Committee of Safety for this Colony, the Names and Places of Abode of all such Persons as they suspect to be any Ways eni-mical to this Country, with the Causes and Evi-dence of such Suspicions ; And that this Vote be printed in Hand-Bills and dispersed through this Colony.

Extract from the Journal of the Congress,

Attest, **NOAH EMERY, Assistant Sec'ry.**

42890

New Hampshire (Colony) Provincial Congress, 1775.

In Congress at Exeter, November 16th, 1775. Voted,

that the Committee....

[Exeter? 1775.] Broadside.

NHHS copy.

1776

EXETER, July 4, 1776:*In the House of Representatives,**July 4th, 1776*

VOTED, That three Hundred Hand
Bills be immediately printed and
distributed in this Colony, in the fol-
- lowing Words, viz.

Colony of New-Hampshire.

To the Selectmen and Committees of
Safety and of Correspondence, and
to all Officers Civil and Military in
the several Towns in this Colony.

YOU and each of you are now call-
ed upon, in behalf of yourselves,
and your distressed Country, to exert
every Nerve in forwarding the enlist-
ing and making up the Quota's of
Men, in the respective Places you be-
long to, that they may march for-
ward, and join their Brethren under
General SULLIVAN, and enable him
to repel the Army coming against us
from Canada.

*Sent up for Concurrence,***P. WHITE, Speaker;****IN COUNCIL, Eodem Die,***Read and Concurred.***E. THOMPSON, Sec'y.**

*Printed at the new Printing-Office in
Exeter, where the New-Hampshire
Gazette and Exeter Morning Chron-
icle is publish'd every Saturday.*

43094

New Hampshire. General Court. 1776.

Exeter, July 4, 1776.... Voted that Three Hundred
Hand Bills.... In Council, eodem die, Read and Con-
curred.

Exeter, [1776] Broadside.

NHHS copy.

Philadelphia, July 4th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN,

THE Congress this morning directed us to confer with the Committees of Safety and Inspection, and the Field Officers now in town, about the proper mode of collecting the militia of this province, in order to form a flying camp, to cover Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, from the Attacks of the Enemy, who have landed on Staten-Island, and will probably direct their March this Way, if they should imagine the Attempt on New-York too hazardous. Necessity obliges us to dispense with forms, and to avail ourselves of the advantage, which we may reasonably hope from your being assembled: We, therefore, most earnestly request you immediately to collect the Forces of your several Counties, and march them down to Brunswick, where the Congress will furnish them with provisions, and allow them Continental pay.

Men who have the safety of their country at heart, need no other incentive to the greatest exertions, than such as arises from its dangers; for which reason, we have thought it necessary barely to inform you of the fact; with this addition, that the Militia of New-Jersey are already, for the most part, in New-York; so that that province will be defenceless without your timely aid.

We are Gentlemen, your most obedient humble servants,

B. FRANKLIN, ROBT. R. LIVINGSTON, }
F. HOPKINSON, J. DICKINSON } Committee of CONGRESS:

To the Committee of Associators, }
at Lancaster. }

GENTLEMEN,

WE beg your most serious attention to the contents of the within letter, and by the desire of the Committee of Congress, signify to you our approbation thereof, and that it is our opinion, only the four thousand five hundred men are meant by the Committee. It is hoped those volunteers who have engaged to serve in the flying camp, will march immediately the highest way to Brunswick, in New-Jersey, and that regular ^{MUSTER-}muster-rolls will be kept by the colonels of the several battalions.

As soon as a company is formed, it is expected it will march without waiting for the battalion. As there is to be a conference between the Delegates of New-York, New-Jersey, and Pennsylvania; and the Committee of Safety; with this Committee, and the Field-Officers of the five Battalions of this city and the liberties, to-morrow morning, at the State-House, at seven o'clock, we will let you know the result of their consultation.

Signed by Order of the Committee:

THOMAS M'KEAN, Chairman:

Philadelphia, Committee-Chamber, July 4th, 1776:

To the Convention of Associators, of the }
Province of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster. }

43191
U. S. Continental Congress, 1776.
Philadelphia, July 4th, 1776. Gentlemen, The Congress this Morning...
[Philadelphia, 1776.] Broadside.
LOC copy.

THE
VOICE of the PROPHETS

CONSIDERED

IN A

DISCOURSE or SERMON,

SHOWING what is WISDOM for men in a FALLEN
ESTATE;

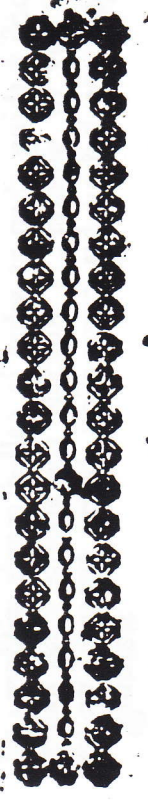
AND also, what is WISDOM for a People in a CIVIL
STATE.

With an Observation of THIS TIME.

But where shall Wisdom be found, and where is the Place
of Understanding.
Should ye not hear the Words which the Lord hath cried
by the former Prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited, and
in Prosperity?
ZEPHANIAH.

Printed in the Year M,DCC,LXXVI.

43055
[McGregore, David], 1710-1777.
The Voice of the Prophets.
[Hartford?], 1776. 15 pp.
CHS copy. p 1 of 8



PROV. 9. 12.

If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thy self; but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

LET us consider that we are in the Presence of an Holy GOD, who made us, and gives us every good thing we enjoy; who will bring every Work into Judgment, with double and redoubled Wings.—It becomes us therefore with a better Undertaking and Reverence, to behave Ourselves for as not to Break his holy Law, or merit his Divine Displeasure: You may remember, that within these few years past there has been several Judgments threatened against this Land and Nation. The first that I shall mention, was in what is commonly called *the Chelmsford Fleet*, a large Fleet sent from France against the Colonies; big enough according to humane understanding, to have Destroyed our Shipping, and at least to have laid our Sea-Ports in the utmost Ruin and Desolation. The *English Fleet* at that time by contrary winds, a meer act of providence, hindered from coming to our Relief. But mark, the French Fleet taken with a Dreadful Dissembler on their passage; they put into *Chelmsford*, where they Died by Thousands, and were not suffered to do the Colonies the least Damage.

A case something similar to what we have told us, Judge 7. 2. *And the Lord said unto Gideon, the People that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into thine Hands; lest Israel vanquish themselves against me, saying, mine own Hands have saved me.*

Another instance of Judgment threatened against us, was in the beginning of the last War; Gen. Braddock was defeated by the French and Indians, who came in like a Flood on some of the Southern Colonies, burning Houses, killing and taking Captive many of our People; it

seemed

(3)

seemed as though they would devour the whole Land: But mark—in the conclusion of the war, the French, quite from St. Lawrence river to the Mississippi, were brought into subjection. Which brings to my mind the prophecy of Amos, chap. 7. 1. *Thus saith the Lord God, I have sworn, says, chap. 7. 1. Thus saith the Lord God, I have sworn unto thee, and beheld be formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the flowering up of the latter growth, and so, it was the latter growth, after the king's murrings. And it came to pass, that when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord God, I beseech thee, by whom shall I be left? for he is small. The Lord answered for this: It shall not be, saith the Lord. I have sworn unto thee, says, chap. 7. 1. Thus saith the Lord God, I have sworn unto thee, and beheld, the latter growth called for corn, and by him, and it devoured the great deep, and will eat up a part. Then said I, O Lord God, cease, I beseech thee, by whom shall I be left? for he is small. The Lord answered for this: This also shall not be, saith the Lord God.—Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb-line in the midst of thy people Israel.—Have we not reason to believe, from these signs, that there is something among us that is very offensive in the eyes of a holy God, that must be reformed, ere we can expect to prosper. O that there were now a number of praying Amoses, who would say, O that the Lord would spare his people! It may be that they will repent.—Are we now engaged in a more dreadful war, blood a running, killing one another? as in Rev. 6. 4. I do not determine wherefore it is that the hard of the Lord is gone out against us: I shall here only observe, that God sometimes brings his judgments by instruments, to whom his people have done no wrong; see Judges 10. 6, and onward, *And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim and Ashtaroth.— And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon. And when harm had the children**

of Judah done to the Babylonians? For how they destroy: and captivated them!—But what was the matter? See Jer. 7. 5.—7. *If ye thoroughly amend your ways, and your doings: if ye thoroughly execute judgments between a man and his neighbour; if ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods, so your hurt is then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.*

But it is possible some of you may say, at least in your hearts, 'We are wise men, and understand our interest exceeding well; who can teach us?'—But I desire you to remember, that even the wisest of men have sometimes need of being ~~taught~~ in mind of things they well knew. I will therefore consider the words in the following order, First, Endeavour to show from the scripture, what is true wisdom for men in a fallen condition!

And in the next place, endeavour to show what is true wisdom for a people in a civil state.

Thirdly, That whosoever shall scorn the word of God, that they alone shall bear it

And Lastly, Shew, in some measure, what it is they shall bear.

First, What is wisdom for men in a fallen state? But let us first observe, that there is what hath been called wisdom, see *Daniel*, 5. 15. *And now the wise men, the Astrologers; who were probably such men, as by the help of the devil, pretended to foretell future events: but this is so far from the true wisdom intended in the text, that it is the most dreadful folly!*

Another sort of wisdom is mentioned in 1. Cor. 2. 13. *Which things also we speak, not in the words which mans wisdom teacheth, but which the holy Ghost teacheth: There is such a thing, then as what is called man's wisdom; of this sort of wisdom, I suppose the apostle Paul had a large share before his conversion, being brought up to learning,*

learning, who had the witness of miracles, and zealous in what he called religion; yet periculed the christians until he received a light from heaven.

We have an account, *John* 3. of *Nichodemus* likewise a ruler of the Jews, who probably had a great share of human understanding or man's wisdom, although he was so far convinced by the miracles, that he said to our Saviour, *Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God, for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him:* Yet when our Saviour told him, *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God, he understands nothing of this by his human wisdom, but says, How can a man be born when he is old? And farther, How can a man be born things he?—How ignorant was he of the new-birth, or the new heart which delighteth in hallelujahs and adoration to God! And we are told in plain words, 1 Cor. 2. 14. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. And our Saviour himself says, *John* 6. 48. It is written in the Prophets, And they shall be all taught of God—Every man therefore that hath heard and learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*

My answer then to the first question (which is, What is wisdom for men in a fallen estate) shall be, That it is their wisdom to go to God by solemn prayer, for his mercy in teaching them, and to bring them into true religion by his mighty power, and that with an honest intention to be conformed to the will of God; for God is a spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth, *John* 4. 24. For if the heart doth not believe that God is righteous we reject his request, the prayer is like a demand; and it is therefore the wisdom of sinners to beg of God to show them how vile they are, and know that God is sovereign of his gifts, or they would cease to be free grace. And I hope there are some

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of you so wise in your own eyes, as to think you have no good that God should teach you. Have you more wit than Nichodemus, or St. Paul, who were both taught of God? And blessed be that man go to heaven by their own wit: and bewitch'd, whom would they sing praise? Would it be to themselves, while they neglect or despise to glorify God? What, self-saved, and self-glorified? No; if any are saved, it must be by the gift of God.

Which brings me in the second place, to say, that whoever shall scorn to beg of God, to renew his heart, and to be taught, he alone shall bear it; for it is written, 'As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God: So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God,' Rom. 14. 11, 12. 'Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap; for he that soweth to his flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit, shall of the spirit reap life everlasting,' Gal. 6. 7, 8. And the text is a full confirmation of this. 'If thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.' But what shalt he bear; the answer is, 'The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty Angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power,' 2. *Thess.* 1. 7, 8, 9. 'Then shall he lay also unto them on the left hand, depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels,' *Mat.* 25. 41. The son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them that do iniquity, and shall cast them into a furnace of fire, there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth,' *Mat.* 13. 41, 42. 'And I say unto you my friends, be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can

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can do. But I will fore-warn you, whom you shall thus fear him which after he hath killed the body, hath power to cast into hell: Yea, I say unto you, that whosoever shall slight the counsels of their maker; to be cast into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels, where the soul dies not, and the fire is not quenched. conclude this point, with this word, *Ay from the words to come,*

In the next place, or secondly, I shall endeavour to show what is wisdom for men in a civil state:—To this I answer, It is wisdom for a people to do righteously, and what is the same, to keep the ten commands, for whether the words of the most high and holy God, the former of all things, see *Deut.* 16. 20. 'That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live and inherit the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee,' *Levit.* 18. 5. 'Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments, which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.'

For instance; Suppose a people should have no law to punish the breaking any one of the first four of these commands, and of consequence have no regard to God, how dreadful must be their doom: see what was said to those children of Israel; Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen, let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation, *Judges*, 10. 14.

Let us consider the fifth command, which is, Honour thy father and mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Now if there were no obedience or respect paid to parents, or fathers, how would every villain invade the property of others, spending their time in it so that there could be no subsistence for the people; and if there were no law against murder, how would people be in danger of losing their lives, it would doubtless take so much time in pre-
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trying them, so that they would not be able to raise any support for life.

And see what is said against breaking the seventh command. *Yak*, 31. 11. 'For this is an heinous crime, yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges, for it is a fire that consumeth to destruction, and would root out all mine increase. And with respect to the eighth command, were there no law to punish stealings, how would many think it easier to steal for a living, than to labor, which of natural consequence, will ruin any people, and witness is the eyes of the law; how could the breaking of any one of these commands be punished, if there were nothing but false witness; and the tenth command, which includes the whole, or all honesty to our neighbour, to be neglected will be equally ruinous.

But you will doubtless ask in a more particular manner, when a nation, or a people, may be truly said to break any one of these commands? To this I answer, That a people, or nation, may be guilty of one villain's stealing a horse, for when the judges willingly and knowingly, clear the thief, when they know he is guilty, they are partakers with the thief; and indeed, for want of a proper enquiry into truth, they may become guilty: So when a people shall see that their judges do unrighteousness, and willingly clear the thief; if they do not endeavor to know and displace such judges, they all become guilty; for the people are commanded to see that righteousness takes place: see *Deut*. 16. 18. *Judges and officers shall likewise be in all thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment.*

This command was given to the people, they ought therefore to have put in officers by election, and to be sure to be left out when they did not do righteously. What greater encouragement to wickedness, than to have no judges; and what greater encouragement to the wicked,

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ed, than hinder their being found out and punished, how severely were the children of Israel punished when they made no judges, but left every man to do as he pleased, or that which was right in his own eyes; see the end of judges: should they not have made righteous judges a terror to evil doers, how guilty then of the blood of the Levites wife, and how dangerous was it to put in officers for life, if the people were justly charged for what they knew, and suffered their representatives to do.

Again, kings or rulers may be greatly to blame another way. For instance, suppose a king, or rulers, should take from the people ninety-nine parts of an hundred of the produce from the people, or the value, and lay it up for themselves, or give it to pensioners, or charity men; and enable them to carry on rioting, and drunkenness, while the people are greatly distressed to maintain it; it may be as great a burden, as to be slaves: and how wicked is it to rate the people to maintain rioting, and drunkenness, right in the face of Gods commands, for even kings are not to make themselves rich beyond bounds with the peoples money, see *Deut*. 17. 17. *Neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.* Nevertheless, there is no doubt but that kings and rulers ought to have a reasonable and honorable recompence for their labor. See *Rom*. 13. 6. *For this cause pay you tribute also for they are Gods ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.*

I should think it proper, under this enquiry, for us to consider the conduct of the children of Israel, and see wherein they were blamed, and when they were not: For God is the same, yesterday, to day, and forever? Therefore those things that were displeasing to him then, are displeasing to him now if they are acted. And I do not remember any threatening against the children of Israel for injustice, untill after Solomon's time: the question will then be, How did they conduct in that time? see *Deut*. 24. 10. *When thou dost lend thy brother any thing,*

Did they indeed when they sold, or lent one another any thing, take a pledge as a witness to the debt? I answer, Doubtless they did; or what is the meaning of a pledge. Wherefore it is evident they took care beforehand to know how to do justice. But see Deut. 24. 12, 13. *And if the man be poor, thou shalt not sleep with his pledge: for every case thou shalt deliver him the pledge again when the sun shall dawn.*

Why truly did they not trust one another longer than from morning to night; for what profit could a pledge be that must be given up before the debt was paid. I answer, That the creditor could show the pledge to a number of the debtors, and thereby get witnesses that the debtor owes the goods delivered? In that case a creditor might recover his security, or else it was lost, for what advantage was it to have a pledge or witnesses, if a person could recover upon his own say, or by making a false book, and swear it was truly and justly charg'd, nor could they make a book against any person for four times so much as the debtor would have given a pledge for; nor for things for which satisfaction had been made. Should they not have been as really punished had they had no law to prevent making false accounts, as they were for not having law, or judges, to prevent the wickedness done to the Levites wife; werefore they did well to take care beforehand, that one should not defraud or wrong another. If we can find in their practice, what was the mind and will of God, let us hear it. But to return; It is probable, when persons thought themselves wronged, and could get no pledge; they went immediately to trial. I shall here produce the account of an action that was brought and tried in one of their courts, present, King Solomon judge, 1. Kings, 3. 16, to the end. *Then came there two women that were barlots, unto the king, and stood before him: and the one woman said, O my lord, I, and this woman dwell in one house;*

and I was delivered of a child with her in the house: and it came to pass, the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also, and we were together: but there was no stranger with us in the house; save we two in the house. And this woman's child died in the night, because she overlaid it. And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while mine hand-maid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom; and when I awoke in the morning to give my child suck, behold it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold it was my son which I did bear: and the other woman said unto me, but she lying is my son, and the dead is thy son: and I wept, and she said unto me, but thy son is the dead child which I brought a sword before the king; and the king said divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. Then spake the woman whose the living child was, unto the king (for her bowels yearned upon her son) and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and ix no wife for it: But the other said, let it be neither mine, nor thine, but divide it. Then the king answered and said, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: for it is the mother thereof. And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged, and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to do judgments.

Here observe we have no account of any writ, or any officer to bring the defendant before the king, for it likely was looked upon as a token of guilt, to be unwilling to attend the court: we have no account of any attorney to abate the writ, or plead demurrer, or special plea; nor even to say, that the plaintiff had produced no witnesses to prove her cause; neither could they go from court, to court, until they had spent in the trial, three times so much

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much as the cause was worth : But the judge hears the story from the parties, and by policy finds out from them which was the true mother, and orders, that she should have her own child.

But where lay the great wisdom think you ; was it in judging that a woman should have her own child, or in searching the matter.

See what is spoken by Job, who seems to have been a judge : *chap. 29. 16. I was a father to the poor, and the cause which I knew not, I searched out. I break the jaws of the wicked, and pluck the spoil out of his teeth.*

But from Solomons time, to their going into captivity, there are repeated threatenings for injustice, and violence, see *Micah. 2. 1. Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds : when the morning is light, they practise it because it is in the power of their hands—And they covet fields, and take them by violence, and bowels, and take them away : so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage :—Therefore, thus saith the Lord ; Behold against this family do I devise an evil, from which ye shall not remove your necks : see also *Jer. 22. 3. Thus saith the Lord ; Execute ye judgment, and righteousness ; and deliver the spoiled out of the hands of the oppressor ; and do no wrong ; do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow ; neither shed innocent blood in this place ; for if you do this thing, indeed I shall here enter in by the gates of this house, kings sitting upon the throne of David riding in chariots, and on horses, he, and his servants, and his people. But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by myself, saith the Lord ; That this house shall become a desolation.**

But did they do all this injustice, and violence, without any pretence of law ? No, they did not ; for we read, *Micah, 6. 16. For the statutes of Omry are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab ; and Hab. 1. 4. Therefore the law is slackted, and judgment doth never go forth, for the wicked doth compass about the righteous ; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.* But

But what was their law do you think ; was it like a *Shu-ner*, that would catch all the little fish, and let all the great fish go through ? I answer yes ; it probably was : but you will ask, how can that be ? I answer thus : That under a plausible pretence of doing justice ; that when either party thought themselves wronged, they might review or appeal, from court, to court ; until they had spent three times so much in the trial, as the cause was worth. The great men, by having very large fees for managing the causes, probably run off with the most of the money, while they left the poor to suffer for want. Who having recovered hardly enough to pay the cost, they lost ~~of~~ *tha*. was taken from them by injustice, or violence : How did this deliver the *spoiled*. And when any one perion did injustice, or violence to another, he was obliged to go to law, or loose his right ; and who knows but what that was next to his life ; was not that nation guilty of this. And what were they better to have a law which cost more than could be recovered by it ; could it relieve a distressed perion who had been wronged by injustice or violence. But if the righteous lost all, what become of the mistaken party, who likely lost more than three times all : Was not such a law, like an iron brier, that tore the flesh off every one that came near it : wherefore every mite of cost that was made in trials more than was absolutely necessary, was unjust ; no better than other injustice. Let us conclude this point, with these words, *2. Eze. 19. 6. To the judges, Take heed what ye do, for ye judge not for men, but for the Lord, who is with you in the judgment.* And whoever shall break any one of the laws of God, they alone shall bear it : for if a people shall have no law to punish the breaking any of these commandments, this is the natural tendency to bring them to ruin, as has been observed before ; if a people shall carefully punish the breakers of these commands, it is strange if any one escapes

excepts without punishment, shame, and disgrace ; how-
ever, they will certainly be under the curse, see Deut. 27.
Therefore, here is a curse pronounced against every one
who has a right to the rulers' who do not endeavour
to fulfil their duty with the most likely to keep this law.

Here is a curse pronounced against every one who
doth not endeavour to know what rulers do not do well
in keeping the law, who shall throw away his power,
or doth not endeavour to keep this law. Here is a
curse pronounced against every one who although he has
not a right to the rulers' eye or ear : who shall do any
thing which he knows likely to hinder the keeping this
law. Here is a curse pronounced against every judge or
other who shall not endeavor the keeping this law. In
fine, here is a curse pronounced against all the breakers
of this law : and who hath ever hardened himself against
his creator, and hath prospered ; therefore, every one
that scorneth he alone shall bear it. But what shall he
bear ? I answer, That whosoever shall scorn to obey
the law of God, shall bear his wrath and displeasure.

See what (if it be practiced) will be an instance of this,
Exod. 22. 22. *You shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless
child ; if thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all
unto me, I will surely hear their cry ; and my wrath shall
be kindled against you, and I will kill you with the sword ; and your
wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.* And
I have heard there is a disemper among the nati-
ons, which is the most dreadful and mortal to the well
people, for when a number of men shall make unjust
rules, they will not only enjoy the displeasure of God,
but they, and their's must be tried by the law, see
Prov. 28. 10. *Who so despiseth the righteous to go astray in
evil*

evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit ; but the right
right shall have good things in possession : and Job, 18. 13.
*For he is cast into a pit, and by his own feet, and he will be caught in
a snare.* I remember an old observation : *When a man is
maid ; That when the children of Israel had a king, they
to whom they heard so much as that they could not see
the laws, they always looked on the other hand
when they had bad rulers, to whom they looked
they suffered greatly ; and those rulers hated the
witnesses Jeroboam, Jehoiachim Bascha, and Ahab. I con-
clude this point with that in Job, 27. 8. *For what is the
price of a hypocrite, tho' he hath gained, when God taketh
away his soul.**

And now let us conclude this part, with a word of
exhortation to the hearers. As we are practitioners
here, for eternity : Let us set a part some time every
day, wherein to consider solemnly what will become of us
in another world ; and if we are in any distress, and see
that the rod of God is upon us ; let us mistrust whether
there be not something in our practice that we have over-
look'd, that is offensive to an holy God. Let us speak
to God by fasting and prayer, to teach us what is amiss ;
see the example of David, when there was three years
famine year after year ; and David enquired of the Lord,
2. Samuel, 21. 1. Let us examine carefully how our
actions agree with the rules of the word of God, see
Zach. 7. 7. *Should ye not hear the words which the Lord
saith by the former prophets : and whatever is amiss let
us reform, and restore righteousness ; then by fasting
and prayer seek to God for forgiveness, and mercy ;
who can tell if God will direct, and prosper our enter-
prises, or find a way of redemption, that we perish not.*
I conclude the whole, with that in Isa. 50. 10. *Who is a-
mong you that feareth the Lord ; that walketh in darkness,
and saith no light : Let him trust in the name of the Lord,
and say upon his God.*

AMEN.

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I N C O N G R E S S,

BALTIMORE, *January 14th, 1777.*

RESOLVED, That the Commissioners of the Loan Offices be directed to receive the Bills of Credit, heretofore emitted by the States in which they respectively hold their Offices, for such Sums as shall be ordered by the Commissioners of the Treasury, or the Continental Treasurer, from Time to Time, for Continental Purposes, within such States respectively.

Extract from the Minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secy.*

TREASURY-OFFICE, BALTIMORE, *January 30, 1777.*

S I R,

IN Consequence of the above Resolve, I am directed by the Treasury to inform you, that they think it adviseable for the Commissioners of the Loan Offices to consult with the Councils or Committees of Safety of their respective States, and inform themselves with the Sums of Money that may be wanted for the ensuing Campaign, to pay and subsist the Continental Troops that may be stationed thereby for Defence of such States; and also to answer the Demands of the several States against the Continent. Having thus proceeded, you will please to receive, for Loan-Office Certificates, the Bills of Credit emitted by your State, before the Date of the above Resolve, to the Amount of the Sums that may be specified as above, together with such other Sums as the Secret Committee shall desire you to borrow in said Bills, for the Purpose of paying for Produce, which they may have Occasion to purchase in said State; taking Care, at all Times, to give the Preference to Continental Currency. I am also to inform you, that all the Money borrowed on Certificates, is to be paid to either the Order of Congress, or the Treasurer; and that other Warrants will not be considered as Vouchers, on adjusting the Accounts of your Office: Being, Sir, your very humble Servant,

WILLIAM GOVETT, *A. Audi. Gen.*

To Thomas Smith Esq;
Commissioner of the Loan-Office, for the
State of

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U. S. Treasury Office, 1777.
In Congress, Baltimore, January 14th, 1777.... Treasury-
Office, Baltimore, January 30, 1777....
Baltimore, [1777]. Broadside.
LOC copy.

BALTIMORE, April 18.

✧ *The following Resolves, with his Excellency the Governor's Proclamation, reflect so much Honour on this Infant State, and so clearly manifest the Justice and Dignity of its Ruler, that I think it my Duty to present them to the Public as early as possible. They cannot fail to give Satisfaction to every real Friend of Freedom thus to see Constitutional Law and Government prevailing over the Tyranny and Licentiousness of perverted WHIGISM.*

WILLIAM GODDARD.

ANNAPOLIS, APRIL 17.

In the HOUSE OF DELEGATES, April 11, 1777.

THE House took into Consideration the Memorials of *William Goddard*, the Reports of the Committee of Aggrievances thereon, and the Depositions referred to by the Committee, and thereupon **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**, That every Subject in this State is entitled to the Benefit and Protection of the Laws and Government thereof.

RESOLVED, That this House highly disapprove of any Body of Men, assuming or exercising any of the Powers of Government without proper Authority from the Constitution.

RESOLVED, That the Proceedings of the Persons in *Baltimore-Town*, associated and filed the *Whig Club*, are a most daring Infringement, and manifest Violation of the Constitution of this State, directly contrary to the Declaration of Rights, and tend, in their Consequences, (unless timely checked) to the Destruction of all regular Government.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY, That the Governor be requested to issue his Proclamation, declaring all Bodies of Men associating together, or meeting for the Purpose and usurping any of the Powers of Government, and presuming to exercise any Power over the Persons or Property of any Subject of this State, or to carry into Execution any of the Laws thereof, unlawful Assemblies, and requiring all such Assemblies and Meetings instantly to disperse.

RESOLVED, That the Governor be requested to afford the said *William Goddard* the Protection of the Law of the Land, and to direct the Justices of

Baltimore County to give him every Protection in their Power, against all Violence or Injury to his Person or Property.

RESOLVED, That Mr. Speaker be requested to communicate the above Resolves, and Copies of the Memorials and Depositions to the Governor.

ORDERED, That the above Resolves be published in the *Maryland Gazette*.

By Order,

G. DUVALL, Cl. H. D.

By His Excellency

THOMAS JOHNSON, Esq;
Governor of MARYLAND.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

WHEREAS the Honourable House of Delegates have unanimously requested me to issue my Proclamation, declaring all Bodies of Men associating together, or meeting for the Purpose, and usurping any of the Powers of Government, and presuming to exercise any Power over the Persons or Property of any Subject of this State, or to carry into Execution any of the Laws thereof, unlawful Assemblies, and requiring all such Assemblies and Meetings instantly to disperse: wherefore I have issued this my Proclamation, hereby declaring all Bodies of Men associating together, or meeting for the Purpose of usurping any of the Powers of Government, and presuming to exercise any Power over the Persons or Property of any Subject of this State, or to carry into Execution any of the Laws thereof on their own Authority, unlawful Assemblies. And I do hereby warn and strictly charge and command all such Assemblies and Meetings instantly to disperse, as they will answer the Contrary at their Peril: And that due Notice may be had of this my Proclamation, and that no Person may pretend Ignorance thereof, the several Sheriffs within this State are hereby commanded to cause the same to be made Public in their respective Counties.

Given at Annapolis this Seventeenth Day of April, Seventeen Hundred and Seventy seven.

THO. JOHNSON,

By his Excellency's Command,

R. RIDELY, Sec.

GOD Save the STATE.

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Maryland. Laws, Statutes, etc., 1777.

Baltimore, April 18. The Following Resolves....

[Baltimore, 1777.] Broadside.

LOC copy.

Providence, July 26, 1779.

S I R;
BY the assented Voice of the Town of Providence, you will perceive the anxious Desire they possess of having the Purposes therein expressed carried into Execution.

The absolute Necessity of a common circulating Medium, for carrying on War, and defending against the Invasions of a relentless Enemy, is fully known to every American. In Proportion to the Credit of this, our Exertions will be vigorous or feeble. To the Disgrace of Humanity; in Contempt of the Principles of Honor, Virtue, and Patriotism, the British Tyrant shall ravage our Coast, and spread Desolation and Havoc in every Part of our Country! To what can we attribute these Calamities, but the mutual Jealousy arising from the depreciated State of the Currency!—The only Danger we have Occasion to apprehend, must arise from that Quarter. Having it in our Power to triumph over the utmost Exertions of our Adversary, how proud as well as wretched must we be, if, by an ill-timed and fruitless Avarice, we should plunge ourselves into all the Horrors of an ignominious Servitude!—In vain may we appeal to Heaven for the Goodness of our Cause, in vain may we court and receive the Friendship of foreign Nations, if by our own sordid Conduct we continue to frustrate our own Intentions. The inestimable Prize for which we contend, the Possibility of failing to obtain it, after expending so much Blood and Treasure, are Considerations of the first Importance. The Contest in which we are engaged, is not circumscribed by the Interest of a few. Every individual in the United States is essentially concerned in it. It is the Cause of Freedom: it is the Cause of Mankind.—The fatal Consequences of the fluctuating State of the Money, have justly reached the Feelings and called forth the Exertions of the Guardians of our Liberties, the Continental Congress.—They have deliberated; they have resolved, they have addressed, and they have called upon their Constituents at large to assist them in suppressing the growing Evil.—Of themselves alone they cannot apply an adequate Remedy. The combined Virtue of the People must save the Country.—The Influence of this venerable and august Body has been attended with happy Effects in Philadelphia and Boston, the Capitals of America. The State of Massachusetts-Bay have adopted, with Unanimity, the Measures now recommended to you by the Town of Providence. We cannot desire a more eligible Mode, to attain Agreement, Harmony and Confidence, can alone obtain the desired Object.—It is Time to lay aside every Idea of Contrariety and Distrust, and unite (as Brethren in one Cause) in Wisdom, Virtue, and determined Resolutions.—The Situation of this State is particularly critical. Our great Dependence must be upon the neighbouring States; it is in the Power of Prudence, as well

as Justice, to adopt similar Measures with them: In short, we are fully persuaded, by the Senties of Heaven, that establishing the Credit and raising the Value of the Paper Currency, will ensure Victory, Peace and Safety to America. This cannot be obtained by partial, but general Exertions. We doubt not, therefore, but the respective Towns in this State will cordially adopt a Measure calculated for our mutual Happiness, and absolutely necessary to our being as a free, sovereign and independent People.

I am, Sir, in Behalf of the Committee of Correspondence, with unfeigned Esteem, your very humble Servant.

Jabez B. Bowen, } Chairman.

The Clerk of the Town of East Greenwich

At a Town-Meeting of the FREEMEN of the Town of PROVIDENCE, legally warned and assembled at the State-House, on the 23d Day of July, 1779.

RESOLVED, as the Opinion of this Meeting, that in the present Situation of public Affairs, it will be adviseable, that a Convention of Delegates from the several Towns in this State be held at East-Greenwich, on the 2d Tuesday of August next, in order unitedly to agree upon some proper Measures for preventing any further Depreciation of the Continental Currency, and for reinstating and supporting the Credit thereof, pursuant to the Recommendation of Congress, in their Address of the 26th of May last, by agreeing upon regulated Prices for the Articles of Life, and adopting Measures for furnishing Money by Loan, Subscription or otherwise, for the Use of the Continent; thereby in presence of the Necessity of any further Emissions:

It is thereupon unanimously Voted and Resolved, That the Committee of Correspondence, appointed by the Town on the 3d Instant, draft and forward a proper Address to each of the Towns upon this Subject, requesting them to come into the Measure: That said Address be forwarded by Express, when necessary, as soon as may be, to each of the Town-Clerks, by them to be communicated to their respective Towns: And that the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq; the Hon. Jabez Bowen, Esq; Mr. John Brown, Welcome Arnold, Esq; and Mr. John Innes Clark, or the major Part of them, be and they hereby are appointed, in Behalf of this Town, to meet Delegates from the other Towns in Convention, at East-Greenwich, on the said 2d Tuesday of August next, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, for the Purpose aforesaid.

A true Copy:
Attest. THEODORE FOSTER, Town-Clerk.

43684
R. I. Committee of Correspondence, 1779.
Providence, July 26, 1779. Sir: By the Annexed Vote....
Providence, Carter, [1779. 1 Broadside.
RIHS copy.

Providence, July 26, 1779.

SIR,

BY the annexed Vote of the Town of Providence, you will perceive the anxious Desire they possess of having the Purposes therein expressed carried into execution.

The absolute Necessity of a common circulating Medium, for carrying on War, and defending against the Invasions of a relentless Enemy, is fully known to every American. In Proportion to the Credit of this, our Exertions will be vigorous not feeble. To the Disgrace of Humanity; in Contempt of the Principles of Honor, Virtue, and Patriotism, the British Tyrant still ravages our Coasts, and spreads Desolations and Havoc in many Parts of our Country! To what can we attribute these Calamities, but the mutual Jealousy arising from the depreciated State of the Currency?--The only Danger we have Occasion to apprehend, must arise from that Quarter. Having it in our Power to triumph over the utmost Exertions of our Adversary, how stupid as well as wretched must we be, if, by as ill-timed and fruitless Avarice, we should plunge ourselves into all the Horrors of an ignominious Servitude!--In vain may we appeal to Heaven for the Goodness of our Cause, in vain may we court and receive the Friendship of foreign Nations, if by our own sordid Conduct we continue to frustrate our own Intentions. The inestimable Prize for which we contend, the Possibility of failing to obtain it, after expending so much Blood and Treasure, are Considerations of the first Importance. The Contest in which we are engaged, is not circumscribed by the interest of a few. Every individual of the United States is essentially concerned in it. It is the Cause of Freedom, it is the Cause of Mankind.---The fatal Consequences of the fluctuating State of the Money, have justly reached the Feelings and called forth the Exertions of the Guardians of our Liberties, the Continental Congress.---They have deliberated; they have resolved; they have addressed; and they have called upon their Constituents at large to assist them in suppressing the growing Evil.---Of themselves alone they cannot apply an adequate Remedy. The combined Virtue of the People must save the Country---The Influence of this venerable and august Body has been attended with happy Effects in Philadelphia and Boston, the Capitals of America. The State of Massachusetts-Bay have adopted, with Unanimity, the Measures now recommended to you by the Town of Providence. We cannot desire a more eligible Mode as mutual Agreement. Harmony and Confidence, can alone obtain the desired Object.---It is Time to lay aside every Idea of Contrariety and Distrust, and unite (as Brethren in one Cause) in Wisdom, Virtue, and determined Resolutions,-- --The Situation of this State is particularly critical. Our great Dependence must be upon the neighbouring States; it is therefore the Part of Prudence, as well

as Justice, to adopt similar Measures with them. In short, we are fully persuaded, by the Smiles of Heaven, that establishing the Credit and raising the Value of the Paper Currency, will ensure Victory, Peace and Safety to America. These cannot be obtained by partial, but general Exertions. We doubt not, therefore, that the respective Towns in this State will cordially adopt a Measure calculated for our mutual Happiness, and absolutely necessary to our Being as a free, sovereign and independent People.

I am, Sir, in Behalf of the Committee of Correspondence, with unfeigned Esteem, your very humble Servant,

Jabez C. Bowen

The Clerk of the Town of

East Greenwich

At a Town Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of PROVIDENCE, legally warned and assembled at the State-House, on the 23d Day of July, 1779.

RESOLVED, as the Opinion of this Meeting, that in the present Situation of public Affairs, it will be adviseable, that a Convention of Delegates from the several Towns in this State be held at East Greenwich, on the 2d Tuesday of August next, in order unitedly to agree upon some proper Measures for preventing any further Depreciation of the Continental Currency, and for reinstating and supporting the Credit thereof, pursuant to the Recommendation of Congress, in their Address of the 26th of May last, by agreeing upon regulated Prices for the Articles of Life, and adopting Measures for furnishing Money by Loan, Subscription or otherwise, for the Use of the Continent; thereby to prevent the Necessity of any further Emissions.

It is therefore unanimously Voted and Resolved, That the Committee of Correspondence, appointed by the Town of the 3d Instant, draft and forward a proper Address to each of the Towns upon this Subject, requesting them to come into the Measure; That said Address be forwarded by Express, when necessary, as soon as may be, to each of the Town-Clerks, by them to be communicated to their respective Towns; And that the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq; the Hon. Jabez Bowen, Esq; Mr. John Brown, Welcome Arnold, Esq; and Mr. John Innes Clark, or the major part of them, be and they hereby are appointed, in Behalf of this Town, to meet Delegates from the other Towns in Convention, at East Greenwich, on the said 2d Tuesday of August next, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, for the purposes aforesaid.

A true Copy:

Attest. Theodore Foster, Town-Clerk.

TABLE OF THE POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

| PROVINCE. | DATE. | GENERAL EXECUTIVE POWER. | CONTROL OF THE ARMY. | LEGISLATIVE. | FINANCIAL. | JUDICIAL. | | | DIMINUTION OF POWER TO ACT FOR THE STATE. | | EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS. |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|--------------|---|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | | | | (a) OVER OFFICERS | (b) OVER TOWNS. | (c) CIVIL CASES. | (d) CRIMINAL CASES. | (a) IN BUREAU OF CONVENTION. | |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE. Committee of Safety. | May 1776. May 1776. | X | Appoint and commission officers. Raise and discharge troops. Direct their movements. | | Draw on the treasury to pay all claims against the province. Supervise some accounts. | X | | | X | From 1776-1777. In 1775-1776. | |
| VERMONT. Council of Safety. | June 1777. March 1778. | X | The same. Furnish the army with supplies. | X | Complete control of the treasury. | X | X | X | X | | |
| MASACHUSETTS. Committee of Safety. | Oct. 1774. July 1775. | X | Recommend officers for commissions. Raise and discharge troops. During a part of the time able to direct movements. | | Draw on the treasury to pay claims against the province. | X | | | X | | The Governor and Deputy Governor. Aug. 1775-Dec. 1776. Any member of the legislature. |
| RHODE ISLAND. Grand Committee and Council of War. | Aug. 1775. Oct. 1781. | With the Governor. | Appoint and commission officers. Raise and discharge troops. Direct their movements. Furnish them with supplies. | X | Supervise accounts. | X | | | X | | The Governor and Deputy Governor. |
| CONNECTICUT. Council of Safety. | May 1775. Oct. 1781. | With the Governor. | With the Governor direct the militia. Occasionally raise and commission officers. Furnish troops with supplies. | | | X | | | X | | The Governor and Deputy Governor. |
| NEW YORK. (a) Committee of Safety. (b) Aug. 1776-May 1777. (c) May 1777-Jan. 1778 | July 1775. May 1776. | X | Appoint and commission officers. Raise and discharge troops. In recess of Provincial Congress direct the militia and the Continental troops in the province under authority of the legislature. Furnish troops with supplies. | X | Draw on treasury to pay claims against the state. Appropriate any sum under £5,000. Emit paper currency voted by the Provincial Congress. | X | | | X | July 1775-Oct. 1775 and March 1776, 1778. Any member of the legislature. | |
| NEW YORK. (b) Committee of Safety. (c) Aug. 1776-May 1777. (d) May 1777-Jan. 1778 | Aug. 1776. Jan. 1778. | X | Same as above. | X | Complete control of the treasury. | | | | X | Aug. 1776-May 1777. Oct. 1776-Jan. 1778. Any member of the legislature. | |
| NEW JERSEY. Committee of Safety. | Aug. 1775. Aug. 1776. | X | Appoint and commission officers. Direct movements of the troops. | | Draw on treasury for any purpose it saw fit. | X | | | X | | The Governor. |
| NEW JERSEY. Council of Safety. | March 1777. Oct. 1778. | | Appoint officers in case of vacancy. | | Draw on treasury up to £1,000. Changed to £2,000 in December session 1777. | X | | | X | | |
| PENNSYLVANIA. (a) Committee of Safety. (b) June 1775-July 1776. (c) Council of Safety. (d) July 1776-March 1777. | June 1775. March 1777. | | Appoint and commission officers. Call out and discharge troops. Direct their movements. Furnish with supplies. | | Draw on treasury for the defense of the province. Borrow money. | X | | | X | From June 1776-March 1777. | |
| PENNSYLVANIA. (b) Council of Safety. (c) Nov. 1776-Jan. 1777. | Oct. 1777. Dec. 1777. | X | Complete control. | X | Complete control. | X | | | X | | The Supreme Executive Council |
| DELAWARE. (a) Committee of Safety. (b) 1776-1778. | 1776. 1778. | X | | | | | | | | | |
| DELAWARE. (b) Council of Safety. (c) Nov. 1776-Jan. 1777. | Nov. 1776. Jan. 1777. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Council of Safety. | Feb. 1777. | | Direct movements of the troops. Furnish with supplies. | | | | | | | | |
| VIRGINIA. Committee of Safety. | Aug. 1775. July 1776. | X | Commission officers. Direct their movements. Appoint agents to furnish supplies. | | Draw on treasury for expenses of the army. | X | | | X | August 1775-December 1776. | |
| NORTH CAROLINA. Council of Safety. | Sept. 1775. Oct. 1776. | From May 1776-Oct. 1776. | Appoint and commission officers. Direct movements of troops and furnish supplies. | | Draw on treasury for the defense of the province. | X | | | X | | |
| SOUTH CAROLINA. Council of Safety. | June 1775. Mch. 1776. | X | Same as above. | | Draw on the treasury to pay claims against the province for all purposes of public service. Stamp and issue paper money voted by the Provincial Congress. | X | | | X | | From Nov. 1775-Mar. 1776. The delegates to the Continental Congress from the province. |
| GEORGIA. (a) Council of Safety. (b) Georgia. (c) Council of Safety. | July 1775. April 1776. April 1776. May 1777. | X With the Council of Safety. | Same. | | In the recess of the Congress issue certificates to £10,000. | X | | | X | | The Governor. Delegates to the Continental Congress from the province. |

* THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES OF SAFETY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, BY AGNES HUNT, 1904, 180 pp