

death, your Majesty may taste the fullest fruition of eternal bliss, and that a decedent of your illustrious house may reign over the British empire until time shall be no more.

His Excellency's speech to dissolve the Assembly.

Gentlemen of his Majesty's honorable council, mr. speaker, and gentlemen of the house of assembly.

I met this assembly with a most sincere disposition to forward the public business of the country; and I make this public acknowledgment of my thanks, to the gentlemen of his majesty's council, for the cheerfulness they have shown to co-operate with me; and my gratitude to the house of assembly for the honorable opinion they have declared in favor of my administration. You may be assured, gentlemen, that the interruption which has been given to the business of this session, has not occasioned more disappointment to you, than the cause of it has occasioned real affliction to me.

The plan I laid before you for the management of your public funds, if adopted by the legislature, and invariably pursued, (otherwise it will be insufficient) will produce the happiest effects to this country; and I will be bold to affirm, if ever carried, in any future session, into an act of the legislature, it will be acknowledged the most beneficial session this colony ever experienced, though it should be the only act passed in that session. But this blessing is not to be obtained for the country, while the treasurers, late sheriffs, and their surties, can command a majority in the lower house, and while a treasurer is suffered to absent himself, and with-hold his public accounts from the general assembly, let the pretence of his absence be ever so urgent. This morning I saw some public accounts of the treasurer for the southern district. These accounts are very irregular and negligently kept, that the public must be abused, if an amendment is not made to the mode there pursued; but as I am told it is a method his predecessors followed, no censure can lay upon that gentleman.

As my duty preceeds every other consideration, I do now dissolve this assembly, and this assembly is accordingly dissolved.

After which

The late representatives of the people judging it necessary, that some measures should be taken in their distressed situation, for preserving the true and essential interests of the province, resolved upon a meeting for that very salutary purpose, and therefore immediately repaired to the court-house in this town, where, being assembled, it was first proposed, for the more decent and regular discussion of such matters as might be taken into consideration, that a moderator should be appointed, and John Harvey, Esq; late Speaker of the House of Assembly, was unanimously elected.

The true state of the province being then opened and fully explained, and it being proposed that a regular Association should be formed, a committee was appointed to prepare the necessary and most proper regulations for that purpose, and they were ordered to make their report to the general meeting the next day at 9 o'clock.

At a meeting of his Majesty's commissioners for trade and plantations, on Tuesday April 11, 1769.

Present earl of Hillsborough one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state.

Soam Jehyns Edw. Elliot
George Rice Esqrs. J. Roberts Esqrs.
Wilm. Fitzherbert Tho. Robinson

THEIR lordships took into their further consideration a memorial of several merchants trading to North Carolina, containing proposals for better regulating and encouraging the importation from thence into this kingdom, of pitch, tar, turpentine, oak leaves and heading; and several merchants, subscribers to the said memorial and interested in the subject hereof, attending, as desired; their lordships had what they had to offer the upon; and the matter, contained in the said memorial, was reduced to the following propositions.

1. That the bounty on the importation of green tar, made in the manner prescribed in the act which gives such bounty, be altogether discontinued; there being little or no tar of such quality imported or used in the manufactures of this kingdom.

2. That the duty of nine shillings and seven pence per ton payable upon common tar imported from North America, be taken off, and the bounty of forty four shillings per ton upon white oak heading, reduced to twenty four shillings; but that no heading be entitled to such reduced bounty, or exempted from payment of the duty, unless it be shipped in America and imported into this kingdom in well hooped casks of twenty two gallons each, made with three staves of three quarters of an inch thick, each stave to be bunged at the kiln side, the tar manufactured, with a bung made of oak or iron, to prevent the tar running out, or being soiled, dirt, or water intermixing therewith; and in case of leakage, such barrel or barrels to be held up so as to contain thirty two gallons of clear and conditioned tar, free from weeds, sand, dirt or water.

3. That the bounty of thirty shillings per ton, now payable upon pitch imported from the colonies, be altogether taken off, and the duties of thirty eight shillings per ton reduced to eight shillings per ton; but that no pitch be entitled to such reduction of duty, unless it be shipped in America and imported into this kingdom, in casks made of well seasoned staves three quarters of an inch thick, each stave to be bunged with bungs of cork or wood, to prevent it from dross and water.

4. That the duty of nine shillings and seven pence per last of twelve hundred pipe payble upon pitch imported from the colonies, be taken off, and the bounty of twenty shillings per ton reduced to ten shillings; but that no pitch be entitled to such reduced bounty or exempted from the duty, unless shipped in America and imported into this kingdom, in casks made of staves three quarters of an inch thick, each stave, and well hooped.

5. That certain bounties be allowed upon the importation from America into this kingdom, of white oak staves and heading; the said bounties to be granted for twenty one years, divided into three periods in manner following, viz.

That each twelve hundred pipe staves, eighteen hundred hoghead, twenty four hundred barrel staves, and three thousand six hundred pieces of heading, shall be allowed a bounty of six pounds for the first seven years; four pounds for the second seven years; and forty shillings for the third seven years: But that no staves nor heading shall be entitled to the bounty, unless made of white oak free from sap and worm holes, each pipe stave to be five feet six inches long, from five to seven inches broad, and one and a half inch thick on its thin edge: Each barrel stave three feet six inches long, the breadth and thickness the same as the pipe and hoghead staves, and the heading to be from two feet two inches, to two feet six inches long and six inches broad, and the same thickness as the staves.

The merchants being withdrawn, their lordships took the foregoing propositions into consideration, and were of opinion that the regulation and encouragements, mentioned therein, would, under proper limitations and restrictions, insure the due execution of the said regulations and prevent frauds, be of commercial advantage and benefit to this kingdom, and to the colonies; but as not only the revenue, but also the navy of this kingdom, are materially concerned in what is proposed, their lordships recommended to the memorialists, to make applica-

tion to the lords commissioners of the treasury, and to the lords commissioners of executing the office of lord high admiral before any further steps were taken and it was ordered, that they should have copies of their lordships minute in order to lay before those honorable boards.

N E W B E R N.

Tuesday November the 7th, 1760.

At a farther meeting, according to adjournment, the committee appointed yesterday, made their report, which being read, seriously considered, and approved, was signed by a great number of the members of assembly then present, and is as follows.

WE his Majesty's most dutiful subjects, the late representatives of all the freeholders of the province of North Carolina, avowing an inviolable attachment and unshaken fidelity to our most gracious sovereign, and protesting against every act that may have the least tendency to disturb the peace and good order of this government, which we are willing, at the risk of our lives and fortunes, to maintain and defend; but, at the same time, sensibly affected with the hardships, difficulties and discouragements the colonies at present labor under, from several taxes and impositions laid on by parliament for the sole purpose of a revenue, by which our money is taken from us, without our consent, and applied to the support of new created commissioners of customs, and other place men: And by other acts of parliament we are deprived of that invaluable privilege of trial by our peers and the common law, and made subject to the arbitrary and oppressive proceedings of the civil law, justly abhorred by our ancestors, the freemen of England: And finding, that the most dutiful and loyal petitions and remonstrances from the colonies for redress, have been rejected with contempt, and dreading the evils which threaten us and our posterity, by reducing us from freedom to a state of slavery; and in order to stimulate our fellow subjects, the merchants and manufacturers in Great Britain, to aid us in this our distress, and to shew our readiness to join, heartily, with the other colonies, in every legal method which may most probably lead to procure redress, which, we believe, will be most effectually promoted, by establishing economy, encouraging American manufactures in general, and of this province in particular; promoting industry, & discouraging all manner of luxury and extravagance: We do therefore, most earnestly, recommend this our association, to the serious attention of all gentlemen, merchants, traders, and other inhabitants of this province, not doubting that they will, very readily and cordially accede thereto; we therefore, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do solemnly promise and agree, to and with each other, that until the colonies are restored to their former freedom, by a repeal of those oppressive acts, we will most truly adhere to, and abide by the following resolutions, to wit.

First, It is unanimously agreed on and resolved, this 7th day of November, 1769, that the subscribers, as well by their own example as all other legal ways and means in their power, will promote and encourage industry and frugality, and discourage all manner of luxury and extravagance; and will also encourage and promote the use of North American manufactures in general, and those of this province in particular; and such of the subscribers who shall or may have any such for sale, will sell and dispose of the same at the rates as heretofore.

Secondly, That they will not at any time hereafter, directly or indirectly, import, or cause to be imported, any manner of goods, merchandize or manufactures, which are, or shall hereafter be taxed by act of parliament for the purpose of raising a revenue in America, except paper, not exceeding eight shillings sterling per ream, and except such articles only as orders have been already sent for, nor purchase any such after the first day of January next, of any person whatsoever, but that they will always consider such taxation, in every respect, as an absolute prohibition, & in all future orders direct their correspondents to ship them no goods whatever, taxed as aforesaid, except as is above excepted.