

For our more effectual defence, it was thought, a body of regular troops ought indispensably to be raised without delay. Accordingly, the congress voted two regiments of foot, consisting of 1500 rank and file; and one regiment of horse, composed of 450 privates: for this service, and contingent expences for one year, the congress voted the sum of one million currency. The levies are now raising, and the money is now issuing under the orders of the council of safety, in whom the congress have, not only, vested the whole power over; and direction of, the regulars; the militia, who, when called into service, will be entitled to pay, and the treasury; but have "authorized them to do all such matters and things," relative to the strengthening, securing, and defending the colony, "as shall by them be judged and deemed expedient and necessary."

The militia have power to form select companies of horse and foot, and to officer them; provided they have the approbation of the council of safety.

In order to form magazines of grain, an embargo has been laid upon all rice and corn.

To give proper force and effect to the resolutions, the respective district and parochial committees are empowered to take cognizance of, and to question those persons who shall presume to violate or refuse obedience to the authority of the congress; and to declare such persons "objects of the resentment of the public." This effectually exposes them to be TREATED---as ENEMIES to the liberty of America.

The names of those persons who shall refuse to associate, are to be laid before the general committee, who are to enquire of the parties touching their refusal.

Several resolutions of the present continental congress have been recognized; one of them declares, "that no bill of exchange, draught, or order, of any officer in the army or navy, their agents or contractors, be received or negotiated, or money supplied to them, by any person in America." And, that no provisions be furnished for the use of the British army in Massachusetts-Bay, or for vessels transporting British troops or warlike stores for such troops, to America, or from one part of it to another.

For the better defence of our liberties and property, the absentees, holding estates in this colony, are called home; and persons now in the colony, are prohibited from departing without permission of the general committee.

To endeavour to obtain pardon for our past offences, and to procure the favour of heaven, the 27th day of July, is appointed to be observed as a day of **FAST, PRAYER, and HUMILIATION** before Almighty God.

Experience having demonstrated, that a long continuance of a representation of a free people, is dangerous to their liberties; a new general election of members of congress, and of district and parochial committees, except for Charlestown, is ordered to be held on the eighth and ninth days of August next: the members are to serve during one year after their first meeting in congress; and the present committees throughout the colony, are to continue to exercise their functions until the meeting of the new congress.

And, to the end that his excellency, the governor, might not receive any unfavourable impression of the conduct of the congress, and that their proceedings might "stand justified to the world," they presented to his excellency an address and declaration, "that the hands of the king's ministers, having long lain heavy, and now pressing us with intolerable weight, solely for the preservation and in defence of our lives, liberties, and property, we have been impelled to associate, and to take up arms."---Your representatives in congress, also, "conscious of the justice of our cause, and the integrity of our views," readily professed loyal attachment to our sovereign, his crown, and dignity; and sensible of the public rights, the equal compact between king and people, religiously determined to do their duty, and to trust to the event to providence," they generously and constitutionally declared "they preferred DEATH to SLAVERY."

Such have been the most weighty proceedings in the late session of congress. They were "the result of dire

necessity," and of cool deliberate counsels, of which, the public good was the only object.

Your representatives having taken such important and justifiable steps, to place your lives, liberties and properties, in a state of some security against the iron hand of tyranny---do you second their laudable endeavours, and exert every faculty of body and mind, to discharge the great duty you owe to yourselves and to posterity. To this end vie with each other in your endeavours to cause the resolves of the congress to be punctually obeyed; and to bring to condign punishment, those, who, like paracides, shall dare to attempt to contravene the measures, which are now formed, to defend the liberties of your country.

Having thus endeavoured concisely to represent the commencement of this cruel civil war; and the situation of our domestic polity, as some barrier against impending calamities, allow us to draw your attention to the progress of the war near Boston; and to the late advices from England.

After the action at Lexington, the people of the four New-England governments assembled near Boston, to the number of 50,000 men; but, as they soon found that general Gage was resolved to keep close in his intrenchments, and knowing the general congress was about to sit, they sent home almost their whole army; and reserved only about 9000 men, as a corps of observation; which, by posting themselves in lines near Boston, were sufficient to keep the general, so much in awe, as to prevent his sending any more detachments into the country. In these positions, the general waited for his expected reinforcements from England; and the American army received directions from the general congress. Neither party seemed to have any design of attacking the other. But, the Americans did not miss their time. They sent out two small detachments, in the most private manner, from two different quarters; and after a march of upwards of 30 miles, they, at the same instant, on the 17th of May, together surprised, entered, and took Concord, and on the 19th Crown-Point; two most important towns, that command the communication, by the Great River, to New-Canada and the sea coast colonies. By this expedition, the Americans have gained 20 pieces of brass cannon, 3 mortars, sundry Howitzers, 3000 muskets, and a considerable quantity of ammunition. From these posts, they have garrisoned 1000 men.

During this time, the state of the positions at and near Boston, had not undergone any material change; and the people in this country thought there could be no ill-gality in considering their property still as their own, and using it as such. But, it seems, the law, in this case, had undergone a material alteration, since a military governor, commanding a large army, had taken possession of the unfortunate town of Boston. For now, to exercise the right of ownership over property, is to draw upon the party, the fire of the king's troops. On the 13th day of this instant, about thirty men, loaded and laded upon Hogg and Noddle's islands, situated in Boston harbour, and about three miles from the town; in order to drive off some live stock, which they had a RIGHT to remove. But, they no sooner began to remove their property, than they were fired upon by an armed schooner and a sloop dispatched from Boston, and forty marines that were stationed upon the islands, to guard the stock against the lawful owners.---How, the country people, notwithstanding this opposition, killed and removed part of the stock. By this time they were attacked by a large number of marines, sent from the men of war in the harbour; and, during the action, both parties received reinforcements, so that, it is said, the regulars had 1000 men, and the Americans 700 engaged. Notwithstanding this disproportion, the Americans beat the troops off the islands, burnt the schooner, and so disabled the sloop, that they were obliged to be towed away. Killed 30 of the enemy, wounded 50, took four double fortified four-pounders, 12 swivels, and drove off the stock, without the loss of a man, having only five men wounded.

Flattering as the conduct of the brave men of New-England has made the situation of the American cause;