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Representatives had been lost, was proclaimed but two or three Days before the Time which had been appointed for their Meeting, gave the People not the least Reason to expect that their Assembly would have been permitted to sit, till it was too late to appoint Delegates to attend the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, a Measure which they joined the rest of America in thinking essential to its Interest.

p. 3. 2<sup>d</sup> column  
The House, Sir, neither know nor believe that any base Arts have been practised upon the People, in order to lead them from their Duty; but we know with certainty that the Steps they have taken proceeded from a full Conviction that the Parliament of Great-Britain had, by a Variety of oppressive and unconstitutional Proceedings, made those Steps absolutely necessary. We think it therefore a Duty we owe the People to assert, that their Conduct has not been owing to base Arts, practised upon them by wicked and designing Men; and have it much to lament that your Excellency should add your Sanction to such groundless Imputations, as it has a manifest Tendency to weaken the Influence which the united Petition of