

**Sixthly, BECAUSE** the Interdict from Shipping and Commerce is not terminated by any certain and definitive Act to be done by the Party interdicted, but its Situation depends solely on the WILL of the Governor and Majority of the Council in some of the Provinces; upon their mere arbitrary Opinion of the State of Commerce. In two of the prohibited Provinces the Interdict is made to depend on the same arbitrary Will, in much worse Hands, those of mere Custom House Officers; a Power of such Magnitude is not fit to be delegated to any Man, however wise, or however exalted.

But to deliver over several Hundred Thousands of our fellow Creatures to be STARVED, at the mere Pleasure of Persons in certain subordinate Situations, and some of them in an Office always more or less suspicious and obnoxious, and necessary to be watched and guarded, rather than vested with absolute Power over all, and this without any Rule to guide their Discretion, without any Penalty to deter from an Abuse of it, is a Strain of such TYRANNY, OPPRESSION, and ABSURDITY, as we believe never was deliberately entertained by any grave Assembly.

**Lastly, BECAUSE** the Bill, though in Appearance a Measure of Retaliation only, upon a Supposition that the Colonies have been the first Aggressors, by their Association not to import Goods from Great Britain, yet is, in Truth, a most cruel Enforcement of former Oppressions; and that Association is no more than a natural Consequence of antecedent and repeated Injuries. And since the Restraint of this Bill is not to be taken off till the several Colonies shall agree to receive again all Goods whatsoever from Great Britain, and to pay all the Duties imposed by Parliament, not excepting those upon Tea; and since three of them must apply through the Medium of the NEW Council of Massachusetts Bay, and the last mentioned Province is obliged not only to acknowledge the new Charter, but submit in all Respects to the severe Conditions of the Port Bill, before they can be released from their Hardships; since these are the Terms, and the only Terms, upon which this Proscription is to cease, and the Colonies must therefore submit to be the SLAVES, instead of the SUBJECTS of Great Britain, this Bill, in its Principle, is both arbitrary and unjust. And as we do not conceive any Ground of Expectation that the Colonies will yield to such hard Conditions, a CIVIL WAR, which may probably end in the total Separation of the Colonies from the Mother Country, will too naturally be the Consequence of this Bill, in Respect of which, as well as for the other Reason hereby assigned, we do most solemnly and heartily protest against the same.

ABINGDON,	DEVONSHIRE,
STANHOPE,	CAMDEN,
RICHMOND,	CHOLMONDELEY,
ROCKINGHAM,	ABERGAVENNY,
PONSONBY,	WYCOMBE,
MANCHESTER,	TORRINGTON,
CRAVEN,	FEELINGHAM,
LEINSTER,	FITZWILLIAM.

**AFFIDAVITS AND DEPOSITIONS,**  
*Relative to the COMMENCEMENT of the late HOSTILITIES in the Province of MASSACHUSETTS BAY: Together with an ADDRESS from the PROVINCIAL CONVENTION of said Province to the INHABITANTS of GREAT BRITAIN, transmitted to the CONGRESS now sitting in this City and published by their Order.*

**CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY**  
**W. E. SOLOMON BROWN, JONATHAN LORING, and ELIJAH SANDERSON,** all of lawful age, and of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of the Massachusetts Bay, in New-England, do testify and declare, that on the evening of the 18th of April, instant, being on the road between Concord and Lexington, and all of us mounted on horses, we were about ten of the clock suddenly surprized by nine persons, whom we took to be regular officers, who rode up to us, mounted and armed, each having a pistol in his hand, and after putting pistols to our breasts, and seizing the bridles of our horses, they swore that if we stirred another step, we should be all dead men; upon which we surrendered ourselves. They detained us until two o'clock the next morning, in which time they searched and greatly abused us, having first enquired about the magazine at Concord, whether any guards were posted there, and whether the bridges were up, and said four or five regiments of regulars would be in possession of the Boston town. They then brought us back to Lexington, cut the horses' bridles and girths, turned them loose, and then left us.

SOLOMON BROWN,  
JONATHAN LORING,  
ELIJAH SANDERSON.

**ELIJAH SANDERSON,** abovesigned, do further testify and declare, that I was on Lexington Common the morning of the 19th of April above said, having been dismissed by the officers above mentioned, and saw a large body of regular troops advancing towards Lexington company, many of whom were then dispersing. I heard one of the regulars, whom I took to be an officer, say, "damn them, we will have them," and immediately the regulars shouted aloud, "run and fire on the Lexington company, which did not see a gun before

the regulars discharged on them. Eight of the Lexington company were killed while they were dispersing, and at a considerable distance from each other, and many wounded, and altho' a spectator, I narrowly escaped with my life.

ELIJAH SANDERSON.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

Lexington, 25th of April, 1775.

**SIMON WINSHIP,** of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and province of Massachusetts Bay, New-England, being of lawful age, do testify and faith, that on the nineteenth of April instant, about four o'clock in the morning, as he was passing the public road in said Lexington, peaceably and unarmed, about two miles and an half distant from the meeting-house in said Lexington, he was met by a body of the King's regular troops, and being stopped by some officers of said troops, was commanded to dismount, upon asking why he must dismount, he was obliged by force to quit his horse and ordered to march in the midst of the Body, and being examined whether he had been warning the minute men, he answered no, but had been out and was then returning to his father's. Said Winship further testifies, that he marched with said troops till he came within about half a quarter of a mile of said meeting-house, where an officer commanded the troops to halt, and then to prime and load; this being done the said troops marched on till they came within a few rods of Capt. Parker's company, who were partly collected on the place of parade, when said Winship observed an officer at the head of said troops, flourishing his sword, and with a loud voice giving the word fire, which was instantly followed by a discharge of arms from said regular troops, and said Winship is positive, and in the most solemn manner declares, that there was no discharge of Arms on either side till the word fire was given by said officer as above.

SIMON WINSHIP.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

**JOHN PARKER,** of lawful age, a d Captain of the Militia in Lexington, do testify and declare, that on the 19th instant, in the morning, about one of the clock, being informed that there were a number of regular officers riding up and down the road, stopping and insulting people as they passed the road; and also was informed that a number of regular troops were on their march from Boston, in order to take the province it res at Concord, ordered our Militia to meet on the Common in said Lexington, to consult what to do, and concluded not to be discovered, nor meddle or make with said regular troops (if they should approach) unless they should insult or molest us; and upon their sudden approach I immediately ordered our Militia to disperse and not to fire.—Instantly said troops made their appearance and rushed furiously, fired upon and killed eight of our party, without receiving any provocation therefor from us.

JOHN PARKER.

Lexington, April 24th, 1775.

**JOHN ROBINS,** being of lawful age, do testify and say, that on the 19th inst. the company under the command of Capt. John Parker being drawn up (sometime before sun rise) on the green or common, and I being in the front rank, there suddenly appeared a number of the King's troops, about a thousand as I thought, at the distance of about 60 or 70 yards from us, huzzaing and on a quick pace towards us, with three officers in their front on horse back and on full gallop towards us, the foremost of which cried, throw down your arms ye villains, ye rebels, upon which said company dispersing, the foremost of the three officers ordered the men, laying fire by God fire, at which moment we received a very heavy and close fire from them, at which instant, being wounded, I fell, and several of our men were shot dead by me. Capt. Parker's men I believe had not then fired a gun, and further the deponent saith not.

JOHN ROBINS.

**W. E. BENJAMIN TIDD,** of Lexington, and **JOSEPH ABBOT,** of Lincoln, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of Massachusetts Bay, in New-England, of lawful age, do testify and declare, that on the morning of the 19th of April instant, about five o'clock, being on Lexington Common, and mounted on horses, we saw a body of regular troops marching up to the Lexington company, which was then dispersing: Soon after the regulars fired, first a few guns, which we took to be pistols, from some of the regulars who were mounted on horses, and then the full regulars fired a volley or two, before any guns were fired by the Lexington company, our horses immediately started, and we took to flight. And further say not.

BENJAMIN TIDD,  
JOSEPH ABBOT.

**W. E. NATHANIEL MULLIN, PHILIP RUFEL, MOSES HARRINGTON, jun. FOMAR and DANIEL HARRINGTON, WILLIAM TOWN, WILLIAM TIDD, JAMES HARRINGTON, JOHN CHANDLER, JOHN REED, jun. JOSEPH SIMMONS, PHINEAS SMITH, JOHN CHANDLER, jun. RUBEN LOCK, JUD VILE, NATHAN REED, SAMUEL TIDD, BENJAMIN LOCK, THOMAS WINSHIP, SIMON SMITH, JOHN SMITH, MOSES HARRINGTON the 1d. JOSHUA REED, ELIZABETH PARKER, JESSE HARRINGTON, FRANK HARRINGTON, JOHN HAMMER, JAMES GREEN, PHINEAS STURGEON, JOHN DURANT, and JAMES HADLEY, jun. all of lawful age, and inhabitants of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of the Massachusetts Bay, in New-England, do testify and declare, that on the 19th of April instant, about one or two o'clock**

in the morning, being informed that several Officers of the regulars had the evening before been riding up and down the road, and had detained and insulted the inhabitants passing the same; and also understanding that a body of regulars were marching from Boston towards Concord, with intent (as it was supposed) to take the stores belonging to the colony in that town, we were alarmed, and having met at the place of our company's parade, were dismissed by our Captain, John Parker, for the present, with orders to be ready to attend at the beat of the drum. We further testify and declare, that about five o'clock in the morning, hearing our drum beat, we proceeded towards the parade, and soon found that a large body of troops were marching towards us: Some of our company were coming up to the parade, and others had reached it, at which time the company began to disperse: Whilst our backs were turned on the troops we were fired on by them, and a number of our men were instantly killed and wounded. Not a gun was fired by any person in our company on the regulars to our knowledge, before they fired on us, and they continued firing until we had all made our escape.

Signed by each of the above Deponents.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

**W. E. NATHANIEL PARKHURST, JONAS PARKER, JOHN MUROSE, jun. JOHN WINSHIP, SOLOMON PIERCE, JOHN MURRAY, ABNER NEEDS, JOHN BRIDGE, jun. ELIZABETH BOWMAN, WILLIAM MURROSE the 3d. MIHAH HAGER, SAMUEL SANDERSON, SAMUEL HASTINGS, and JAMES BROWN,** of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of the Massachusetts Bay, in New-England, and all of lawful age, do testify and say, that on the morning of the 19th of April instant, about one or two o'clock, being informed that a number of regular officers had been riding up and down the road the evening and night preceding, and that some of the inhabitants as they were passing, had been insulted by the officers and stopped by them; and being also informed that the regular troops were on their march from Boston, in order (as it was said) to take the colony stores, then deposited at Concord, we met on the parade of our company in this town; after the company had collected, we were ordered by Capt. John Parker (who commanded us) to disperse for the present, and to be ready to attend the beat of the drum, and accordingly the company went into houses near the place of parade. We further testify and say, that about five o'clock in the morning we attended the beat of our drum and were formed on the parade, we were faced towards the regulars then marching up to us, and some of our company were coming to the parade with their backs towards the troops, and others on the parade began to disperse when the regulars fired on the company before a gun was fired by any of our company on them. They killed eight of our company and wounded several, and continued their fire until we had all made our escape.

Signed by each of the above Deponents.

Lexington, 25th of April, 1775.

**TIMOTHY SMITH,** of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of Massachusetts Bay, in New-England, being of lawful age, do testify and declare, that on the morning of the 19th of April instant, being at Lexington Common as a spectator, I saw a large body of regular troops marching up towards the Lexington company then dispersing, and likewise saw the regular troops fire on the Lexington company before the latter fired a gun; I immediately ran, and a volley was discharged at me, which put me in imminent danger of losing my life: I soon returned to the Common, and saw eight of the Lexington men who were killed and lay bleeding at a considerable distance from each other, and several were wounded; and further saith not.

TIMOTHY SMITH.

Lexington, April 25th, 1775.

**W. E. LEVI MEAD, and LEVI HARRINGTON-TON,** both of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of Massachusetts Bay, in New-England, and of lawful age, do testify and declare, that on the morning of the 19th of April, being on Lexington Common, as spectators, we saw a large body of regular troops marching up towards the Lexington company, and some of the regulars on horses, whom we took to be officers, fired a pistol or two on the Lexington company, which was then dispersing: These were the first guns that were fired, and they were immediately followed by several volleys from the regulars, by which eight men belonging to said company were killed, and several wounded.

LEXINGTON, LEVI HARRINGTON,  
APRIL 25, 1775. LEVI MEAD.

[To be continued in our next.]

**NEWBERN, JUNE 16.**

By Capt. Mills arrived here since our last, from Philadelphia, we have the Papers to the 24th May; by which it appears, by Letters from England of the 9th of April, that many of the Troops which were destined for America have been stopped from coming out on Account of the great Disturbances among the People, and that the whole Regiment of Dragoons had refused to come over to fight in the unnatural Quarrel.

That Capt. Lindsay, of the Falcon Sloop of War, had sent his Lieutenant and 20 Men in a Tender to take a Vessel which lay at a Place called Sandwich, with Provisions for the Hollandians, which they of