

acted, but that the Country People in open Boat had boarded and taken the Tender, and retaken the Prison. The Lieutenant lost an Arm, the Gunner wounded in the Head, and the Doctor's Man in his leg. The Seamen were sent Prisoners into the Country.

That an Express was arrived to the Congress at Philadelphia, with a particular Account of the taking of Tyndorega, which important Post they strongly recommended to their Wisdom to sufficiently secure, to prevent any incursions from Canada.

By a Gentleman from Salisbury, we have an Account, that the famous Joseph Pottaway had been tried at the Court of Oyer and Terminer lately held there, for a Robbery, had been convicted, received Sentence of Death, and was to be executed. This is the Person who, in Company with Jacob Odum, robbed Mr. John Foy, as mentioned in this Paper sometime ago. Odum surrendered himself to Government, and is now in this Gaol. He has impeached Pottaway, and many others, some of whom, we hear, have been taken, and bailed, though it appeared by Odum's Confession that they were accessory to Foy's Robbery. The Father of Odum accompanied his Son here, and on suspicion of his being accessory to the many Felonies committed by him, has been committed to Gaol. This public Notice is therefore given, that if any Thing is alleged against him he may be brought to Justice.

Charlotte Town, Mecklenburg County, May 31.
This Day the COMMITTEE met, and passed the following RESOLVES.

WHEREAS by an Address presented to his Majesty by both Houses of Parliament in February last, the American Colonies are declared to be in a State of actual Rebellion, we conceive that all Laws and Commissions confirmed by, or derived from the Authority of the King or Parliament, are annulled and vacated, and the former civil Constitution of these Colonies for the present wholly suspended. To provide in some Degree for the Exigencies of the County in the present alarming Period, we deem it proper and necessary to pass the following RESOLVES, viz.

1. That all Commissions, civil and military, heretofore granted by the Crown, to be exercised in these Colonies, are null and void, and the Constitution of each particular Colony wholly suspended.

2. That the Provincial Congress of each Province, under the Direction of the Great Continental Congress, is invested with all legislative and executive Powers within their respective Provinces; and that no other Legislative or Executive does or can exist, at this Time, in any of these Colonies.

3. As all former Laws are now suspended in this Province, and the Congress have not yet provided others, we judge it necessary, for the better Preservation of good Order, to form certain Rules and Regulations for the internal Government of this County, until Laws shall be provided for us by the Congress.

4. That the Inhabitants of this County do meet on a certain Day appointed by this Committee, and having formed themselves into nine Companies, to wit, eight for the County, and one for the Town of Charlotte, do choose a Colonel, and other military Officers, who shall hold and exercise their several Powers by Virtue of this Choice, and independent of Great-Britain, and former Constitution of this Province.

5. That for the better Preservation of the Peace, and Administration of Justice, each of these Companies do choose from their own Body two discreet Freeholders, who shall be empowered each by himself, and singly, to decide and determine all Matters of Controversy arising within the said Company under the Sum of Twenty Shillings, and jointly and together all Controversies above the Sum of Forty Shillings, yet so as their Decisions may be a final Appeal to the Convention of the Select Men of the whole County; and also, that any one of these shall have Power to examine, and commit to Confinement, Persons suspected of Petit Larceny.

6. That two of the Select Men, thus chosen, do, jointly and together, choose from the Body of their particular Company two Persons, properly qualified to serve as Constables, who may assist them in the Execution of their Office.

7. That upon the Complaint of any Person to either of these Select Men, he do issue his Warrant, directed to the Constable, commanding him to bring the Aggressor before him or them to answer to the said Complaint.

8. That these eighteen Select Men, thus appointed, do meet every third Tuesday in January, April, July, and October, at the Court House in Charlotte, to hear and determine all Matters of Controversy for Sum exceeding Forty Shillings; also Appeals. And in Cases of felony, to commit the Person or Persons convicted thereof to close Confinement, until the Provincial Congress shall provide and establish Laws and Modes of Proceeding in such Cases.

9. That these eighteen Select Men, thus convened, do choose a Clerk to record the Transactions of the said Convention; and that the said Clerk, upon the Application of any Person or Persons aggrieved, do issue his Warrant to one of the Constables, to summons and warn the said Offender to appear before the Convention at their next sitting, to answer the said Complaint.

10. That any Person making Complaint upon Oath to the Clerk, or any Member of the Convention, that he has Reason to suspect that any Person or Persons indebted to him in a Sum above Forty Shillings, do intend clandestinely to withdraw from the County without paying such Debt, the Clerk, or such Member, shall issue his Warrant to the Constable, commanding him to take the said Person or Persons into safe Custody, until the next sitting of the Convention.

11. That when a Debtor for a Sum below Forty Shillings shall abscond and leave the County, the Warrant granted as aforesaid shall extend to any Goods or Chattels of the said Debtor, and the Clerk, or any Goods or Chattels he seized and sold in public Sale, the Proceeds for the Space of Thirty Days, in which

Term if the Debtor fails to return and discharge the Debt, the Constable shall return the Warrant to one of the Select Men of the County where the Goods and Chattels are found, who shall issue Orders to the Constable to sell such a Part of the said Goods as shall amount to the Sum due; that when the Debt exceeds Forty Shillings, the Return shall be made to the Convention, who shall issue the Orders for Sale.

12. That Receivers and Collectors for Quittrents, Public and County Taxes, do pay the same into the Hands of the Chairman of this Committee, to be by them disbursed as the public Exigencies may require. And that such Receivers and Collectors proceed no farther in their Office until they be approved of by, and have given to this Committee good and sufficient Security for a faithful Return of such Monies when collected.

13. That the Committee be accountable to the County for the Application of all Monies received from such Officers.

14. That all these Officers hold their Commissions during the Pleasure of their respective Constituents.

15. That this Committee will sustain all Damages that may ever hereafter accrue to all or any of these Officers thus appointed, and thus acting, on Account of their Obedience and Conformity to these Resolves.

16. That whatever Person shall hereafter receive a Commission from the Crown, or attempt to exercise any such Commission heretofore received, shall be deemed an Enemy to his Country; and upon Information being made to the Captain of the Company where he resides, the said Captain shall cause him to be apprehended, and conveyed before the two Select Men of the said Company, who, upon Proof of the Fact, shall commit him the said Offender into safe Custody, until the next sitting of the Convention, who shall deal with him as Prudence may direct.

17. That any Person refusing to yield Obedience to the above Resolves shall be deemed equally criminal, and liable to the same Punishments as the Offenders above last mentioned.

18. That these Resolves be in full Force and Virtue, until Instructions from the General Congress of this Province, regulating the Jurisprudence of this Province, shall provide otherwise, or the legislative Body of Great-Britain resign its unjust and arbitrary Pretensions with Respect to America.

19. That the several Militia Companies in this County do provide themselves with proper Arms and Accoutrements, and hold themselves in constant Readiness to execute the commands, and Directions of the Provincial Congress, and of this Committee.

20. That this Committee do appoint Colonel Thomas Falk, and Doctor Joseph Kennedy, to purchase 300 lb. of Powder, 600 lb. of Lead, and 1000 Flint; and deposit the same in some safe Place, hereafter to be appointed by the Committee.

Signed by Order of the Committee.

EPII. BREVARD, Clerk of the Committee.

WILLIAMSBURG, MAY 13.
FREDERICKSBURG, Committee Chamber, Saturday the 29th of April, 1775.

AT a Council of one hundred and two members, Delegates of the Provincial Convention, officers and special deputies of fourteen companies of light horse, consisting of upwards of six hundred well armed and disciplined men, friends of constitutional liberty and America, now rendezvoused here in consequence of an alarm occasioned by the powder being removed from the country magazine in the city of Williamsburg in the night of Thursday the 21st instant, and deposited on board an armed schooner by order of his Excellency the Governor.

The Council having before them the several matters of intelligence respecting this transaction, and particularly a letter from the Hon. PEYTON RANDOLPH, Esq; Speaker of the late House of Burgesses of Virginia, received here last night by an express dispatched to Williamsburg for the purpose of gaining intelligence, informing that the Gentlemen of the city of Williamsburg and neighborhood have had full assurances from his Excellency that this affair shall be accommodated, and advising that the Gentlemen assembled here should proceed no further at this time, this Council came to the following determination, and offer the same as their advice to those public spirited Gentlemen, friends to BRITISH LIBERTY and AMERICA, who have honoured them by this appointment. Highly condemning the conduct of the Governor on this occasion, as impolitic, and justly alarming to the good people of this colony, tending to destroy all confidence in Government, and to widen the unhappy breach between Great Britain and her colonies, ill timed and totally unnecessary, consider this instance as a full proof that no opinion which may be formed of the good intentions of a Governor in private life can afford security to our injured and oppressed country, but that obedience to arbitrary, ministerial mandate, and the most oppressive and tyrannical system of Government, must be the fatal line of conduct to all his Majesty's present servants in America; at the same time justly dreading the horrors of a civil war, influenced by motives of the strongest affection to our fellow subjects of Great Britain, most ardently wishing to heal our mutual wounds, and therefore preferring peaceable measures whilst the least hope of reconciliation remains, do advise that the several companies now rendezvoused here do return to their respective homes. But considering the just rights and Liberty of America to be greatly endangered by the violent and hostile proceedings of an arbitrary Ministry, and being firmly resolved to resist such attempts at the utmost hazard of our lives and fortunes, do now pledge ourselves to each other to be in readiness, at a moment's warning, to assemble, and, by force of arms to defend the laws, the liberty, and rights of this, or any sister colony, from unjust

and wicked invasion. Ordered that expresses be dispatched to the troops assembled at the Bowling Green, and also to the companies from Frederick, Berkeley, Danmore, and such other counties as are now on their march, to return them thanks for their cheerful offers of service, and to acquaint them with the determination now taken.

GOD SAVE THE LIBERTIES OF AMERICA.

The foregoing determination of Council having been read at the head of each company, was cordially and unanimously approved.

As a Committee appointed and held for Hanover County, at the Court House, on Tuesday the 9th of May, 1775.

P R E S E N T,

John Syme, Samuel Overton, William Craghead, Meriwether Shelton, Richard Morris, Benjamin Anderson, John Pendleton, John Robinson, Nelson Barkley, and George Dabney, junior.

A GREABLE to a Resolution of the Committee held at Newcastle the 2d Instant, setting forth, that they being fully informed of the violent Hostilities committed by the King's Troops in America, and of the Danger arising to the Colony by the Loss of the Public Powder, and of the Conduct of the Governor, which threatens altogether Calamities of the greatest Magnitude, and most fatal Consequences to this Colony, and therefore recommending Remedies to be made upon the King's Property, sufficient to replace the Gunpowder taken out of the Magazine, it appears to this Committee, that the Volunteers who marched from Newcastle, to obtain Satisfaction for the Public Powder, by Reprisal, or otherwise, proceeded on that Business as follows, to wit, "That an Officer with 16 Men was detached to seize the King's Receiver General, with Orders to detain him; and this, it was supposed, might be done without impeding the Progress of the main Body. The said Receiver General not being apprehended, owing to his Absence from home, the said Detachment, according to Orders, proceeded to join the main Body on its March to Williamsburg; and the Junction happened the 3d Instant, at Doncastle's Ordinary, about Sunset. A little after Sunrise next Morning, the commanding Officer being assured that proper Satisfaction, in Money, should be instantly made, the Volunteers halted, and the Proposal being considered by them, was judged satisfactory as to that Point; and the following Receipt was given, to wit, "Doncastle's Ordinary, New Kent, May 4, 1775, received from the Hon. Richard Corbin, Esq; his Majesty's Receiver General, 330l. as a Compensation for the Gunpowder lately taken out of the Public Magazine "by the Governor's Order; which Money I promise to convey to the Virginia Delegates at the "General Congress, to be, under their Direction, "laid out in Gunpowder for the Colony's Use, and "to be stored as they shall direct, until the next "Colony Convention, or General Assembly, unless "it shall be necessary, in the mean Time, to use "the same in Defence of this Colony. It is agreed, "that in Case the next Convention shall determine "that any Part of the said Money ought to be returned to his Majesty's said Receiver General, "that the same shall be done accordingly.

Test, PATRICK HENRY, Jun.
SAMUEL MERIDITH. (A true Copy)
PARKE GOODALL.

It was then considered, as that a General Congress would meet in a few Days, and perhaps a Colony Convention would shortly assemble, and that the Reprisal now made would amply replace the Powder, with the Charges of Transportation, the commanding Officer wrote the following Letter, and sent it by Express.

S I R,
The Affairs of the Powder is now settled, so as to produce Satisfaction to me, and I earnestly wish to the Colony in general. The People here have it in Charge from Hanover Committee to tender their Service to you, as a Public Officer, for the Purpose of restoring the Public Treasury to any Place in this Colony where the Money would be judged more safe than in the City of Williamsburg. The Reprisal now made by the Hanover Volunteers, though accomplished in a Manner least liable to the Imputation of violent Extremity, may possibly be the Cause of future Injury to the Treasury. It therefore you apprehend the least Danger, a sufficient Guard is at your Service. I beg the Return of the Bearer may be instant, because the Men wish to know their Destination. With great Regard, I am,
Sir, Your most humble Servant,
PATRICK HENRY, Jun.

7; ROBERT CARTER NICHOLAS, Esq; Treasurer.
Test, SAMUEL MERIDITH. (A true Copy)
GARLAND ANDERSON.

To which an Answer was received from the said Mr. Nicholas, importing, that he had no Apprehensions of the Necessity or Propriety of the proffered Service. For which Reasons, and understanding, moreover, from others, that the private Citizens of Williamsburg were in a great Measure quieted from their late Apprehensions for their Persons and Property, the Volunteers judged it best to return home, and did so accordingly, in order to wait the further Directions of the General Congress, or Colony Convention. It appears also to this Committee, that before, and on the March, strict Orders were repeatedly given to the Volunteers to avoid all Violence, Injury and Insult, towards the Persons and Property of every private Individual; and that in executing the Plan of Reprisal on the Persons of the King's Servants, and his Property, Bloodshed should be