

as, possibly, it might be dangerous to myself. But if your Proceedings manifest that happy Disposition, which is to be desired ardently by every good Friend to this as well as the Mother Country, I assure you, in the Warmth of my Heart, that I will return with the greatest Joy, and shall consider it as the most fortunate Event of my Life if you give me an Opportunity to be an Instrument of promoting your Happiness, and a Mediator between you and the supreme Authority, to obtain for you every Explanation of your Doubts, and the fullest Conviction of the Sincerity of their Desire to confirm to you the undisturbed Enjoyment of your Rights and Liberty; and I shall be well pleased, by bringing my Family back again, that you should have such a pledge of my Attachment to this Country, and of my Wishes to cultivate a close and lasting Intimacy with the Inhabitants.

June 10, 1775.

DUNMORE.

In CONGRESS, June 2, 1775.

Upon Motion, Resolved,

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 any Money supplied to them by any Person in America. That no Provisions or Necessaries of any Kind be furnished or supplied to or for the Use of the British Army or Navy in the Colony of Massachusetts-Bay; and that no Vessel employed in transporting British Troops to America, or from one Part of North America to another, or warlike Stores or Provisions for said Troops, be freighted or furnished with Provisions or any Necessaries, until farther Orders from this Congress.

A true Copy from the Minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

In CONGRESS,
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 1775.

AS the GREAT GOVERNOR of the WORLD, by his supreme and universal Providence, not only conducts the Course of Nature with unerring Wisdom and Rectitude, but frequently Influences the Minds of Men to serve the wise and gracious Purposes of his providential Government; and it being, at all Times, our indispensable Duty, devoutly to acknowledge his superintending Providence, especially in Times of impending Danger and Public Calamity, to reverence and adore his immutable Justice, as well as to implore his merciful Interposition for our Deliverance.

THIS CONGRESS, therefore, considering the present critical, alarming, and calamitous State of these Colonies, do earnestly recommend, that THURSDAY, the Twentieth Day of July next, be observed by the INHABITANTS of all the English Colonies on this Continent, as a Day of public HUMILIATION, FASTING, and PRAYER, that we may, with united Hearts and Voices, unfeignedly and devoutly present our supplications, and our joint Supplications to the All-wise, Omnipotent, and Merciful Disposer of all Events, humbly beseeching him to forgive our Iniquities, to remove our present Calamities, to avert those desolating Judgments with which we are threatened, and to bless our rightful Sovereign King GEORGE the III. and inspire him with Wisdom to discern and pursue the true Interest of all his Subjects,—that a speedy End may be put to the civil Discord between Great-Britain and the American Colonies, without further Effusion of Blood,—and that the British Nation may be influenced to regard the Things that belong to her Peace, before they are hid from her Eyes,—that these Colonies may be ever under the Care and Protection of a kind Providence, and be prospered in all their Interests,—that the divine Blessing may descend and rest upon all our civil Rulers, and upon the Representatives of the People in their several Assemblies and Conventions, that they may be directed to wise and effectual Measures for preserving the Union and securing the just Rights and Privileges of the Colonies,—that Virtue and true Religion may revive and flourish throughout our Land,—and that America may soon behold a gracious Interposition of Heaven for the Redress of her many Grievances, the Restoration of her invaded Rights, a Reconciliation with the Parent State, on Terms constitutional and honourable to both,—and that her civil and religious Privileges may be secured to the latest Posterity. And it is recommended to Christians of all Denominations to assemble for public Worship, and to abstain from servile Labour and Recreations on said Day.

By Order of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

(A true Copy.)

CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

To the COMMITTEES of the several Towns and Counties of the Province of NORTH-CAROLINA, appointed for the Purpose of carrying into Execution the Resolves of the CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN the Liberties of a People are invaded, and Men in Authority are labouring to raise a Structure of arbitrary Power upon the Ruins of a free Constitution; when the first Minister of Britain exerts every Influence that private Address or public Violence can give him, to shake the Barriers of personal Security and private Property; it is natural for us, Inhabitants of America, deeply interested in the Event of his Designs, to be anxious for our ap-

proaching Fate, and to look up to the Sources which God and the Constitution furnish, to ward off or alleviate the impending Calamity.

Thus circumstanced, the Inhabitants of the United American Colonies, by their Representatives, met in Congress at Philadelphia in September last, devised a Plan of commercial Opposition as a peaceful Expedient to bring about a Reconciliation with the Parent State, upon Terms constitutional and honourable to us both. A most humble and dutiful Petition to the Throne accompanied it. The first of these has not had sufficient Time to work the Effect proposed by it. The latter, however, flattered with a gracious Reception upon the first Introduction to the Throne, was afterwards buried in a Mass of useless Papers upon the Table of the House of Commons, and shared the common Fate of American Remonstrances and Petitions—to be rejected and forgot.

To the woeful Catalogue of Oppressions recited in the Proceedings of the late Congress, are now superadded a Bill passed in Parliament for prohibiting the Fishery of the New England Colonies, and restraining the Trade of other Colonies to Great-Britain, Ireland, and the British West-Indies. The Minister still continues to pour Troops into the Town of Boston. Some have lately arrived, and many more are hourly expected; thus reducing that once flourishing City to a Garrison, dealing out from thence his Instruments of Tyranny and Oppression, to overawe and enslave the other Colonies. His Designs have hitherto proved unsuccessful. Heaven seems to have assumed the Protection of the injured, insulted Colonists, and signally to have appeared in their Favour; when in the late Battle at Lexington six Hundred raw, undisciplined Provincials, defeated eighteen Hundred regular Troops, and pursued them into their Camp.

No Engagements are sufficiently sacred to secure the Performance of them, when the Fears or Expectations of the General make it convenient for him to dispense with them. After the most solemn Compacts to the contrary, the Inhabitants of the Town of Boston are doomed to suffer the most abject Distress from the want of the common Necessaries of Life; confined within the Walls of the City, and not permitted to seek a Refuge amongst her Neighbours in the Country. These are the Miseries which they suffer for their brave Defence of the common Cause of British America. They were destined as a first Victim to ministerial Tyranny. But, Fellow Subjects, think not his Schemes are to end here. No, if Success should strengthen his Hands, the Inhabitants of the Southern Colonies would soon feel the Weight of his Vengeance.

The Provinces of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, in Imitation of their Massachusetts Brethren, have enlisted Bodies of Troops, preparing for the last Extremity, and determined to live free, or not at all. New York has, to the Disgrace of the Colonies, and to the Infamy of the Liberties of America, boldly stood forth, determined to brave every Extremity, rather than submit to the Edicts of a Minister, or desert the Protection of their constitutional Rights and Privileges. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the Provinces to the Southward, have taken an honourable Share in the Line of Defence; armed and equipped to avert the impending Calamity, dreading a civil War as the most awful scourge of Heaven, and to plunge their Swords in the Breasts of their Fellow Subjects, as the greatest of all human Calamities, and the most painful Exertions of human Fortitude; but determined, at all Events, to suffer the Excess of human Misery, rather than be brought to the Feet of an insulting Minister.

North-Carolina alone remains an inactive Spectator of this general defensive Armament, supine and careless, she seems to forget even the Duty she owes to her own local Circumstances and Situation; have you not, Fellow Citizens, a dangerous Enemy in your own Bosom, and after the Measures which the Minister has condescended to in Order to carry into Execution his daring Schemes, do you think that he would hesitate to raise the Hand of the Servant against the Master? Doctor Johnson, a pensioned Tool of the Ministry, in a Pamphlet, intitled, Taxation no Tyranny, speaks the Intentions of Administration in a Language too plain to leave any Thing to doubt: "The Slaves should be set free; an Act which the Lovers of Liberty must surely commend, if they are furnished with Arms for Defence, and Utensils for Husbandry, and settled in some simple Form of Government within the Country, they may be more honest and grateful than their Masters," are the Words of this profited Court-Favourite.

Have we not been informed that the Canadians are to be embodied, and the Indians bribed to ravage the Frontiers of the Eastern Colonies? Has not General Carlton already given a Specimen of his Power by forming a Canadian Regiment of Men inimical to our Liberty and Religion? Can you think that your Province is the singular Object of ministerial Favour, and that in the common Crash it will stand secure? Be assured it will not. The Bait the Minister has thrown out to you is a delusive one, it leads to Destruction: Have you not, by various public Acts, declared your Resolution not to be bound by ministerial Shackles, but that you will live in a free Constitution, or perish in the Ruins of it? Do you imagine after this that you are his Favourites? You are not. Do you ask why then you

are exempted from the Penalties of the Bill restraining Trade? The Reason is obvious—Britain cannot keep up its Naval Force without you; you supply the very Sinews of her Strength: Restrain your Naval Stores, and all the Powers of Europe can scarcely supply her; restrain them, and you strengthen the Hands of America in the glorious Contention for her Liberty; through you the Minister wishes to diffuse the whole Colonial Link; we know your Virtue too well to dread this Success; you have the Example of New-York to animate you; she spurns the proffered Boon, and views the Exemption of that Province from the restraining Bill as the Smiles of a Minister who looks graciously in her Face while he stabs her to the Heart.

It becomes the Duty of us, in whom you have deposited the most sacred Trust, to warn you of your Danger, and of the most effectual Means to ward it off. It is the Right of every English Subject to be prepared with Weapons for his Defence. We conjure you by the Ties of Religion, Virtue, and Love of your Country, to follow the Example of your Sister Colonies, and to form yourselves into a Militia. The Election of the Officers, and the Arrangement of the Men, must depend upon yourselves. Study the Art of Military with the utmost Attention, view it as the Science upon which your future Security depends.

Carefully preserve the small Quantity of Gunpowder which you have amongst you, it will be the last Resource when every other Means of Safety fails you; Great-Britain has cut you off from further Supplies. We enjoin you, as you tender the Safety of yourselves and fellow Colonists, as you would wish to live and die free, that you would reserve what Ammunition you have as a sacred Deposit; he, in Part, betrays his Country who sports it away, perhaps in every Charge he fires he gives with it the Means of preserving the Life of a fellow Being.

We cannot conclude without urging again to you the necessity of arming and instructing yourselves, to be in Readiness to defend yourselves against any Violence that may be exerted against your Persons and Properties. In one Word, Fellow Subjects, the Crisis of America is not at a great Distance: If she falls, Britain must go Hand in Hand with her to Destruction. Every Thing depends upon your present Exertion, and prudent Perseverance. Be in a State of Readiness to repel every Stroke that through you must wound and endanger her. Strengthen the Hands of civil Government, by resisting every Act of lawless Power. Stem Tyranny in its Commencement; oppose every Effort of an arbitrary Minister; and, by checking his Licentiousness, preserve the Liberty of the Constitution, and the Honour of your Sovereign. Look to the reigning Monarch of Britain as your rightful and lawful Sovereign; dare every Danger and Difficulty in Support of his Person, Crown and Dignity; and consider every Man as a Traitor to his King, who, infringing the Rights of his American Subjects, attempts to invade those glorious Revolution Principles which placed him on the Throne, and must preserve him there.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble Servants,

Philadelphia,
June 19, 1775.

WILLIAM HOOPER,
JOSEPH HEWES,
RICHARD CASWELL.

PORTSMOUTH, JUNE 2.

Last Tuesday about 30 or 40 Men from on Board the Scarborough Man of War, now in this Harbour, came on Shore at Fort William and Mary, and have torn down great Part of the Breast Work of said Fort, and did other Damage.

The Day before this Attempt, the Scarborough took two Provision Vessels, loaded with Corn, Pork, Flour, Rye, &c. coming in from Long-Island, which were for the Relief of this Place, as the Inhabitants are in great Want of Provisions; and notwithstanding the most prudent Application of the principal Gentlemen of this Town, the Captain refused to release them.

O shocking Situation! Upon this Refusal it was apprehended the most violent Outrages and Tumults of the People would immediately follow this Detention of their Provisions, the Consequences of which would be most probably very fatal to his Majesty's Subjects, by bringing into the most imminent Danger the Lives and Properties of his said Subjects, which ought by all Means to be prevented if possible.

Upon this unwarrantable Transaction the Inhabitants of this and the neighbouring Towns were greatly alarmed; and the next Morning between 5 or 600 Men in Arms went down to the Battery called Jerry's Point, and brought off eight Cannon, 24 and 32 Pounds, being the whole that were there, weighing 4800 lb. each, and brought them up to this Town. While they were taking off the above Cannon, the Conceaux, with a Tender, set sail with the two Provision Vessels for Boston. The next Day the Town was full of Men from the Country in Arms.

This uncommon Exertion of arbitrary Power immediately alarmed the Inhabitants, and the Committee of Safety having met, a Memorial was, by their Approbation, presented to the Governor and Council, who took every prudent Method in their Power to pacify the People, and to obtain a Release of the Captures. His Excellency repaired on Board the Scarborough, and informed the Captain that the Provisions were the Property of some of the Inhabitants, who had before contracted for the same; but the only Answer he could obtain was, "that Admiral Graves, and the General, had forwarded Orders to take every Provision Vessel that should be met with, on every Station, and to send them forthwith to Boston for the Supply of the Army and Navy." Captain Barclay, the Commander of the Scarborough, informed two of the Committee at Fort