

hunger and thirst after liberty. Be it yours to dispense to them the heavenly gift. And what is there now to prevent it?

After the unremitting efforts of our enemies, we are stronger than before; nor can the wicked emissaries who so assiduously labour to promote their cause point out any one reason to suppose that we shall not receive daily accessions of strength. They tell you, it is true, that your money is of no value, and your debts so enormous they can never be paid. But we tell you, that if Britain prosecutes the war another campaign, that single campaign will cost her more than we have hitherto expended; and yet these men would prevail upon you to take up that immense load, and for it to sacrifice your dearest rights; for surely there is no man so absurd as to suppose that the least shadow of liberty can be preserved in a dependent connection with Great Britain. From the nature of the thing it is evident, that the only security you could obtain would be the justice and moderation of a parliament who have sold the right of their own constituents; and this slender security is still farther weakened by the consideration that it was pledged to rebels (as they unjustly call the good people of these states) with whom they think they are not bound to keep faith by any law whatsoever. Thus would you be cast bound among men whose minds, by your virtuous resistance, have been sharpened to the keenest edge of revenge; thus would your children, and your childrens children, be by you forced to a participation in all their debts, their wars, their luxuries, and their crimes; and this mad, this impious system, they would lead you to adopt, because of the derangement of your finances.

It becomes you deeply to reflect on this subject. Is there a country on earth which hath such resources for the payment of her debts as America? Such an extensive territory? So fertile, so blessed in its climate and production? Surely there is none. Neither is there any to which the wise Europeans will sooner confide their property. What, then, are the reasons that your money hath depreciated? Because no taxes have been imposed to carry on the war; because your commerce hath been interrupted by your enemy's fleets; because their armies have ravaged and desolated a part of your country; because their agents have villainously counterfeited your bills; because extortioners among you, inflamed with the lust of gain, have added to the price of every article of life; and because weak men have been artfully led to believe that it is of no value. How is this dangerous disease to be remedied? Let those among you who have leisure and opportunity collect the monies which individuals in their neighbourhood are desirous of placing in the public funds. Let the several legislatures sink their respective emissions, that is, there being but one kind of bills, there may be less danger of counterfeits. Refrain a little while from purchasing those things which are not absolutely necessary, that so those who have engrossed commodities may suffer (as they deservedly will) the loss of their ill-gotten boards, by reason of the commerce with foreign nations, which their fleets will protect. Above all, bring forward your armies into the field. Trust not to appearances of peace or safety. Be assured, that unless you persevere, you will be exposed to every species of barbarity. But if you exert the means of defence which God and nature have given you, the time will soon arrive when every man shall sit under his own vine, and under his own fig-tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid.

The sweets of a free commerce with every part of the earth will soon reimburse you for all the losses you have sustained. The full tide of wealth will flow in upon your shores, free from the arbitrary impositions of those whose interest, and whose declared policy it was, to check your growth. Your interests will be fostered and nourished by governments that derive their power from your grant, and will therefore be obliged, by the influence of cogent necessity, to exert it in your favour.

It is to obtain these things that we call for your strenuous, unremitting exertions. Yet do not believe that you have been, or can be saved, merely by your own strength; no. It is by the assistance of Heaven, and this you must assiduously cultivate by acts which Heaven approves. Thus shall the power and the happiness of these sovereign, free, and independent states, founded on the virtue of their citizens, increase, extend, and endure, until the Almighty shall blot out all the empires of the earth.

By order of Congress,

HENRY LAURENS, President.

IN CONGRESS, May 9, 1773.

RESOLVED, that it be recommended to ministers of the Gospel, of all denominations, to read, or cause to be read, immediately after divine service, the above address to the inhabitants of the United States of America, in their respective churches and chapels, and other places of religious worship.

Published by order of Congress.

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

The CHARGE of the Hon. JAMES IREDELL, Esquire.
Continued from our last.

UPON a subject so general, so warm, so animating as this it would be easy to expatiate much farther; but time, and even the occasion will not properly permit it, and therefore shall proceed to say something on the nature of the particular office, you are at present called upon to perform. It is a glorious privilege by which the liberties of the people are secured, that no man can suffer in his reputation or his safety, by a public accusation but in consequence of the solemn, and impartial determination of a select number of his fellow subjects, chosen to preside over his fate, after every possible exception that can be made to any, is removed. These men are no otherwise interested in the condemnation or acquittal of the suspected person, but that justice should be done to the public, and no oppression shewn to the individual. Besides the common principles of decency and justice, they have also this further guard on their conduct, that they may hereafter be affected by their own precedents, and that either as members of the community at large, they may suffer by an undue relaxation of the powers of government, or as individuals themselves accused, by any iniquitable circumstances under which they have accused or convicted others. We are apt not sufficiently to value the blessings we enjoy, until we are deprived of them; but we may be, in some measure, sensible of this, by having recourse to the transactions of those countries where justice are unknown, and where the torturer prepares the charge, and an arbitrary, merciless judge decides it. The histories of all countries indeed shew, that men, in fact, are more wicked than they could be supposed to be, and that there is no way to prevent an abuse of power, but by not giving too much. I will venture to say, no men before its introduction would have had an idea that the practice of torturing people to make them confess suspected guilt, could ever have obtained, and yet at this hour, to the disgrace of human nature, it subsists in some of what are called the most civilized parts of Europe. An infinity of other arbitrary actions have taken place, equally absurd and ill founded, and equally and strongly suggest that great and necessary caution of guarding our liberties with care; among which this of a trial by jury must ever be deemed one of the principal.

You, gentlemen, are entrusted with the business of accusation. You form the grand inquest of crimes committed within this district. From the highest to the lowest, they being all cognizable by this court, come within your jurisdiction. You are not confined to present those only, which may be transmitted to you by the attorney general. You may find, of your own knowledge in which case you present the charge in general terms, and the attorney general reduces it to form. I should be obliged to read a volume to you, if I were to attempt a complete catalogue of crimes. In all cases where you are in doubt, you will apply to the court for information. There is one offence, however, upon which, I think it my duty, to say a little, because I hear it is unhappily too prevalent, and because it is particularly dangerous, and all, I fear, are not aware of its criminality. The offence I mean, is, *depreciating the currency of this state.* This is a serious and alarming evil. The profits of our trade having, for a vast number of years, centered in Great Britain, we were continually drained of all our gold and silver, and therefore a paper currency became necessary to be established, to pass in payment among ourselves, and for which the public faith should be pledged. The unhappy exigencies of this war requiring very great expences, and the people not being able, without the extremest distress, to raise the same annually by taxes (our perhaps was the currency of the country sufficient for that purpose, and private accommodation also) it became necessary to make more paper, as we had no gold or silver, or sink under the weight at once; for war cannot be maintained without money. The public faith is pledged for this also. The necessities of the people require, that its credit should be supported, to the proportion, as this is impaired, its use ceases, and all the evils attending an absolute want of money, will attend a profusion of that which is universally disregarded. The very prosecution of the war therefore, depends on the support of our currency. Yet, I am told, it is a common practice to make a difference between our own currency, and the continental, and also between the currency established since this contest began, and that which was in existence before. The difference that is made between any kind of paper and gold or silver is still more alarming. Every one of these practices is a great and dangerous misdemeanor against the state, punishable by this court, and therefore properly cognizable by you. And I hope if you know of any instances of this kind, you will present them though not laid, in any formal manner, before you.

I think of nothing material to add, gentlemen, but that it is necessary, at least twelve of your number, should agree upon all questions.

Before I conclude, I cannot help expressing the very great pleasure I have felt, in seeing so much peace and order subsist among