

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

It is not probably known to many of our readers, that the citizens of Mecklenburg County, in this State made a Declaration of Independence more than a year before Congress made theirs.

NORTH-CAROLINA, Mecklenburg County, May 20, 1775.

In the spring of 1775, the leading characters of Mecklenburg county, stimulated by that enthusiastic patriotism which elevates the mind above considerations of individual aggrandisement, and scorning to shelter themselves from the impending storm by submission to lawless power, &c. &c. held several detached meetings, in each of which the individual sentiments were that the cause of Boston was the cause of all; that their destinies were indissolubly connected with those of the Eastern fellow-citizen; and that they must either submit to all the impositions which an unrepresented and to them an unrepresented parliament might impose, or support their brethren who were doomed to sustain the first shock of that power, which, if successful there, would ultimately overwhelm all in the common calamity.

In conforming to said Order, on the 19th of May, 1775, the said delegation met in Charlotte, vested with unlimited powers; at which time official news, by express, arrived of the Battle of Lexington on that day of the preceding month. Every delegate felt the value & importance of the prize, & the awful & solemn crisis which had arrived—every bosom swelled with indignation at the malice, invidiousness and insatiable revenge developed in the late attack at Lexington. The universal sentiment was: let us not flatter ourselves that popular harangues—or resolves; that popular valor will avert the storm, or vanquish our common enemy—let us deliberate—let us calculate the issue—the probable results; and then let us act with energy as brethren leagued to preserve our property—our lives—and what is still more endearing, the liberties of America.

1. Resolved, That whosoever directly or indirectly sheltered, or in any way, form or manner countenanced the unchartered and dangerous invasion of our rights, as claimed by Great-Britain, is an enemy to this Country, to America, and to the inherent and inalienable rights of man.

2. Resolved, That we the citizens of Mecklenburg County, do hereby dissolve the political bands which have connected us to the Mother Country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, and abjure all political connection, contract or association with that Nation, who have wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties—and inhumanly shed the innocent blood of American patriots at Lexington.

3. Resolved, That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent People, are and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing Association, under the control of no power other than that of our God and the General Government of the Congress; to the maintenance of which independence, we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual cooperation, our lives, our fortunes, and our most sacred honor.

4. Resolved, That as we now acknowledge the existence and control of no law or legal officer, civil or military, within this County, We do hereby ordain and adopt, as a rule of life, all, each and every of our former laws, wherein, nevertheless, the Crown of Great Britain never can be considered as holding rights, privileges, immunities or authority therein.

more general and organized government be established in this province.

A number of bye-laws were also adopted, merely to protect the association from confusion and to regulate their general conduct as citizens. After sitting in Court-house all night, neither sleepy, hungry, or fatigued, and after discussing every paragraph, they were all passed, sanctioned and decreed unanimously, about 2 o'clock, A. M. May 20. In a few days a deputation of said delegation convened when Capt. James Jack of Charlotte was deputed as express to the Congress at Philadelphia, with a copy of said Resolves and Proceedings, together with a letter addressed to our three Representatives there, viz. Richard Caswell, Wm. Hooper and Joseph Hughes—under express injunction, personally, and through the state representation, to use all possible means to have said proceedings sanctioned and approved by the general Congress. On the return of Capt. Jack, the delegation learned that the proceedings were individually approved by the members of Congress, but that it was deemed premature to lay them before the House. A joint letter from said three members of Congress was also received, complimentary of the zeal in the common cause, and recommending perseverance, order and energy.

The subsequent harmony, unanimity and exertion in the cause of liberty and independence, evidently resulting from these regulations, and the continued exertion of said delegation, apparently tranquillized this section of the State, and met with the concurrence and high approbation of the Council of Safety, who held their sessions at Newbern and Wilmington alternately, and who confirmed the nomination and acts of the delegation in their official capacity.

From this delegation originated the Court of Enquiry of this County, who constituted and held their first session in Charlotte—they then held their meetings regularly at Charlotte, at Col. James Harris's and at Col. Phifer's alternately one week at each place. It was a civil Court founded on military process. Before this judicature all suspicious persons were made to appear, who were finally tried and banished, or continued under guard. Its jurisdiction was as unlimited as forism, and its decrees as final as the confidence and patriotism of the County. Several were arrested and brought before them from Lincoln, Rowan and the adjacent counties.

The foregoing is a true copy of the papers on the above subject, left in my hands by John McKnight Alexander, dec'd. I find it mentioned on file that the original book was burned April, 1830. That a copy of the proceedings was sent to Hugh Williamson in New York, then writing a History of North-Carolina, and that a copy was sent to Gen. W. R. Davie.

J. M. KNIGHT.

The following ROYAL PROCLAMATION was communicated at the same time, and is published as a curiosity.

NORTH-CAROLINA.

By his Excellency JONIAH MARTIN, his Majesty's Captain General, and Governor in Chief of the said Province, &c. &c. &c.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the King ever anxious for the welfare and happiness of all his people, and sensible to the representations which have been constantly made to him of the steady and unshaken loyalty, and of the inviolable fidelity and attachment of his faithful subjects in this province to his person and government; and confiding entirely in their repeated assurances to his Majesty of their own ardent exertions in co-operation with his arms whenever they should be directed to their support. AND WHEREAS, his Majesty, moved by these considerations, and by every the most tender and paternal feeling of concern, and regard for the sufferings & misery of his faithful people, under the intolerable yoke of arbitrary power, which his Majesty, with indignation, sees imposed by the tyranny of the rebel Congress upon his freeborn subjects, hath been pleased to send an army to their aid and relief, I HAVE THEREFORE thought it proper, by this Proclamation, to inform his Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects in this Province, of this great proof and instance of his Majesty's gracious attention to them, and at the same time to advertise them that the royal army under the command of Lieutenant-General EARL CORNWALLIS, is thus far advanced to their support, leaving it to themselves to compute its power and superiority from the great, signal, and complete victory which it obtained, when in force very inferior to its present strength, over the rebel army on the 10th of August: AND WHEREAS while his Majesty, on the one hand, holds forth grace and mercy to his deluded subjects, who shall immediately, and with good faith, return to their duty, to which they have been invited in vain by every reason and argument, and by every consideration of interest, of freedom and happiness; he is determined on the other, to employ in the most vigorous and effectual manner the force of his arms, and the united strength of his faithful people, to restore and maintain to them that genuine liberty, peace and prosper-

ty, which they formerly enjoyed in such full security under the mild government and protection of Great Britain, and to compel the disobedient to submission to the laws, and to a participation of those blessings of a free constitution, which through ignorance, infatuation, delusion, blindness and fraud, they have been hitherto led to resist, notwithstanding his Majesty's most gracious and merciful endeavors to reclaim them. HAVING thus signified to the King's loyal and faithful subjects, the arrival and progress of his Majesty's army to their aid and support, which they have so long and eagerly wished for, it becomes my duty to remind them that the time is now arrived in which they are to evince the sincerity of their professions of loyalty and attachment to his Majesty's person and government; they are to consider themselves in this hour most seriously and solemnly called upon by every duty of the subject to the sovereign, and by every tie and consideration of family, liberty and property, of present and future welfare and interest, with heart and hand, to join & unite their strength with that of his Majesty's forces, in order to deliver themselves from that intolerable yoke of slavery and arbitrary power (which the tyranny of the Rebel Congress, lost to every sense of truth and virtue, is evidently aiming to rivet upon them, by calling in the aid of the two Roman Catholic powers of France & Spain, whose policy and incessant labor it has been forever to subvert the civil and religious liberties of mankind) and to restore themselves to that state of perfect freedom, which is acknowledged throughout the world to be the birth-right of the human race, and the only in the envied rights and condition of British subjects: AND WHEREAS I have entire confidence, that it is the wish, inclination, and ardent desire of his Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects in this province, to employ their strength on this great occasion, for the redemption of every thing that can be dear to men, in the way that is likely most effectually and certainly to accomplish the great objects of peace and happiness which they have in view: I DO hereby exhort and invite all the young and able bodied men to testify the reality of their loyalty and spirit, by enlisting in the Provincial Corps, which are forth with to be raised, and put under my command, as his Majesty's Governor of the Province, hereby informing and assuring them, that they are and will be required to serve only during the Rebellion, and within the Provinces of North and South Carolina and Virginia, under officers of their own recommendation; that each man will receive the bounty of three Guineas at the time of enlisting, & all the pay, clothing, appointments, allowances & encouragements of soldiers of his Majesty's army; & will be entitled, at the end of the rebellion, when they are to be discharged, to free grants of land, AND I have such full assurance that his Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects of this Province, will so clearly see the propriety & necessity of forming their strength upon this plan, which experience hath proved can alone render it useful and effectual to the speedy suppression of the tyranny which has for years past deprived them of every blessing, right and enjoyment of life, that I am confident their honest zeal will lead them to condescend and vie with each other in filling the respective battalions in which they shall chuse to enlist, from a just sense of the merit & applause that will be due to such as are soonest completed.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the said Province, at Headquarters, in Charlotte-Town, this third day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and in the twentieth year of his Majesty's reign.

JO. MARTIN.

By his Excellency's command, RICHARD JAMES P. GREGG, God save the King.

BY AUTHORITY.

An act to authorize the building, erecting and placing, light houses, beacons, and buoys, on places designated in Boston, Buzzard, and Chesapeake Bays, Lakes Ontario and Erie, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to provide by contract, which shall be approved by the President of the United States, for building light houses, erecting beacons and land marks, and placing light vessels or boats, on the following sites, or shoals, to wit: A light house on Long Island Head, and a beacon or land mark on Halfway Rock, in Boston Bay; and also a light house on Bird's Island, in Buzzard's Bay, in the state of Massachusetts.

A light house on Galloo Island, near the outlet of Lake Ontario, in the state of New York.

A light house, at a proper place, at or between the mouth of Grand River, in the state of Ohio, and the mouth of Detroit River, in the territory of Michigan. Three light houses, on the following sites: on the Backin, one on North Sparrow's Point, one on Sparrow's Point, and one on Sparrow's Point, in the state of Maryland.

A light house on Windmill Point, at the mouth of Rappahanock River, or a light vessel or boat on the Wolf-trap Shoals, if the latter shall be deemed preferable to a light house, on Windmill Point; a light house on Craney Island at the mouth of Elizabeth River, and a light vessel, or boat, on Willoughby's Spit, between Lynnhaven Bay and Hampton Roads, in the state of Virginia. And a beacon, or land mark, on Wolf Island, near the port of Darien, in the state of Georgia.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause three buoys to be placed in such manner as to mark out the channel leading into the harbor of Boston, and one buoy to be placed on West Island ledge, in Buzzard's Bay; a spindle, or buoy, on the outer rock of the reef running from Cochney's Island to eastern Norwalk Island; another spindle, or buoy, on the reef running about southwest from the western point of the Western Norwalk Island; and a spindle on the rock of the point Fairweather Island, in the state of Connecticut. And twenty buoys in the Chesapeake Bay, and Patapsco River, for designating the shoals and channel, in the state of Maryland.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to cause a pier to be carried out to nine feet water, at the light house heretofore authorized to be erected at the mouth of the Mississippi; and, also, that he cause the present wood tower at the Seguin light house, in the state of Massachusetts, to be replaced with one of stone.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That there be appropriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury of the United States, not otherwise appropriated, the following sums of money, to accomplish the purposes heretofore enumerated in this act, to wit: For the erection and establishment of light houses on Long Island head, on Bird's Island, & a beacon or land mark on Halfway Rock, eleven thousand five hundred dollars: For a light house on Galloo Island, near the outlet of Lake Ontario, twelve thousand five hundred dollars: For a light house, at a proper place, at or between the mouth of Grand River and Detroit River, five thousand dollars: For three light Houses, one on the Backin, one on North Point, and one on Sparrow's Point, in the Chesapeake Bay, and on the Patapsco River, nine thousand dollars: For a light house on Windmill Point, or light vessel or boat on the Wolf-trap Shoals, a light vessel or boat on Willoughby's Spit between Lynnhaven Bay and Hampton Roads, and a light house on Craney Island, at the mouth of Elizabeth River, twelve thousand dollars: For three buoys to mark out the channel leading into Boston harbor, and for one to be placed on West Island ledge, in Buzzard's Bay, sixteen hundred dollars: For the spindles or buoys on the reef running from Cochney's Island; for that on the reef running about southwest from the western point of the Western Norwalk's Island, and for that on the rock off the point of Fairweather Island, twelve hundred dollars: For twenty buoys, to be placed in the Chesapeake Bay and Patapsco River, eight thousand dollars: For the pier to be carried out from the light house at the mouth of the Mississippi, four thousand dollars; and for replacing the tower at the Seguin light houses, twenty-five hundred dollars: and for a beacon or land mark on Wolf Island, near the port of Darien, in the state of Georgia, one thousand dollars.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That to make up the deficiencies of the appropriations heretofore made, for the purposes following, the several sums, respectively named, be, and they are hereby appropriated, payable out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to wit: To pay for the land, and erecting the light house at Holmes's Hole, sixty three dollars: For erecting a light house on the south point of Cumberland Island seven thousand dollars; For erecting a light house on the south point of Sapelo Island, two thousand five hundred and fifty dollars.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the sum of three thousand and twenty-seven dollars be, and they are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, in addition to the sums heretofore appropriated, to pay the salaries to the several keepers of the light houses within the United States; to be applied, under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, so as to fix the annual salary of each keeper, aforesaid, at the rate of three hundred and fifty dollars per annum.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Treasury, in case he shall deem it expedient and proper, may cause the light house heretofore authorized to be erected on the south point of Sapelo Island, to be changed to, and placed on Wolf's Island.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

whenever proof shall be exhibited, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, of the loss or destruction of any Treasury Note, issued under the authority of act of Congress, it shall be lawful for the said Secretary, upon receiving bond, with sufficient security to indemnify the United States against any other claim on account of the Treasury Note alleged to be so lost or destroyed, to pay the amount due on such note, to the person who had lost it, or in whose possession it has been destroyed.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That whenever proof shall be exhibited, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, of the loss or destruction of any certificate of Mississippi stock it shall be lawful to issue, to the person who had lost it or in whose possession it was destroyed, a new certificate of the same value with the one lost or destroyed; the person claiming such renewal complying with the rules and regulations, at present established at the Treasury department, for the renewal of certificates of stock lost or destroyed.

Approved—February 4, 1819.

An act authorizing the distribution of a sum of money among the Representatives of Commodore Edward Preble, and the officers and crew of the brig Syren.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars be appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated; which sum shall be distributed by the Secretary of the Navy, as prize money, among the representatives of Commodore Edward Preble, deceased, and Captain Charles Stewart, the officers and crew of the brig of war Syren, or the representatives of such as may be dead, on account of their proportion of the sum of five thousand dollars, the appraised value of the brig Transfer, captured by the said brig Syren, for a breach of the blockade of the port of Tripoli, in the year eighteen hundred and four, during the war carried on by the United States against that power; the said brig Transfer having been taken into the service of the United States, by Commodore Edward Preble, commander of the blockading squadron; which brig, was regularly condemned, as a good prize, by sentence of a court of admiralty.

Approved—February 4, 1819.

An act extending the term of half-pay pensions to the widows and children of certain officers, seamen and marines, who died in the public service.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That in all cases where provision has been made by law for five years half pay to the widows and children of officers, seamen and marines, who were killed in battle, or died of wounds received in battle, or who died in the naval service of the United States, during the late war, the said provision shall be continued for the additional term of five years, to commence at the end of the first term of five years, in each case, respectively, making the provision equal to ten years half pay, which shall be paid in the manner and out of the fund heretofore designated by law, and the said pensions shall also cease for the reasons mentioned in the said law.

Approved—March 3, 1819.

By the President of the United States

HEREAS, by an act of Congress, passed on the 17th of February, 1818, entitled "an act making provision for the establishment of additional Land Offices in the territory of Missouri," the President of the United States is authorized to direct the public lands, which have been surveyed in the said territory, to be offered for sale:

Therefore, I, James Monroe, President of the United States, do hereby declare, and it is known, that public sales for the disposal of certain lands in the territory of Missouri, shall be held in Franklin, in said territory, viz:

On the first Monday in January next, for the sale of Townships No 46 to 52, inclusive, and fractional townships in range 19, ship 53

49 to 52 and 20

fractional townships 43 49 to 53 21, 22, 23

On the first Monday in March next, for the sale of Townships 48 to 53 inclusive, in ranges 21 & 22, 48 to 50 21 & 22

On the first Monday in May next, for the sale of Townships 51 to 55 inclusive, in ranges 11 & 12, 51 to 56 21 53 to 56 21

excepting the lands which have been, or may be, reserved by law for the support of schools, and for other purposes.

Each sale shall continue until the necessary to offer the lands for sale, and the lands shall be sold in the order of the order.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, this 17th day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.