

DOCTOR MORGAN TO A COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.

Cambridge, April 11, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: It gives me much concern to hear that the intention of General *Washington*, and his orders to me to take possession of the shop, medicines, and utensils, &c., belonging to *Sylvester Gardner* and *William Perkins*, late of *Boston*, for the use of the Continental Army, and the resolves of the honourable House of Representatives and Council of this Province, should seem to interfere with your commands. I would willingly hope that, before any step is taken to counteract the orders of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and the resolves of the Legislature of this Colony at large, I may be favoured with a conference with you—and I shall gladly meet with you when and wherever you are pleased to appoint—to explain to you the General's intention with respect to Doctor *Gardner's* shop, and the reasons on which his orders are founded. I imagine it will be no difficult matter to convince gentlemen of your weight, character, and integrity, as well as importance in the community, of the propriety of so general an order. As his Excellency General *Washington* ever made it the rule of his conduct to support the civil authority, and not to infringe it in a single instance, I flatter myself you will be very tender how you offer any insult to his orders, by explaining away the spirit and intention of them, which proceeded solely from what he esteemed the essential interests of the Army. Under his authority I now act. It is by his direction I have taken charge of the shops of Messrs. *Gardner* and *Perkins*, which he intended I should possess myself of. I mean to leave an approved list in your hands of what I take; and to obligate myself for the payment of every article I take into my custody, whenever I am called upon authoritatively so to do; but it is by no means my intention to relinquish a single article comprehended within my orders, that I think will be of service to the Army. If I leave any particulars behind, which are found in Doctor *Gardner's* or Doctor *Perkins's* shops, (as I, doubtless, shall many,) it will be from a consideration of their not being wanted for the use of the Army. But I flatter myself the gentlemen of the Committee, acting on a liberal plan, will not take on themselves (but leave it to one appointed for the purpose) to judge of this matter; and whilst they keep in view that the cause in which the Army is employed, is not merely a Provincial concern, but comprehends the interests of the United Colonies, and consider the recent benefits which the inhabitants of *Boston* have derived from the good order and discipline of the Army, and their being well supplied with everything necessary to them, as such, (in what relates to the sick is no inconsiderable part,) I am confident they will not suffer the misrepresentations of individuals (perhaps interested in the advice they give) to deprive the Army of all the advantages that may accrue from being furnished with the most ample provision of hospital stores, and which they must have, from whatever quarter they can be got, be the expense whatever it may. I doubt not, on being favoured with a conference with you on this head, every misapprehension will be effectually cleared up to our mutual satisfaction. If not, I have only to acquaint you that I must remain here till I receive fresh orders from the General, whether to recede from his instructions or not.

I remain, with the utmost deference and respect, gentlemen, your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN MORGAN.

To the Committee of the General Court, now sitting at *Boston*.

INDEPENDENCE IN NORTH-CAROLINA.

In Congress, North-Carolina, April 12, 1776.

The Select Committee, to take into consideration the usurpations and violences attempted and committed by the King and Parliament of *Britain* against *America*, and the further measures to be taken for frustrating the same, and for the better defence of this Province, reported as follows, to wit:

It appears to your Committee that, pursuant to the plan concerted by the *British* Ministry for subjugating *America*, the King and Parliament of *Great Britain* have usurped a power over the persons and properties of the People, unlimited and uncontrolled; and, disregarding their humble

petitions for peace, liberty, and safety, have made divers legislative acts denouncing war, famine, and every species of calamity against the Continent in general.

That *British* Fleets and Armies have been, and still are, daily employed in destroying the people, and committing the most horrid devastations on the country.

That Governours in different Colonies have declared protection to slaves who should imbrue their hands in the blood of their masters.

That the ships belonging to *America* are declared prizes of war, and many of them have been violently seized and confiscated.

In consequence of all which, multitudes of the people have been destroyed, or from easy circumstances reduced to the most lamentable distress.

And whereas the moderation hitherto manifested by the United Colonies, and their sincere desire to be reconciled to the mother country on constitutional principles, have procured no mitigation of the aforesaid wrongs and usurpations, and no hopes remain of obtaining redress by those means alone which have been hitherto tried, your Committee are of opinion that the House should enter into the following resolve:

Resolved, That the Delegates for this Colony in the Continental Congress be empowered to concur with the Delegates of the other Colonies in declaring Independency, and forming foreign alliances, reserving to this Colony the sole and exclusive right of forming a Constitution and Laws for this Colony, and of appointing Delegates, from time to time, (under the direction of a general representation thereof,) to meet the Delegates of the other Colonies for such purposes as shall be hereafter pointed out.

The Congress, taking the same into consideration, unanimously concurred therewith.

By order: JAMES GREEN, JUN., *Secretary*.

TO MR. ALEXANDER PURDIE.

Williamsburgh, Virginia, April 12, 1776.

The independence of the Colonies daily becomes more and more a topick of very anxious disquisition. The subject appears, in general, to lie under the difficulties of being misrepresented by our enemies, and misunderstood by some amongst ourselves. Without flattering myself that the following remarks will remove either, I shall be obliged by your inserting them.

It may, with certainty, be affirmed, that, among the ends which the Colonies (from *South-Carolina* to *New-York*, inclusively) had in view when they began the present contest, independence held no place; and that the *New-England* Governments, if they had it in view at all, considered it as a remote and contingent object. The terrors of immediate oppression engrossed our minds too fully to leave much room for ambition. Admitting this fact with regard to *New-England*, (of which, however, I know no proof,) it was not the effect of a seditious character in the people, but of a consciousness that, by their union and populousness, they approached more nearly than any single Colony to that period of power, when independence would have become a natural event, and dependance a political absurdity. That the Colonies were proceeding pretty rapidly to such a period of power, seems to be a point acknowledged by all dispassionate reasoners on both sides. The King's Ministers, indeed, have induced him to believe, and to tell his Parliament, that our professions of attachment and loyalty were meant only to amuse, while we were meditating a general revolt. The heart of an *American* tells him that the charge is erroneous, and the single external evidence of our having begun the war with so scanty a provision for its support, will prove it so to all the unprejudiced world. In truth, these professions were founded in such deep-rooted attachments, that even now, when our lives and properties are the sport and prey of every tender's motley crew that can catch them, many of our brethren shudder at the name of Independence.

The use of words, without settling their determinate meaning, often occasions disputes with men whose sentiments in reality exactly correspond. This appears to be particularly the case in the present question.

In many, the name of Independence is accompanied with the terrifying ideas of an everlasting separation from *Great*

that, without equivocation, mental evasion, or secret reservation, he pay the most exact and faithful attention to the intent and meaning of these conditions, according to the rules and regulations of war; and that he every day appear, between the hours of ten and twelve o'clock, to the Officer of the Guard.

Mr. *Thomas Harvey*, one of the Members from *Perquimans* County, and Mr. *William Dickson*, one of the Members from *Duplin* County, appeared, subscribed the Test, and took their seats in Congress.

On motion, *Ordered*, That the nomination and appointment of Military Officers to the Regiments directly to be raised in this Province, be considered to-morrow.

Resolved, That Messrs. *John Campbell*, *William Thompson*, *James Coor*, *Matthew Locke*, *Thomas Person*, *John Spicer*, and *Solomon Shepherd*, be a Committee to take into consideration a Letter from the Committee of *Carteret* County.

The Congress adjourned till to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

— Friday, April 12, 1776.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The Committee to inquire into the cost of sundry Merchandises deemed useful to the service of this Province, as per invoice exhibited by Mr. *John Wright Stanly*, and to agree with him for the same, reported as follows, viz:

Your Committee have examined the invoices of sundry goods imported by *John Wright Stanly*, the cost of which appears to amount to the sum of three thousand one hundred and sixty-two pieces of eight, (pieces eight Shillings and eight Pence,) and two rials, charged at *St. Eustatia*, on which an advance of seventy-five per centum for risk and charges appear reasonable, as they were bought in barter; also sundry other goods by invoice produced, amounting to three thousand nine hundred and thirty-four pieces of eight, (pieces eight Shillings and eight Pence,) four rials, and four stivers, bought with ready money, on which an advance of eighty-seven and a half per centum for risk and charges, and twenty per centum for the risk, trouble, and commission, Mr. *Stanly* had in the adventure.

Your Committee are further of opinion the five hundred pounds of Gunpowder offered by Mr. *Stanly*, at eight Shillings per pound, is, at this time, a reasonable price; which several sums amount in the whole to four thousand eight hundred and forty-eight Pounds one Shilling one Penny and three Farthings, Proclamation money, which your Committee are of opinion may be allowed and paid to Mr. *Stanly* for the said goods, on account and for the use of the publick, on delivery of said goods at *Newbern*, in good order, to such person or persons as the Congress shall appoint to receive them.

Humbly submitted to the House.

The Congress taking the same into consideration, and the said Report being read, concurred therewith.

The Congress having agreed with Mr. *John Wright Stanly*, on account of the publick, for sundry goods and merchandises, as per invoice exhibited,

Resolved, That the Treasurers, or either of them, pay to *John Wright Stanly* the sum of four thousand eight hundred and forty-eight Pounds one Shilling one Penny and three Farthings, Proclamation money, for sundry goods and merchandises purchased of him on account and for the use of this Province, he first producing a receipt from *John Green* and *David Barron*, that all and every article contained in said invoice are *bona fide* and actually delivered into their possession, in good and merchantable order, and that the Treasurers be allowed in their accounts with the publick.

On motion, *Resolved*, that Mr. *John Green* and Mr. *David Barron*, of *Newbern*, be requested to receive and take into their possession, from Mr. *John Wright Stanly*, sundry goods and merchandises, as per invoice exhibited, amounting to four thousand eight hundred and forty-eight Pounds one Shilling one Penny three Farthings, at the risk and on account of the publick, till further orders.

Mr. *Harnett*, Chairman, from the Committee to take into consideration the Petition of *Joseph Wood* and co-partners, praying an order to dispose of the Effects of his Excellency *Josiah Martin*, Esquire, &c., reported as follows, to wit:

Your Committee having inquired into the several allegations set forth in the said Petition, do report as follows: That

the said *Joseph Wood* and partners, with the permission of the Committee of the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia*, did, on the 5th day of *January* last past, load on board the Sloop *Joseph*, *William Raddon*, Master, sundry goods and merchandises, on their own account, to the value of six hundred and seventy Pounds three Shillings and seven Pence; on the account of *William Todd*, one hundred and ninety Pounds; of *Joseph Wood*, Jun., ten Pounds; of *William Raddon*, nine Pounds eighteen Shillings, prime cost in *Philadelphia*; all which were consigned to the said *Joseph Wood*, Jun., and bound to *Georgia*; that in his passage the said Sloop and cargo were taken by an armed vessel called the *General Gage*, *George Sybels*, Master, and carried into *Cape-Fear*, where *Josiah Martin*, Esq., late Governour of this Province, bore the chief command; and the officers under the command of the said *Josiah Martin* did violently seize the said Sloop and cargo, and apply them to the use of the enemies of *America*, whereby the said *Joseph* and partners lost one thousand five hundred Pounds, current money of *Pennsylvania*, over and above the profits they might reasonably have made.

The House taking the same into consideration, concurred therewith.

Resolved, That the inlisting of the Continental or Provincial Regular soldiers into the service of any armed vessel or privateer, is highly improper, and greatly injurious to the service; and that all those who have presumed to enlist any soldiers, knowing they belong to such service, have acted in a manner contrary to the interest of this Colony, and have been guilty of a breach of the Continental Rules and Regulations, and are hereby ordered to return the soldiers so enlisted to the several corps to which they belong; and that if the officer or officers belonging to such armed vessels or Privateers do not immediately restore the soldiers so enlisted by them to the officer or officers of their respective corps, that then, and in that case, they will be considered as unworthy of any command under this Congress, and deemed enemies to *American* liberty: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to such soldiers as had served six months from the time of their inlistment.

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