

"That three Provincial Brigadiers-General be employed for the Flying Camp—two from *Pennsylvania* and one from *Maryland*. That the said Brigadiers-General be appointed by the respective Colonies above-mentioned. That the Flying Camp be under the command of such Continental General Officers as the Commander-in-Chief shall direct. That the Militia, when in service, be regularly paid and victualled in the same manner as the Continental Troops.

"*Resolved*, That the Militia be engaged to the first day of *December* next, unless sooner discharged by Congress.

"That the pay of the Militia commence from the day of their marching from home, and that they be allowed one penny a mile, lawful money, in lieu of rations, for travelling expenses, and one day's pay for every twenty miles between home and the general rendezvous, going and returning.

"Extract from the Minutes :

"CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*."

By special order, the same was read a second time.

On motion, *Ordered*, That a Resolution of the Assembly of this Province, of *June* 14th instant, in consequence of the foregoing requisition of Congress, be read ; and the same was read accordingly.

By special order, the same was read a second time, and is in the words following, viz :

"IN ASSEMBLY, *June* 14, 1776.—*Resolved*, by the Members of Assembly now met, That they are earnestly desirous of carrying into execution the Resolutions of Congress of the 1st instant ; but that as they despair, after repeated disappointments, of procuring a quorum of the House, they find themselves unable at this time to proceed on said Resolutions.

"Extract from the Minutes :

"ABEL EVANS, *Clerk*."

On motion, *Ordered*, That the copy of a Minute from the Proceedings of the Committee of Safety of this Province, entered on the Journal of this Conference on *Saturday* last, be read ; and it was read accordingly.

Whereas it appears to this Conference that the six thousand Militia required of this Colony by Congress, and agreed by the Assembly of this Province to be raised, are absolutely necessary for the defence and security of the Thirteen United Colonies : And whereas it appears that the requisition of Congress was made to the Colony of *Pennsylvania*, and that the same cannot be complied with by the Assembly or Committee of Safety of this Province ; and that unless this Conference (being the only representative body of this Colony that can at this time with propriety interpose in this business) undertake to accomplish the desires of the Congress, and of the Assembly in the premises, the aforesaid Flying Camp cannot be raised in due time ; and the liberties and safety of this Province as well as of the other Colonies, may be thereby endangered : And whereas the Militia of this Province at first associated by the advice and under the authority of the Committees of Inspection and Observation of the City and the several Counties : Therefore,

Resolved, unanimously, That this Conference do recommend to the Committees and Associators of this Province to embody four thousand five hundred of the Militia, which, with the fifteen hundred men now in the pay of this Province, will be the quota of this Colony required by Congress.

Resolved, unanimously, That Messrs. *Hill, Gurney, Hart, Montgomery, Morgan, Cunningham, Gray, McAlister, McClean, Espy, Cook, and Perry*, be a Committee to devise ways and means for raising the said four thousand five hundred men, and to inquire into all matters necessary to fit them for taking the field.

On motion, *unanimously Ordered*, That the Chairman, *Dr. Rush*, and Colonel *Smith*, be a Committee to draft a Resolution declaring the sense of the Conference with respect to an Independence of this Province on the Crown and Parliament of *Great Britain*, and report to-morrow morning.

Resolved, unanimously, That it be recommended to Commodore *Samuel Davidson*, and to the Captains of the Row-Galleys, &c., to forbear to take any steps which may involve the Fleet in confusion ; and that they wait the result of an interview which this Conference intend to propose to

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the Committee of Safety, and that Messrs. *Blewer, Levis, Bird, Loller, and Colhoon*, be a Committee to wait on those gentlemen on board their vessels to-morrow morning.

The Committee appointed to wait on the Chairman of the Committee of Safety reported that they had waited on *George Clymer*, Esq., according to order, and had delivered the message they had in charge, and that he said he would immediately call the Committee, and give an answer this afternoon.

The draft of an Address, &c., was, by order, read a second time ; and being considered and amended, was agreed to unanimously, and is in the following words :

"*The Address of the Deputies from the Committees of PENNSYLVANIA, assembled in Provincial Conference, June 22 :*

"TO THE PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

"FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN : In obedience to the power we derived from you, we have fixed upon a mode of electing a Convention to form a Government for the Province of *Pennsylvania*, under the authority of the People.

"Divine Providence is about to grant you a favour which few people have ever enjoyed before, the privilege of choosing Deputies to form a Government under which you are to live. We need not inform you of the importance of the trust you are about to commit to them. Your liberty, safety, happiness, and everything that posterity will hold dear to them, to the end of time, will depend upon their deliberations. It becomes you, therefore, to choose such persons only to act for you in the ensuing Convention as are distinguished for wisdom, integrity, and a firm attachment to the liberties of this Province, as well as to the liberties of the United Colonies in general.

"In order that your Deputies may know your sentiments as fully as possible upon the subject of Government, we beg that you would convey to them your wishes and opinions upon that head immediately after their election.

"We have experienced an unexpected unanimity in our councils, and we have the pleasure of observing a growing unanimity among the people of the Province. We beg that this brotherly spirit may be cultivated, and that you would remember that the present unsettled state of the Province requires that you should show forbearance, charity, and moderation towards each other. We beg that you would endeavour to remove the prejudices of the weak and ignorant respecting the proposed change in our Government, and assure them that it is absolutely necessary to secure property, liberty, and the sacred rights of conscience, to every individual in the Province.

"The season of the year and the exigencies of our Colony require despatch in the formation of a regular Government. You will not, therefore, be surprised at our fixing the day for the election of Deputies so early as the 8th of next *July*.

"We wish you success in your attempts to establish and perpetuate your liberties, and pray *God* to take you under his special protection.

"Signed by unanimous order of the Conference :

"THOMAS MCKEAN, *President*."

Colonel *Roberdeau* and Mr. *Parker*, from the Committee of Safety, delivered in at the table a Letter from *George Clymer*, Esq., Chairman of said Committee, enclosing the Instructions given to Captain *Davidson* by that Committee.

Ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of the Members.

Monday, *June* 24, A. M.

The Conference met according to adjournment ; but many of the Members being on Committees, the Conference adjourned to three o'clock, this afternoon.

June 24, 1776, P. M.

The Conference met.

The Committee appointed for that purpose brought in a draft of a Declaration on the subject of the Independence of this Colony of the Crown of *Great Britain*, which was ordered to be read, by special order. The same was read a second time, and, being fully considered, it was, with the greatest unanimity of all the Members, agreed to and adopted, and is in the words following, viz :

"Whereas, *George* the Third, King of *Great Britain*, &c., in violation of the principles of the *British* Constitu-

tion, and of the laws of justice and humanity, hath, by an accumulation of oppressions unparalleled in history, excluded the inhabitants of this, with the other *American* Colonies, from his protection; and whereas he hath paid no regard to any of our numerous and dutiful petitions for a redress of our complicated grievances, but hath lately purchased foreign troops to assist in enslaving us, and hath excited the savages of this country to carry on a war against us, as also the negroes to imbrue their hands in the blood of their masters, in a manner unpractised by civilized nations; and hath lately insulted our calamities, by declaring that he will show us no mercy until he has reduced us: And whereas the obligations of allegiance (being reciprocal between a King and his subjects) are now dissolved on the side of the Colonists, by the despotism of the said King, inasmuch that it now appears that loyalty to him is treason against the good people of this country: And whereas not only the Parliament, but, there is reason to believe, too many of the people of *Great Britain*, have concurred in the aforesaid arbitrary and unjust proceedings against us: And whereas the publick virtue of this Colony (so essential to its liberty and happiness) must be endangered by a future political union with, or dependance upon, a Crown and nation so lost to justice, patriotism, and magnanimity:—We, the Deputies of the people of *Pennsylvania*, assembled in full Provincial Conference, for forming a plan for executing the Resolve of Congress of the 15th of *May* last, for suppressing all authority in this Province derived from the Crown of *Great Britain*, and for establishing a Government upon the authority of the people only, now, in this publick manner, in behalf of ourselves, and with the approbation, consent, and authority of our constituents, unanimously declare our willingness to concur in a vote of the Congress declaring the United Colonies free and independent States, provided the forming the Government, and the regulation of the internal police of this Colony, be always reserved to the people of the said Colony; and we do further call upon the nations of *Europe*, and appeal to the great Arbiter and Governour of the Empires of the World, to witness for us that this declaration did not originate in ambition, or in an impatience of lawful authority, but that we were driven to it, in obedience to the first principles of nature, by the oppressions and cruelties of the aforesaid King and Parliament of *Great Britain*, as the only possible measure that was left us to preserve and establish our liberties, and to transmit them inviolate to posterity.”

Ordered, That this Declaration be signed at the table, and that the President deliver it in Congress.

The Committee appointed to wait on the Captains of the Row-Galleys, &c., made their Report; which was read, and is in the following words:

“That they had proceeded to said Fleet in order to execute their appointment, and waited on said Captains, (the Commodore being gone to *Philadelphia*), who declare solemnly that they would pursue no measure that would involve the Fleet in confusion, or in anywise incapacitate them from serving the publick in the most effectual manner for the support, safety, and defence of this Province, further than that they would not submit to, but would ever protest against, the advancement of Captain *Davidson*, whom the Committee of Safety have appointed Commodore of said Fleet; and further requested to be heard by this Board, or the Convention, respecting the premises, as will appear by a declaration of said Captains to said Board.

“J. BLEWER, ROBERT LOLLER,
“T. LEVIS, JOHN COLHOON.”
“M. BIRD,

The Committee also delivered a written Report of the Captains of the Provincial Galleys; which was read, and is in the following words, viz:

“We, the said Commanders, do resolve to abide by the determination set forth in our Remonstrance of the 18th instant to the Committee of Safety, respecting the appointment of a Commodore. We do therefore warmly remonstrate against any such appointment, and declare to this Board that we will not submit to it. We do also report to the sub-Committee that the reports which have prevailed in town about our going on board the Province ship, to strike the broad pennant, with boats manned and armed, are false, and without the least foundation. There was not a single fire-

arm in one of the boats, neither the smallest appearance of hostility or design on our parts. Even orders were given to our men not to stir out of their boats, or attempt to come on board the ship. We do pray, when convenient, that we may have a hearing before the honourable the Committee of Conference, or Convention. In the interim, your Committee may rest assured that we will constantly remain in the line of our duty, for the defence of our River and Province, and that no differences of whatsoever kind shall interfere with the good of the publick, and the glorious cause in which we are engaged.

“H. DOUGHERTY,
“JOHN HAMILTON,
“JAMES MONTGOMERY,
“RICHARD EYRES,
“ALEXANDER HENDERSON,
“HUGH MONTGOMERY,
“WILLIAM GAMBLE, (of *Fire-Ship*).
“BENJAMIN THOMSON,
“ROBERT HUME.”

Ordered, That the above Reports lie on the table for perusal of the Members.

On motion, *Resolved, unanimously*, That the same Committee be appointed to wait on the Committee of Safety, and desire a conference on the subject-matter of their Report from their conversation with the Captains of the Row-Galleys, &c., in the service of this Province, and to make report of their proceedings in the premises.

Resolved, That Messrs. *Bayard, Rush*, and *Smith*, be a Committee to prepare a draft of an Address to the Associates of this Province, on the subject of embodying four thousand five hundred men.

The Committee appointed to devise ways and means, &c., made their Report; which, being read, was referred to to-morrow.

The Committee appointed to wait on the Committee of Safety, reported in the following words:

“That, in conversation, they found they were willing to agree to anything with this Conference, in reason, that would promote harmony and good order; and, further, that any of the Conference was welcome to examine any of their accounts or proceedings.

“J. BLEWER, ROBERT LOLLER,
“M. BIRD, JOHN COLHOON.”

Tuesday, June 25, 1776.

The Conference met.

The Conference resumed the consideration of the Report on the ways and means, &c.; and after full consideration,

Resolved, unanimously, That it be recommended to the Associates of the City of *Philadelphia*, and the several Counties, to embody themselves in the following proportion, viz:

City of <i>Philadelphia</i> , -	210	Brought up, -	2,754
County of <i>Philadelphia</i> , -	746	<i>Berks</i> , - - - -	666
<i>Bucks</i> , - - - -	400	<i>Northampton</i> , - -	346
<i>Chester</i> , - - - -	652	<i>York</i> , - - - -	400
<i>Lancaster</i> , - - -	746	<i>Cumberland</i> , - -	334
	2,754		4,500
Troops under Colonel <i>Miles</i> , - - - -			1,500
		Men, -	6,000

Resolved, unanimously, That the four thousand five hundred Militia recommended to be raised, be formed into six Battalions; each Battalion to be commanded by one Colonel, one Lieutenant-Colonel, and one Major; the Staff to consist of a Chaplain, a Surgeon, an Adjutant, a Quartermaster, and a Surgeon's Mate; and to have one Sergeant-Major, one Quartermaster-Sergeant, a Drum-Major, and a Fife-Major; and to be composed of nine Companies, viz: eight Battalion Companies, to consist of a Captain, two Lieutenants, one Ensign, four Sergeants, four Corporals, a Drummer, a Fifer, and sixty-six Privates, each; and one Rifle Company, to consist of a Captain, three Lieutenants, four Sergeants, four Corporals, one Drummer, one Fifer, and eighty Privates—excepting that for the *Chester* County Battalion; one Company of Artillery is to be raised in the City of *Philadelphia*, instead of a Rifle Company.