

Betton, Esquires, Members of the General Assembly, who readily, as good friends to their country, undertake the journey; to whom you will please to give a receipt for the same, and all the despatch the circumstances of the business will permit. We shall still exert ourselves to exchange and collect what further sums of money we can, and do everything in our power for the good of the *American* cause.

Wishing you the protection of a kind Providence, with the best success to our troops in the Northern Department, I am, in behalf of the Council and Assembly, with all due respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

MESHECH WEARE, *President*.

To General *Schuyler*.

Williamsburgh, Virginia, June 22, 1776.

Last *Monday* an express arrived at Head-Quarters from General *Lee*, who left his Excellency the 6th instant, at *Little River*, on the road to *Charlestown*, with three battalions of the *North-Carolina* troops, marching with all possible expedition to the assistance of that place; General *Clinton*, with upwards of fifty sail of men-of-war and transports, having appeared off their bar the *Tuesday* before, where they cast anchor. Two other *North-Carolina* Regiments, and Colonel *Muhlenberg's* *Virginia* Battalion, were likewise on their march for *Charlestown*; with whose assistance, it is not doubted but our brethren in *South-Carolina* will be able to defeat any attempts of their enemies, and, when under the conduct of so able and experienced a commander, give them that chastisement which they are so richly entitled to.

By the same express, we learn that a sloop arrived at *Charlestown* the 25th ultimo from *St. Eustatia*, with ten thousand weight of gunpowder; the master of which informed that a large vessel had arrived at that Island from *Holland*, deeply laden with arms and ammunition. He also said that all the *French* ports in the *West-Indies* were now open to us, and that their ships of war have received orders to protect our vessels in and out of their harbours; that the *French* are fortifying *Dunkirk*, which produced a remonstrance from the *British* Court, but without effect.

Yesterday the honourable Convention made choice of the following gentlemen to represent this Dominion in General Congress for one year, viz.: *George Wythe*, *Thomas Nelson*, jun., *Richard Henry Lee*, *Thomas Jefferson*, and *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, Esquires.

This morning, Captain *James Barron* came to town from *Jamestown*, with the agreeable news that he and his brother, in two small armed vessels, were safe arrived there, with the *Oxford* transport, from *Glasgow*, having on board two hundred and seventeen *Scotch* Highlanders, with a number of women and children, which they took last *Wednesday* evening, on her way up to *Gavin's Island* to join Lord *Dunmore*. The people on board inform that they are part of a body of three thousand troops which sailed from *Glasgow* for *Boston*; but, upon hearing that that place was in our possession, they steered their course for *Halifax*; that they had been taken by the *Andrew Doria*, one of the *Continental* fleet, who, after disarming them, and taking out all the principal officers, with such of the transport's crew as were acquainted with navigation, put eight of their own hands on board to bring her into port; but that the carpenter of the transport formed a party, and rescued the vessel from them, and was conducting her into *Hampton-Roads*, when the two Captain *Barrons* very fortunately came across them, and moored them safe at *Jamestown*, where they are now disembarking, and are expected in town this day.

MEETING OF ASSOCIATORS, ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND.

At a very respectable meeting of the Associators of *Anne Arundel* County, held at *West River*, on *Saturday*, the 22d instant, (*June*.) the following important questions were submitted to their consideration:

First. Whether, in the opinion of the Associators present, the Province of *Maryland* should, or should not, be bound by the determination of the majority of the United Colonies upon all questions to be agitated in Congress, such only excepted as are calculated to regulate, or in any manner interfere in, the internal government of the Province?

Resolved, unanimously, in the affirmative.

Second. Whether the Instructions that were imposed upon the Delegates of this Province in Congress by the *December*, and continued by the *May* Sessions of Convention, should, or should not, be immediately rescinded by the present Convention, and the Delegates in Congress intrusted with discretionary powers of exercising their own judgments upon any question that may come under their consideration?

Resolved, unanimously, in the affirmative—from a thorough conviction that the true interests and substantial happiness of the United Colonies in general, and this in particular, are inseparably interwoven and linked together, and essentially dependant upon a close Union and Continental Confederation. The complexion of the times is such that, in our opinion, unanimity alone can render our opposition to the establishment of a Parliamentary tyranny glorious. By division, the most diabolical wishes of the King, Lords, and Commons, will be effectually realized.

Published by order of the meeting.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DELEGATES OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND.

To JOSIAH HAWKINS, THOMAS STONE, ROBERT T. HOOE, JOSEPH H. HARRISON, and WILLIAM HARRISON, Esqs.

We, the subscribers, freemen of *Charles* County, in the Province of *Maryland*, taking into our most serious consideration the present state of the unhappy dispute between *Great Britain* and the United Colonies, and the very great distress and hardships they have brought upon us thereby, think proper to deliver you our sentiments, and to instruct you in certain points relative to your conduct in the next Convention, as Representatives of this County. Reasons for the mode of voting, and determining questions, by a majority of Counties, have not appeared to us to exist since the last general election; therefore, we charge and instruct you to move for, and endeavour to obtain a regulation for voting individually, and determining questions by a majority of members, and not of Counties, in future. And as we know we have a right to hear, or be informed what is transacted in Convention, we instruct you to move for, and endeavour to obtain, a resolve for the doors of the House to be kept open in future, and that, on all questions proposed and seconded, the yeas and nays be taken, and, together with every other part of your proceedings, published, except such only as may relate to military operations, questions which ought to be debated with the doors shut, and the determinations thereon kept secret.

The experience we have had of the cruelty and injustice of the *British* Government, under which we have too long borne oppression and wrongs, and notwithstanding every peaceable endeavour of the United Colonies to get redress of grievances, by decent, dutiful, and sincere petitions and representations to the King and Parliament, giving every assurance of our affection and loyalty, and praying for no more than peace, liberty and safety under the *British* Government, yet have we received nothing but an increase of insult and injury, by all the Colonies being declared in actual rebellion; savages hired to take up arms against us; slaves proclaimed free, enticed away, trained and armed against their lawful masters; our towns plundered, burnt, and destroyed; our vessels and property seized on the seas, made free plunder to the captors, and our seamen forced to take arms against ourselves; our friends and countrymen, when captivated, confined in dungeons, and, as if criminals, chained down to the earth; our estates confiscated, and our men, women and children robbed and murdered: and as at this time, instead of Commissioners to negotiate a peace, as we have been led to believe were coming out, a formidable fleet of *British* ships, with a numerous army of foreign soldiers, in *British* pay, are daily expected on our coast, to force us to yield the property we have honestly acquired, and fairly own, and drudge out the remainder of our days in misery and wretchedness, leaving us nothing better to bequeath to posterity than poverty and slavery:—we must, for these reasons, declare, that our affection for the people, and allegiance to the Crown of *Great Britain*, so readily and truly acknowledged till of late, is forfeited on their part. And as we are convinced that nothing virtuous, humane, generous, or just, can be expected from the *British* King or nation, and that they will exert themselves to reduce us to a

state of slavery, by every effort and artifice in their power, we are of opinion that the time has fully arrived for the Colonies to adopt the last measure for our common good and safety, and that the sooner they declare themselves separate from, and independent of the Crown and Parliament of *Great Britain*, the sooner they will be able to make effectual opposition, and establish their liberties on a firm and permanent basis. We, therefore, most earnestly instruct and charge you to move for, without loss of time, and endeavour to obtain, positive instructions from the Convention of *Maryland* to their Delegates in Congress, immediately to join the other Colonies in declaring that the United Colonies no longer owe allegiance to, nor are they dependant upon, the Crown or Parliament of *Great Britain*, or any other power on earth, but are, for time to come, free and independent States; provided that the power of forming Government, and regulating the internal concerns of each Colony, be left to their respective Legislatures; and that said Delegates give the assent of this Province to any further confederation of the Colonies for the support of their union, and for forming such foreign commercial connections as may be requisite and necessary for our common good and safety. And as the present Government under the King cannot longer exist with safety to the freemen of this Province, we are of opinion a new form of Government, agreeable to the late recommendation of the honourable Continental Congress to all the United Colonies, ought immediately to be adopted.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DELEGATES OF TALBOT COUNTY,
MARYLAND.

To the Honourable MATTHEW TILGHMAN, Esq., JAMES LLOYD CHAMBERLAINE, EDWARD LLOYD, NICHOLAS THOMAS, and POLLARD EDMONSON, Esqs., Representatives for TALBOT County, in Convention now sitting:

The Address of part of the freemen of the said County:

GENTLEMEN: The vast importance of the dispute now subsisting between *Great Britain* and the *North-American* Colonies, the fatal consequences that must attend the mismanagement of that dispute, and the effects they must inevitably have on us, in common with the neighbouring Governments, sufficiently justify us, your constituents, in laying our sentiments before you, on the present occasion, respecting the measures taken for carrying into execution the plan proposed for the preservation of our liberties, now in the most imminent danger.

We, therefore, in virtue of that right which the constituent hath in his Representative or Deputy, take leave to express to you our great concern and sorrow that we cannot approve the measures pursued in the last session of Convention. We have seen, with grief and astonishment, the Convention of *Maryland*, in matters of the utmost importance, resolving in direct opposition to the honourable Congress. We have also seen it, in our opinion, profusely lavishing the publick money, at a time when the constituents are labouring under every burden which imagination can conceive, without money, without trade, or any possible means of procuring either. We likewise view its instructions to our Delegates in Congress, of the 18th of *January* and 21st of *May* last, as tending, in direct terms, to a breach of that confidential harmony so happily, before that, subsisting among the United Colonies, and which we, in common with every Colonist embarked in the cause of liberty, beheld as our greatest glory, and the only source of our protection. Its resolves in opposition to those in Congress of the 15th of *May*, declaring it to be necessary that the exercise of any kind of authority under the Crown of *Great Britain* should be totally suppressed, and all the powers of Government exerted under the authority of the people, we conceive to be a direct breach of the Continental Union, and to have a tendency to introduce anarchy and confusion, by setting up and continuing two separate and opposite authorities at the same time binding on the good people of this Province. We look upon the rule of voting in Convention by Counties to be dangerous, as productive of influence which may be used to rule the determinations and resolves of the House by a minority of twenty-seven members, who, in such case, may have all the effects of a majority. We consider our present mode of Government by Conventions and Committees, as insufficient to accomplish the end for which it was instituted; and dan-

gerous, so far as it unites the Legislative and Executive powers in nearly the same persons, which is the true definition of tyranny. We would by no means insinuate that the Convention hath any intention of using its power to that purpose, and hope we shall not be so understood by you; but it is proper to guard against probable evil, where the liberties of mankind are concerned. We have seen, with sorrow of heart, the King of *Great Britain* inexorably determined upon the ruin of our liberties. We view the Parliament as lost to all sense of justice and humanity, attached to, and governed by, a corrupt and wicked Ministry, who are intending the ruin of their infatuated master, or determined to make his Government absolute, and erect a tyranny over his dominions, of which they expect to have the direction. We have seen all the petitions of the Congress treated with contempt; an act of Parliament declaring our resistance against actual violence to be rebellion, excluding us from the protection of the Crown, and compelling such of the Colonists as shall be taken prisoners to fight against their country; the treaties of the King of *Great Britain* with *European* Princes, for engaging foreign mercenaries to aid the forces of that Kingdom in their attempts to subdue the *Americans*, or cut their throats; and by his answer to the Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council of the City of *London*, he manifests such a determined resolution to effect the destruction of *American* freedom, that we cannot entertain the most distant expectation of a reconciliation on reasonable terms. This being the case, we look on all lukewarm backwardness in the Convention of this Province, in the common cause of *America*, and every opposition to the resolves of Congress calculated for our safety and general security, (as we are convinced that of the 15th of *May*, above-mentioned, was,) to be of the most dangerous tendency, and that it will naturally induce the Ministry to look on this Province as friendly to their measures, and, in all probability, bring their forces among us, by which we shall have our country made the seat of war, and experience all its horrors. Possessed with these sentiments, we, in the most earnest terms, request your attention to the following Instructions, viz:

First. That you use your utmost influence that the Instructions given by Convention to our Delegates in Congress, before-mentioned, be rescinded, and that they may be instructed by the present Convention to concur and co-operate with the Delegates of the other United Colonies, in forming such further compacts between the said Colonies, concluding such treaties with foreign kingdoms, and in adopting such other measures as shall be judged necessary for promoting the liberty, safety, and interest of *America*, and defeating the schemes and machinations of our enemies, the King and Parliament and Ministry of *Great Britain*.

Second. That you use the same influence to induce the Convention to comply with the resolves of Congress of the 15th of *May* last, in exerting all the powers of Government under the authority of the people of this Province, by forming a Constitution adequate to that purpose; and in case the present Convention shall decline that task, that you promote and procure a resolve to determine their power at the end of the present session, and order an election for members to compose a new Convention for the purpose of forming such Constitution.

Third. That you use your endeavours to procure a different mode of voting in Convention; that the method may be by the members each voting separately, as was formerly practised in Assembly; that in all questions of importance, when the House divides, the yeas and nays be constantly taken, and published with the proceedings, for the information of the publick respecting the behaviour of their Representatives.

Fourth. That you use your utmost endeavours to put a stop to the executing the writs of election which we understand are already issued in the name of the Proprietary, or by the authority of the King of *Great Britain*, as no fair elections can be held, or the people legally represented, under the present circumstances of this Province, for reasons too obvious to require being mentioned.

Fifth. That you use your endeavours and influence to have the members of the Council of Safety appointed from among the Delegates in Convention only, they being persons duly elected by the people, who are the source of all power.