

not discover any more vessels than three ships and a smaller vessel, which we supposed was a tender.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

JAMES NICHOLSON.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety of Maryland.

COLONEL J. BEALL TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

May 29, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: I have delivered twenty-four barrels of powder to Lieutenant Ford. I was last Saturday at *Georgetown*; Yost then told me he expected to have the arms for *Port-Tobacco* ready by the last of this week; but have just now received a line from him informing me that the man who supplies him with bayonets and barrels has been sick, and that he cannot furnish him with those articles till the 16th of next month. I have employed two wagons to carry the powder, at three dollars a day; when they return I shall settle with them, and give orders for their pay. As soon as those arms can be had I shall employ a wagon to carry them to *Port-Tobacco*.

I am, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

JOSEPH BEALL.

To the Honourable Council of Safety of Maryland.

CAPTAIN R. BEALL TO MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

Drum Point, May 29, 1776.

SIR: I will solicit your notice. I am loath to complain, as it is highly necessary, when I have the greatest right. I looked upon it when I came to *Drum Point* everything must be provided for one part of my company. Can it be possible the Committee could make such a report? It is a fact, there is not house-room for twenty men. Can it be expected the men can encamp out among the pines without blankets or tents? Upon the whole, I must say this company, which I have the honour to command, has been greatly neglected, makes me particularly anxious. The arms that were sent to *Drum Point* are vile trash; whoever made them imposed much, and is culpable; the locks are quite useless; must say there is not eight out of twenty-nine can make any use of, as it is out of my power to repair or make these arms fit for use. I look upon it these arms have been culled and picked. Such vile work never could have been inspected. As this is the most advantageous post, hope the honourable Council will let me have twenty rifles for the station. Have not heard anything respecting our arms and ammunition, so that we stand here exposed, and remain in a most defenceless state. There was no thread came with the osnabrigs; cannot get any to make the hunting-shirts.

Dear sir, your most affectionate servant,

REZ. BEALL.

To the Honourable the Council of Safety of Maryland.

GENERAL McDONALD'S REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, AT PHILADELPHIA, MAY 29, 1776.

That he was, by a party of horsemen, upon the 28th day of February last, taken prisoner from sick quarters, eight miles from *Widow Moor's Creek*, where he lay dangerously ill, and carried to Colonel *Caswell's* camp, where General *Moore* then commanded, to whom he delivered his sword as prisoner of war, which General *Moore* was pleased to deliver back in a genteel manner before all his officers then present, according to the rules and customs of war practised in all nations; assuring him at the same time that he would be well treated, and his baggage and property delivered to him, &c. Having taken leave of General *Moore* and Colonel *Caswell*, Lieutenant-Colonel *Bryant* took him under his care; and after rumaging his baggage for papers, &c., conducted him to *Newbern*, from thence with his baggage to *Halifax*, where the Committee of Safety there thought proper to commit him to the common jail; his horses, saddles, and pistols, &c., taken from him, and never having committed any act of violence against the person or property of any man; that he remained in this jail near a month, until General *Howe* arrived there, who did him the honour to call upon him in jail; and he has reason to think that General *Howe* thought this treatment erroneous and without a precedent; that upon this representation to the Convention,

General *McDonald* was, by order of the Convention, permitted, upon parole, to the limits of the town of *Halifax*, until the 25th of April last, when he was appointed to march, with the other gentlemen prisoners, escorted from the jail there to this place. General *McDonald* would wish to know what crime he has since been guilty of, deserving his being recommitted to the jail of *Philadelphia*, without his bedding or baggage, and his sword and his servant detained from him.

The other gentlemen prisoners are in great want for their blankets and other necessities. DONALD McDONALD.

NORTHAMPTON (PENNSYLVANIA) ASSOCIATORS.

At a meeting of the Associators of the Fourth Battalion in *Northampton County*, held at the house of Major *Benjamin Van Campen*, the 29th day of May, 1776:

Colonel *Jacob Stroud* informed the said Associators the occasion of the meeting, &c.

Whereupon *Nicholas Dupui*, Esq., was appointed to and seated in the chair, and was moved that the Resolve of Congress of the 15th instant, be read; whereupon it was read, &c. The people, in testimony of their warmest approbation, gave three cheers, &c.

Moved, That the Instructions given by the House of Assembly to their Delegates in Congress, be read; and the same were read accordingly, &c.

Upon motion, Resolved, unanimously, That it is the opinion of this meeting that the said Instructions have a dangerous tendency to withdraw this Province from the happy union with the other Colonies, which we consider both as our glory and protection.

On motion, Resolved, unanimously, That the present House of Assembly was not elected for the purpose of forming a new Government.

On motion, Resolved, unanimously, That the present House of Assembly, not having the authority of the people for that purpose, cannot proceed thereon without assuming arbitrary power.

It being moved, and the question put, Whether the present Government is competent to the exigencies of our affairs; the same was carried in the negative unanimously.

Resolved, unanimously, That a Provincial Convention ought to be chosen by the people for the express purpose of carrying the said Resolve of Congress into execution.

Resolved, unanimously, That the Chairman be directed to sign these Resolves on behalf of this present Assembly.

Resolved, unanimously, That we will support the measures now adopted at all hazards, be the consequences what they may.

The meeting was conducted with the utmost decorum and harmony.

NICHOLAS DUPUI, Chairman.

To the Honourable the Representatives of the Province of NEW-YORK, in Provincial Congress convened.

The humble Address of the General Committee of Mechanics in union, of the City and County of NEW-YORK, in behalf of themselves and their constituents:

GENTLEMEN: We, as a part of your constituents, and devoted friends to our bleeding country, beg leave, in a dutiful manner, at this time to approach unto you, our Representatives, and request your kind attention to this our humble address.

When we cast a glance upon our beloved continent, where fair freedom, civil and religious, we have long enjoyed, whose fruitful fields have made the world glad, and whose trade has filled with plenty of all things, sorrow fills our hearts to behold her now struggling under the heavy load of oppression, tyranny, and death. But when we extend our sight a little farther, and view the iron hand that is lifted up against us, behold it is our King; he who, by his oath and station, is bound to support and defend us in the quiet enjoyment of all our glorious rights as freemen, and whose dominions have been supported and made rich by our commerce. Shall we any longer sit silent, and contentedly continue the subjects of such a Prince, who is deaf to our petitions for interposing his Royal authority in our behalf, and for redressing our grievances, but, on the contrary, seems to take pleasure in our destruction? When we see that one whole year is not enough to satisfy the rage of a cruel Ministry, in burning our

towns, seizing our vessels, and murdering our precious sons of liberty; making weeping widows for the loss of those who were dearer to them than life, and helpless orphans to bemoan the death of an affectionate father; but who are still carrying on the same bloody pursuit; and for no other reason than this, that we will not become their slaves, and be taxed by them without our consent,—therefore, as we would rather choose to separate from, than to continue any longer in connection with such oppressors, We, the Committee of Mechanics in union, do, for ourselves and our constituents, hereby publicly declare that, should you, gentlemen of our honourable Provincial Congress, think proper to instruct our most honourable Delegates in Continental Congress to use their utmost endeavours in that august assembly to cause these United Colonies to become independent of *Great Britain*, it would give us the highest satisfaction; and we hereby sincerely promise to endeavour to support the same with our lives and fortunes.

Signed by order of the Committee:

LEWIS THIBOU, *Chairman.*

Mechanic-Hall, New-York, May 29, 1776.

ANSWER OF THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

In Provincial Congress, New-York, June 4, 1776.

SIR: We consider the mechanics in union, as a voluntary association of a number of the inhabitants of this city, who are warmly attached to the cause of liberty. We flatter ourselves, however, that neither that association, nor their Committee, claim any authority whatsoever in the publick transactions of the present times; but that, on the contrary, they will ever be ready to submit to that constitutional authority which, by a free election, has been vested in Congress and Committees. This Congress is at all times ready and willing to attend to every request of their constituents, or of any part of them. We are of opinion that the Continental Congress alone have that enlarged view of our political circumstances, which will enable them to decide upon those measures which are necessary for the general welfare. We therefore cannot presume to instruct the Delegates of this Colony on the momentous question to which your address refers, until we are informed that it is brought before the Continental Congress, and the sense of this Colony be required through this Congress.

By order:

NATHANIEL WOODHULL, *President.*

To Mr. Lewis Thibou.

*Petition of THOMAS LOOSLEY and THOMAS ELMS, Paper-makers.*

*To the Honourable Congress of the Province of NEW-YORK.*

GENTLEMEN: Whereas, by the rules and orders lately published by your honourable House for regulating the Militia of this Colony, which rules and orders, from our particular circumstances, being unable to comply with, we have been subjected to several fines, which we have paid for non-attendance on the days appointed for publick exercise, and are, according to the said rules and orders, still liable to the penalty of being advertised and held up as enemies to the country, though we have ever been hearty friends to it, and are constantly labouring to the utmost of our abilities, in our profession, to promote its interests, as well as our own, by carrying on, and perfecting, a most useful manufactory to supply the country with an important and absolutely necessary article, for which great sums used annually to be sent abroad; and as in these times of general difficulty this honourable House has shown a particular attention to the encouragement of useful arts and manufactures, among which paper making is a very considerable one,—we humbly hope your Honours will take our case into consideration, and not only grant us an exemption from the impending penalty before-mentioned, but relieve us from the severity of the fines to which we at present stand liable; though we do not desire to be wholly excused from contributing to the publick expense, in the necessary defence of the country, against the invaders of our common rights and liberty.

We humbly beg leave to represent, that we were regularly bred in *England* to the business of paper making, which we understand in all its branches, and have carried to higher degrees of perfection than ever it arrived before

in *America*, where we have been the means of increasing the number of paper mills, improving their construction, and moderating the price of paper. But the work being carried on at great expense, (no less than twenty shillings per day for rent, and a number of hands, who require our constant oversight and direction,) we could not attend the forementioned military exercises but at an excessive disadvantage and expense; which would certainly either ruin the business, or oblige us to discontinue it; for the rent would still go on, and the water run to waste; the workmen left to themselves, might neglect or spoil the work; disorder and habits of idleness take place, and effectually put an end to that attention, care, industry, and frugality, that are absolutely necessary to give success to this business. Nor could it have been in our power to supply you, gentlemen, with the paper for the Provincial money, nor the printers, with whom we have contracted, with the quantities necessary for their weekly publications, which will not admit of disappointment.

For the foregoing reasons, gentlemen, we hope you will grant our request, especially in an exemption from military service, for which we are no way qualified, nor provided with arms. But though we cannot be serviceable in a military capacity, we hope in the business of our profession we may prove ourselves useful members of society, and that therefore a service will not be insisted on that would oblige us to drop our business and quit the place.

We are, gentlemen, your most obedient servants,

CHARLES LOOSLEY.

THOMAS ELMS.

New-York, May 29, 1776.

LIEUTENANT HOLIDAY TO GENERAL GREENE.

Far Rockaway, May 29, 1776.

SIR: I send you three prisoners, whose testimony, and the circumstances against them, give me the strongest reason to believe they came for a supply of provisions, or some other necessities for the enemy.

Last *Sunday*, we saw them come with a sloop from the west and go toward the east end of the Island. I sent a Sergeant and twelve men after them, to take them if they came in any of the inlets. About fourteen miles to the eastward they came in sight of the sloop, where she was anchored, and they got boats and went in to where the boat lay, and took these prisoners and seven firelocks, which the prisoners say belong to men that left them *Sunday* evening, which I suppose to be after loading for the sloop.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

JOHN HOLIDAY, *Lieutenant.*

To General Greene, *Brooklyn.*

*The Examination of three Prisoners, taken near against SILAS CARMAN's, at OYSTER-BAY, south, and their Sloop. (Seven men they set ashore the night before, and which they give but little account of.)*

1. *Nathan Gyer*, inhabitant at *Blue-Point*, upon his examination says: He set off with his sloop and carried with him about twelve bushels of clams, about a week ago, and went to the *Jerseys*, and passed the man-of-war in the night without being stopped; he made a harbour, came to an anchor, sold his clams to the *Jersey* people, as he supposed, and took in seven passengers, as they came aboard of him at different times, some in the day and some in the night, in small crafts; they paid him their passage when he set them ashore in *Oyster-Bay*, south, at *Fort-Neck Point*; they left five guns with him; but the persons' names he don't remember, except two, one was *Umpstad*, the other *Platt*, both from *New-England*—*Umpstad*, a tailor by trade, from *Litchfield*. The said *Gyer* says his design was, when he set out from *Blue-Point*, to go round to *New-England* to collect some debts; but when he came to *Jersey*, he understood that at *New-York* they took all the boats that passed, and for that reason he returned back to go home, and took in these seven passengers.

2. *Lazareth Gyer* (son to the first) says: Twenty or thirty bushels of clams, and that the man-of-war barge hailed them and brought them to; took about a peck of their clams. The passengers, which they took aboard and set ashore, came aboard all together in one boat in the daytime; he knew none of them except one they called *Patcher*, a tailor by trade; but