

at which time we shall be glad to see as many of you as can be spared from Congress.

We request you will make the inquiry directed by the enclosed resolve of our late Convention, and transmit us an account of the standard proof of cannon as early as possible. Our guns are nine and eighteen-pounders.

We are, &c.

To the Deputies for *Maryland* in Congress.

MARYLAND COUNCIL OF SAFETY TO PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

[No. 21.]

Annapolis, June 10, 1776.

SIR: Your favour of the 4th instant, enclosing resolves of the honourable Congress, we received to-day at one o'clock.

Our authority not being competent to order the marching of our Militia out of the Province, we have called a meeting of our Convention, to be held at the City of *Annapolis*, on the 20th of this month, at which time we shall lay your letter, with the resolves, before them.

We are sorry for the reverse our affairs have lately met with in *Canada*; but trusting in the justice of our cause, and the active spirit of our countrymen, we hope matters will soon wear a different aspect in that quarter.

Be assured, sir, of our utmost exertions at this critical crisis to prevent the impending calamities which threaten this Continent, and that the Province of *Maryland* will continue to act with firmness in the common cause, until peace may be happily restored. We are, &c.

To the Honourable *John Hancock*, Esq., President of the Congress.

SECRET COMMITTEE TO WILLIAM BINGHAM.

Philadelphia, June 10, 1776.

SIR: We are sorry for your disappointment of the sloop *Hornet*; but in consequence thereof we have procured an order to despatch the ship *Reprisal*, Captain *Lambert Wickes*; and herewith we send you the letters and orders for Captain *Wickes* and Captain *Hallock*, which they will comply with; and you will consequently take your passage for *Martinico*, on board the *Reprisal*, Captain *Wickes*; and hoping for a speedy and safe passage, and for a successful issue to the business you are charged with, we remain, sir, your humble servants,

BENJAMIN HARRISON,
JOHN DICKINSON,
ROBERT MORRIS.

To *William Bingham*, Esq.

SECRET COMMITTEE TO CAPTAIN WICKES.

Philadelphia, June 10, 1776.

SIR: We have received your letter of the 6th, and approve your proceedings as therein represented; and as you seem very desirous to make a cruise, we have this day agreed to give up the direction of the ship *Reprisal* to a Committee of Congress, styled the Committee of Secret Correspondence. The members are *Benjamin Harrison*, *Benjamin Franklin*, *John Jay*, *John Dickinson*, *Thomas Johnston*, and *Robert Morris*, Esqs.; any three of them are a quorum.

This Committee are directed to despatch one of our cruisers to the *West-Indies*; and we understand they have already given the needful orders to Captain *William Hallock*, of the sloop *Hornet*, from whom we have just received advice that said sloop is leaky and unfit to proceed on that voyage; for this reason your ship is assigned for that service, and you are hereby directed to receive from Captain *Hallock* the letters and orders of said Committee. Consider them as directed to yourself, and obey them in every particular. We hope this voyage will afford you an opportunity of rendering essential service to your country, and that you will bring us back a parcel of fine seamen, and a number of good prizes.

A supply of stores will be sent you by the *Wasp*; and we are, sir, your humble servants,

JOHN HANCOCK, JOSEPH HEWES,
RICHARD HENRY LEE, GEORGE READ,
STEPHEN HOPKINS, WILLIAM WHIPPLE.
JONATHAN SERGEANT,

To Captain *Lambert Wickes*.

MRS. CONNOLLY TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

June 10, 1776.

SIR: As I expected from the nature of your letter to me that before now I should have been permitted to return home, I patiently waited your further orders; but finding no appearance answerable to my expectation, and unconscious of having done anything to merit a detention here from an only child, at an expense very enormous, I must request the liberty of returning on next *Monday*. I am ready to submit to any examination, or to come under any restriction you may judge necessary; but if I do not hear from you before that time, I shall conclude that I have your permission, and depart accordingly.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

SUKEY CONNOLLY.

Philadelphia, June 10, 1776.

At a meeting of the First and Second Battalions* of this City, present one thousand men, the following questions were proposed and carried, with only twenty-four dissentients in the First, and two in the Second Battalion, viz:

"Whether they will support the Resolves of Congress of the 15th ultimo, and the Proceedings of the publick meeting held the 20th following, in consequence thereof?"

"Is it the determined resolution of this Corps to support the proceedings of the publick meeting aforesaid, at all hazards?"

At a meeting of the Associators of the Fourth Battalion of the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia*, on the usual place of parade, in consequence of notice given to them on the 6th instant that their sense respecting a new Government of this Province, and the mode proposed for obtaining it, &c., would this day be freely taken,

Present: The Officers and Privates of nine Companies.

The Colonel, *Thomas McKean*, informed them that since he had proposed this meeting for the above, among other purposes, he had been waited upon with the following Resolution of the Committee of Privates of the five Battalions:

"In Committee of Privates, June 6, 1776.

"Moved, and unanimously agreed to, That an application be made to the Officers of the several Battalions to take the sense of each Battalion, whether they will support the Resolve of Congress of the 15th ultimo, and the Proceedings of the publick meeting held the 20th following, in consequence thereof?"

"A true copy: JAMES CANNON, Clerk."

He said that he was happy to find that his own idea of the propriety of this measure was supported by so respectable a body as the Committee of Privates.

The Resolve of Congress of the 15th ultimo, was then read, and the Proceedings of the publick meeting in the State-House yard on the 20th of the same month. And thereupon the questions were severally put:

Is it the determined resolution of this Corps to support the said Resolve of Congress with their lives and fortunes?

Carried unanimously in the affirmative.

Is it the determined resolution of this Corps to support the Proceedings of the publick meeting aforesaid, at all hazards?

Carried unanimously in the affirmative.

After which the Colonel proposed another question to them, viz:

Whether they wished the Province of *Pennsylvania* to be a free and independent State, and united with the other twelve Colonies represented in Congress?

Carried unanimously in the affirmative.

No arguments or persuasions were urged for or against the above propositions, and all present, amounting to up-

*The Lieutenant-Colonel of the Third Battalion refusing to put the question, gave great umbrage to the men, one of whom replied to him in a genteel spirited manner: "How our Delegates in Congress may act we know not, though we have a right to know, and intend to promote an inquiry for that purpose. The Counties, such as we have heard from, are for a Convention. The Committee of *Bucks* County have appointed Deputies to the Conference to be held in this city on the 18th instant." Take heed, Tories, you are at your last gasp! You have had many warnings, and many kind invitations!

wards of four hundred, showed their hearty approbation of the whole transaction by three huzzas.

Signed by order of the Battalion :

THOMAS McKEAN, Colonel.

At a meeting of the Associators of the Fifth Battalion of the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia*, on the usual place of parade, in consequence of notice given to them on the 6th instant that their sense respecting a new Government of this Province, and the mode proposed for obtaining it, &c., would this day be freely taken,

The Colonel, *Timothy Matlack*, informed them that since he had proposed this meeting for the above, among other purposes, he had been waited upon with the following Resolution of the Committee of Privates of the five Battalions :

"In Committee of Privates, June 6, 1776.

"Moved, and unanimously agreed to, That an application be made to the Officers of the several Battalions to take the sense of each Battalion, whether they will support the Resolve of Congress of the 15th ultimo, and the Proceedings of the publick meeting held the 20th following, in consequence thereof.

"A true copy : JAMES CANNON, Clerk."

He said he was happy to find that his own idea of the propriety of this measure was supported by so respectable a body as the Committee of Privates.

The Resolve of Congress of the 15th ultimo, was then read, and the Proceedings of the publick meeting in the State-House yard on the 20th of the same month. And thereupon the questions were severally put :

Is it the determined resolution of this Corps to support the said Resolve of Congress with their lives and fortunes ?

Carried unanimously in the affirmative.

Is it the determined resolution of this Corps to support the Proceedings of the publick meeting aforesaid, at all hazards ?

Carried unanimously in the affirmative.

After which the Colonel proposed another question to them, viz :

Whether they wished the Province of *Pennsylvania* to be a free and independent State, and united with the other twelve Colonies represented in Congress ?

Carried unanimously in the affirmative.

No arguments or persuasions were urged for or against the above propositions, and all present showed their hearty approbation of the whole transaction by three huzzas.

Signed by order of the Battalion :

TIMOTHY MATLACK, Colonel.

At a meeting of the Associators of the First Battalion of *Chester* County, on the 10th of this instant, Colonel *Moore* in the Chair, the following Resolutions were unanimously agreed upon, viz :

That whereas the King and Parliament of *Great Britain* have asserted their right to bind the Colonies in all cases whatsoever, and, by a late act of Parliament, declared the colonists Rebels, and consequently have cut them off from the protection of that Crown ; have levied a cruel and bloody war against us, by calling in to their assistance many thousands of foreign mercenaries, so that we must either submit to the most ignominious slavery, or vindicate our liberties at the risk of our lives :

Resolved, That we will exert our most strenuous efforts to support and strengthen the Continental Union, and in a particular manner to carry into execution, to the utmost of our power, the Resolve of the honourable the Continental Congress, bearing date *May* 15, 1776.

Resolved, That the Instructions given by our Assembly last fall, and renewed in the spring to our Delegates, are of the most dangerous tendency, and are calculated to break an important middle link in the grand Continental chain of Union.

Resolved, That some alterations in new-modelling the Government to suit the present exigency of our affairs, are necessary.

Resolved, That the present House of Assembly, as they were chosen for the sole purpose of executing the old—not

framing a new Constitution—have no authority to make the necessary alterations, without assuming arbitrary power.

Resolved, That we most heartily concur with the Committee of Inspection of the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia*, in calling a Conference of the several County Committees of this Province, to be held on the 18th of this instant, at *Philadelphia*, for the purpose of deliberating on the most proper measures for choosing a Provincial Convention for the purpose of new-modelling the Constitution.

Resolved, That the Remonstrance said to be signed by a number of the inhabitants of the City of *Philadelphia*, and a Petition to the Assembly, signed *W. Hamilton*, are calculated to inflame the minds of the good people of this Province, to sow dissensions, and strike at the liberties of the people.

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

At a meeting of the *Elk* Battalion Militia of *Chester* County, under the command of Colonel *William Montgomery*, the following Resolves were agreed to, and signed by six hundred and sixty men :

Whereas the King, Ministry and Parliament of *Great Britain*, have declared their right of making laws to bind the inhabitants of these Colonies in all cases whatsoever, and have enacted a variety of laws destructive of our liberty, have levied war against us, cruelly destroyed many of our countrymen, declared these Colonies in a state of rebellion, and have employed foreign troops for the express purpose of subjugating and enslaving us :

Therefore, *Resolved*, That we, from a full persuasion that all hopes of a reconciliation between *Great Britain* and these Colonies are at an end, do think ourselves bound, in conjunction with the other Colonies, solemnly to declare ourselves independent of *Great Britain*. And we are of opinion that the whole power of these Colonies ought to be exerted in support of the unalienable rights of freemen.

Resolved, That we will use our utmost endeavour to support the union of the Colonies.

Resolved, That proper measures be adopted for carrying into execution the Resolve of the honourable Congress, dated the 15th of *May*.

Resolved, That some alterations in the Constitution of this Province are absolutely necessary.

Resolved, That no body of men elected for the purpose of legislation only, have the least right to alter one iota of the Constitution, without powers delegated from the people for that purpose.

Resolved, That the present House of Assembly being elected for the sole purpose of legislation, are therefore unqualified to make the necessary alterations.

Resolved, therefore, That a Conference of the several County Committees of this Province ought to be held, for the purpose of consulting on measures necessary for carrying said Resolve of Congress into execution.

Resolved, That our liberties are dearer to us than our lives, and we will spend the last drop of our blood in defence of them.

Signed by order. A true copy :

JOSEPH GARDNER, Clerk.

The Associators of Colonel *James Crawford's* Battalion being convened on the 10th instant at the place of their parade in *Leacock* Township, *Lancaster* County, it was moved to read to them the Resolve of the honourable Continental Congress of the 15th of *May*, the Protest of divers of the inhabitants of this Province of the 20th of *May*, the Alarm, the Circular Letter from the Committee of Privates of the City and Liberties of *Philadelphia*, and the Instructions given by the Assembly of this Province to their Delegates in Congress.

The same were accordingly read ; upon which the Battalion formed the following Resolutions :

Resolved, unanimously, That the Instructions given by the Assembly to their Delegates in Congress have operated against the honour, interest, and safety of this Colony, and are very injurious to the *American* cause in general.

Resolved, unanimously, That it is from the influence of those Instructions that many of the people have viewed