

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

their rights and liberties as inseparably blended with the present Constitution.

Resolved, unanimously, That while Delegates to represent this Province are chosen by the Assembly, and fettered by their Instructions, we neither have nor can have that representation in Congress we desire and ought to have.

Resolved, unanimously, That it is the opinion of this Battalion, that the Delegates of this Province chosen and instructed as they are, can only be a sinking weight added to the many unavoidable and heavy burdens of that respectable body of which they are members.

Resolved, unanimously, That the liberties of *Pennsylvania*, while in the tenure of the present Government, are only nominal and precarious.

Resolved, unanimously, That a Government competent to the exigencies of our affairs ought to be immediately framed by a Convention appointed for that purpose.

Resolved, unanimously, That we most cheerfully adopt the measures recommended in the Resolve of Congress, in the Protest, the Alarm, and the Circular Letter, which have been read, and are determined to support them, be the consequences what they may.

Resolved, unanimously, That as we fully approve of their resolution, so we most heartily thank the patriotic Committee of this County for appointing a number of their members to meet the 18th instant at *Philadelphia*, with members appointed by the Committees of the other Counties, to hold a Provincial Conference, for the express purpose of determining the number of which the Convention for forming a new Government shall consist, together with the mode of electing them.

After the above Resolves were deliberately read and approved, the Battalion, as a further testimony of their hearty approbation of the measures adopted, gave three cheers.

The whole was conducted with the greatest decorum.

Unanimously agreed, That the above be signed, on behalf of the Battalion, by

JOHN WHITEHILL.

Leacock, June 10, 1776.

JOSEPH HART TO PHILADELPHIA COMMITTEE.

In Committee, Bucks County, June 10, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: Your favour of 21st of May was duly delivered to us by Messrs. *Jones* and *Watkins*, in which you were pleased to recommend to us to choose a certain number out of our Committee, to meet Deputies from the other County Committees of this Province on the 18th instant, in Provincial Conference, to agree upon and direct the mode for electing members for a Provincial Convention. But as the matters involved in the said recommendation were of so great consequence to the well-being of this Province, they thought it prudent to adjourn the determination of it to this day, when they again met, and chose *Joseph Hart*, *John Kidd*, *James Wallace*, *Benjamin Seigle*, and *Henry Wynkoop*, or any three of them, to represent this County at the aforesaid meeting. And we heartily wish that happiness and glory may attend it.

By order of the Committee.

I am, gentlemen, your very humble servant,

JOSEPH HART, *Chairman*.

TO THE COMMON PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

It is remarkable that the Tories in every Colony have affected to differ from the Whigs only in small matters. Thus, in *Massachusetts-Bay* the Tories pretended to believe, with the Whigs, that *Great Britain* could not tax us without our consent; but, at the same time, insisted upon her supreme legislative authority over us. In *New-York* they attempted to justify external and to reprobate internal taxes. In *Pennsylvania* they tell us to fight till we are half cut off, and never to relax any of our claims, but by no means ever to think of independence. The Tories among us tell the Whigs further, that they have changed the ground of the controversy. Have not the Tories followed them in every step except the last? Thus, when the Whigs proposed Non-Importation and Non-Exportation Agreements, the Tories urged Petitions to the King only; and when the Whigs proposed making military preparations, the Tories urged them to adhere to the Non-Importation and Non-Exportation Agreements. And now, when a Declaration of Independence

is absolutely necessary for our safety and future welfare, they tell us to rely upon our arms, and *Great Britain* will soon come down to our terms. Talk to them of the numbers and enterprising spirit of our troops, and they will tell you they are no match for the power of *Britain*. Talk to them of a foreign alliance, and they tell you that all foreign Courts are perfidious, and urge you to depend only upon yourselves. Propose Declarations of Independence in a Committee or Convention, and they will tell you that it is the business of the Congress only to make us independent. Let the Congress pass a resolve for suppressing all authority derived from the King of *Britain* in the United Colonies, and they will tell you no Congress has a right to interfere with the "domestick police" of a Colony, although this police is derived directly from the Crown. Talk to them of the necessity of instituting a Government under the authority of the people, and they will tell you that our present Government is sufficient for all the exigencies of our affairs, although all power—legislative, executive, and judicial—is lodged in one body, by which means we live under a species of Government which has always been reprobated by good men as the worst in the world. In a word, the history of mankind does not furnish a more absurd or ridiculous character than that of a Tory, or a pretended moderate man.

It is now high time, my dear countrymen, to emancipate yourselves from the delusions of such artful men. You have been told that you are unfit to have any share in the formation of a new Government; and yet you are acknowledged at the same time to compose nine-tenths of the people of *Pennsylvania*. Strange that the majority should yield to the minority in a matter of so much consequence! But your leaders, it is said, are men of no fortune. I deny the charge. In the first place, you have no leaders—you all act from the impulses of publick and not party spirit; and in the second place, you have nine-tenths of the property of *Pennsylvania* on your side the question. But you are told that you are all aiming at offices and power. Suppose this were true, you are just in your aims, for all offices and power belong solely to you, and are in your gift.

Here I cannot help making a digression from my subject. It was a custom among the *Jews*, on certain occasions, to acknowledge the origin of their families as an antidote to pride. "A *Syrian* ready to perish was my father," was the confession with which they approached the Temple. Suppose the same acknowledgment was demanded from some of our uncommon people. I believe the answer should be, a poor tradesman, a day-labourer, or a vagrant, "ready to perish, was my father." Talk not, ye pretenders to rank and gentility, of your elevated stations. They are derived from those very people whom you treat with so much contempt. Talk not of their vulgar countenances and behaviour. Their vulgarity is seated only in their manners; it occupies a higher place among yourselves—it is seated in your minds. This the profane, obscene, and trifling conversation so peculiar to high-life abundantly witnesses. Had you concurred in the present virtuous and necessary measure of instituting a new Government, you would have probably continued to occupy your posts and offices, with that additional lustre which they would have received from being the unbiased gifts of freemen; but you have now forfeited the confidence of the people by despising their authority; and you have furnished them with a suspicion that in taking up arms you yielded only to the violence of the times, or that you meant to fight for your offices, and not for your country.

A WATCHMAN.

PETITION SIGNED BY A NUMBER OF INHABITANTS OF NEW-JERSEY, AND ADDRESSED TO THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS SITTING AT BURLINGTON, JUNE, 1776.

Permit us, gentlemen, to assure you that although we daily experience and sincerely lament, in common with our fellow-subjects, inhabitants of the Colonies, the calamitous consequences of the present unhappy controversy with *Great Britain*, we cannot but think that we should ill discharge the duty we owe to our country, ourselves, our children, and posterity, if we neglected to exert ourselves, by every effort in our power, to prevent our condition, though truly deplorable, from becoming perfectly desperate; which we are convinced must necessarily be the consequence, if a total separation from, and independency of, the Government of