

rious and to introduce a system of despotism, which we cannot view, but with the utmost aversion, and to which we cannot submit, while possible to be avoided. We recommend it to you as our representative in general assembly, to use your influence to obtain redress of all our injuries; and in particular to enquire whether the support of the judges of the Superior Court, has been adequate to their services, office and station; and if not, to use your influence in obtaining suitable grants and establishments, as may be thought sufficient to remove all pretence, that government is not sufficiently supported among ourselves, which was voted unanimously. We also vote the thanks of this town, to the town of Boston, for the care and vigilance they have discovered for the rights and privileges of this province, as men, as christians, and as subjects. Voted, that the town clerk, be directed to transmit a copy of these instructions, &c. to the committee of correspondence in Boston."

DUDLEY CARLTON,
WILLIAM GREENOUGH,
BENJAMIN GAGE, JR.
THOMAS WEBSTER,
AMOS MULLIKEN.

} *Committee to
make report.*

As the difficulties between this and the mother country increased, and it had become a serious question, whether the united colonies should declare themselves independent, a meeting of the town was called "to see whether the town would advise or give Dudley Carlton, their representative, any instructions relative to the honourable congress declaring the United Colonies independent states." And the town met accordingly on the 20th of June 1776, when they appointed Thomas Webster, John Burbank, capt. Nathaniel Gage, Benjamin Muzzy, John Savory, to consult and report to the meeting, what ought to be done; which committee reported,

that they should send to their representative the following instructions, viz:

To Dudley Carlton, Esq. representative from the town of Bradford, in general assembly,

“Sir—When we consider the despotick plan of government, adopted by the king, ministry and parliament of Great Britain, to enslave these American colonies. When we consider, instead of redressing our grievances, they have turned a deaf ear to the repeated petitions and remonstrances of all the United Colonies, and have also been and are still endeavoring to enforce their arbitrary plan upon us, by spilling our blood, by burning our towns, by seizing our property and by instigating the savages of the wilderness, and the negroes to take up the cause against us. When we consider these things, it raises our indignation, that we who have always been loyal subjects to the king of Great Britain, should be so unconstitutionally and inhumanly treated; such tyrannical impositions and abuses of power, we cannot as men submit to. Therefore utterly despairing of a happy reconciliation ever taking place between Great Britain and these colonies, you are hereby desired, as our representative, to use your utmost endeavour, that our delegates in general congress be instructed to shake off the tyrannical yoke of Great Britain, and declare these United Colonies independent of that venal, corrupt and avaricious court forever, provided no proposals for a happy reconciliation be offered, which the honorable congress think proper to accept, and we hereby engage that we will, at the risk of our lives and fortunes, endeavour to defend them therein.”

Which report was accepted so far as it appears unanimously, and accordingly sent.

This town united also by unanimous vote, in the exertions which were made through this state, to procure an universal observance of an act of the state, to prevent monopoly: And at the same meeting, gave the