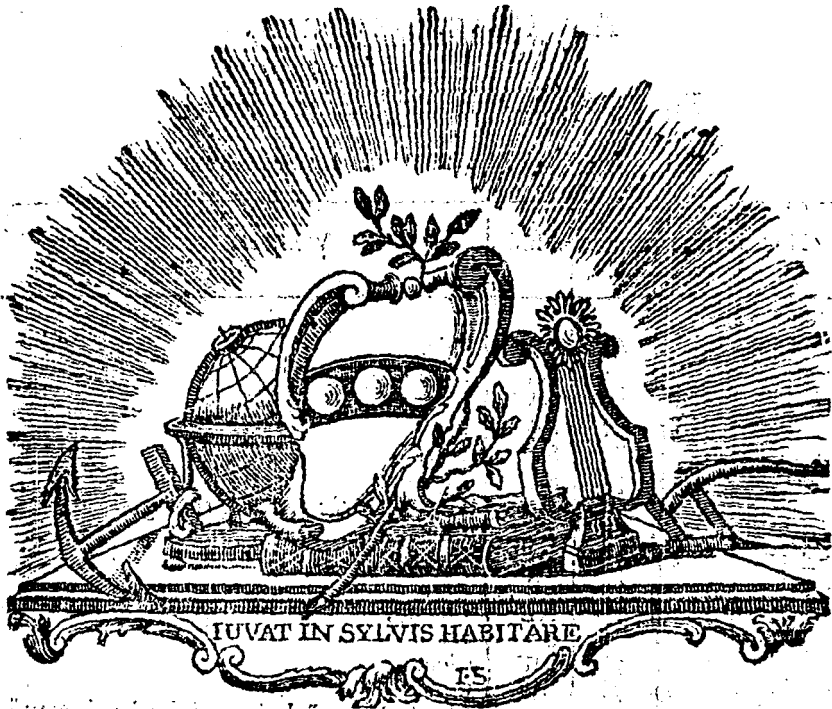


THE Pennsylvania Magazine:



O. R. AMERICAN MONTHLY MUSEUM.

FOR AUGUST 1775.

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Embellished with an exact Plan of Gen. Gage's Lines on Boston Neck, finely engraved; with an Addition of Eight Pages of Letter Press.

P H I L A D E L P H I A :

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day and hour. At all events, accept a sincere return of the assurances with which you honour me, and believe me in all personal considerations,

Affectionately yours,

J. BURGOYNE.

P. S. I obeyed your commands to Generals Howe and Clinton. I also communicated your letter and my answer to Lord Percy. They all join me in compliments, and authorise me to assure you they do the same in principles.

Gen. Lee's answer, declining the interview.

Cambridge, Head-Quarters, July 11.

GEN. Lee's compliments to Gen. Burgoyne.----Would be extremely happy in the interview he so kindly proposed. But as he perceives that Gen. Burgoyne, has already made up his mind on this great subject; and as it is impossible that he [Gen. Lee] should ever alter his opinion, he is apprehensive that the interview might create those jealousies and suspicions so natural to a people struggling in the dearest of all causes, their liberty, property, wives, children, and their future generations. He must therefore defer the happiness of embracing a man whom he most sincerely loves, until the subversion of the present tyrannical ministry and system, which he is persuaded must be in a few months, as he knows Great Britain cannot stand the contest.---He begs Gen. Burgoyne will send the letters his Aid de Camp has for him. If Gardiner is his Aid de Camp, he desires his love to him.

THE TWELVE UNITED COLONIES,
By their DELEGATES in
CONGRESS,
To the INHABITANTS of
GREAT-BRITAIN.

Friends, Countrymen, and Brethren!

BY these, and by every other appellation, that may designate the ties, which bind US to each other, we entreat your serious attention to this our second attempt, to prevent their dissolution.---Remembrance of former friendships,---pride in the glorious achievements of our common ancestors, and affection for the heirs of their virtues, have hitherto preserved our mutual connection.---But when that friendship is violated by the grossest injuries;---when the pride of ancestry becomes our reproach, and we are no otherwise allied than as tyrants and slaves, when reduced to the melancholy alternative of renouncing your favour,

or our freedom,---can we hesitate about the choice? Let the spirit of Britons determine.

In a former address, we asserted our rights, and stated the injuries we had then received. We hoped, that the mention of our wrongs, would have roused that honest indignation, which has slept too long for your honour, or the welfare of the empire.---But we have not been permitted to entertain this pleasing expectation;---every day brought an accumulation of injuries, and the invention of the ministry has been constantly exercised, in adding to the calamities of your American brethren.

After the most valuable right of legislation was infringed,---when the powers, assumed by your parliament, in which we are not represented, and from our local and other circumstances, cannot properly be represented, rendered our property precarious.---After being denied that mode of trial to which we have so long been indebted for the safety of our persons, and the preservation of our liberties;---after being in many instances divested of those laws, which were transmitted to US, by our common ancestors, and subjected to an arbitrary code, compiled under the auspices of Roman tyrants; after annulling those charters, which encouraged our predecessors to brave death and danger in every shape, on unknown seas, in deserts unexplored, amidst barbarous and inhospitable nations!---When, without the form of trial, without a public accusation, whole colonies were condemned!---their trade destroyed; their inhabitants impoverished.---When soldiers were encouraged to embroil their hands in the blood of Americans, by offers of impunity;---when new modes of trial were instituted for the ruin of the accused, where the charge carried with it the horrors of conviction;---when a despotic government was established in a neighbouring province, and its limits extended to every of our frontiers; we little imagined that anything could be added to this black catalogue of unprovoked injuries;---but we have unhappily been deceived; and the late measures of the British ministry fully convince us, that their object is the reduction of these colonies to slavery and ruin.

To confirm this assertion, let us recal your attention to the affairs of America, since our last address;---let us combat the calumnies of our enemies,---and let us warn you of the dangers that threaten you, in our destruction. Many of your
fellow-

fellow-subjects, whose situation deprived them of other support, drew their maintenance from the sea; but the deprivation of our liberty being insufficient to satisfy the resentment of our enemies, the horrors of famine were superadded and a British parliament, who, in better times were the protectors of innocence and patrons of humanity, have, without distinction of age or sex, robbed thousands of the food, which they were accustomed to draw from that inexhaustible source, placed in their neighbourhood by the benevolent Creator.

Another act of your legislature shuts our ports and prohibits our trade with any but those States, from whom the great law of self-preservation renders it absolutely necessary we should at present withhold our commerce.---But this act (whatever may have been its design) we consider rather as injurious to your opulence, than our interest.---All our commerce terminates with you;---and the wealth we procure from other nations, is soon exchanged for your superfluities.---Our remittances, must then cease with our trade; and our refinements, with our affluence.---We trust however, that laws which deprive us of every blessing, but a foil that teems with the necessaries of life, and that liberty which renders the enjoyment of them secure, will not relax our vigour in their defence.

We might here observe on the cruelty and inconsistency of those, who, while they publicly brand us with reproachful and unworthy epithets, endeavouring to deprive us of the means of defence, by their interposition with foreign powers, and to deliver us to the lawless ravages of a merciless soldiery. But happily we are not without resources; and tho' the timid and humiliating application of a British ministry should prevail with foreign nations, yet industry, prompted by necessity, will not leave us without the necessary supplies.

We could wish to go no further---and, not to wound the ear of humanity, leave untold those rigorous acts of oppression which are daily exercised in the town of Boston, did we not hope, that, by disclaiming their deeds, and punishing the perpetrators, you would shortly vindicate the honour of the British name, and re-establish the violated laws of justice.

That once populous, flourishing and commercial town is now garrisoned by an army sent, not to protect, but to enslave its inhabitants.---The civil government is overturned, and a military despotism erected upon its ruins.---Without law,

without right, powers are assumed unknown to the constitution.---Private property is unjustly invaded.---The inhabitants daily subjected to the licentiousness of the soldiery, are forbid to remove, in defiance of their natural rights, in violation of the most solemn compacts.---Or if after long and wearisome solicitation, a pass is procured, their effects are detained, and even those who are most favoured, have no alternative, but poverty or slavery. The distress of many thousand people, wantonly deprived of the necessaries of life, is a subject on which we would not wish to enlarge.

Yet we cannot but observe, that a British fleet (unjustified even by acts of your legislature,) are daily employed in ruining our commerce, seizing our ships, and depriving whole communities of their daily bread. Nor will a regard for your honour, permit us to be silent, while British troops sully your glory, by actions which the most inveterate enmity will not palliate among civilized nations; the wanton and unnecessary destruction of Charlestown, a large ancient, and once populous town, just before deserted by its inhabitants, who had fled to avoid the fury of your soldiery.

If you still retain those sentiments of compassion by which Britons have ever been distinguished.---If the humanity which tempered the valour of our common ancestors, has not degenerated into cruelty, you will lament the miseries of their descendants.

To what are we to attribute this treatment? If to any secret principle of the constitution, let it be mentioned---let us learn that the government we have long revered, is not without its defects; and that while it gives freedom to a part, it necessarily enslaves the remainder of the empire. If such a principle exists, why for ages has it ceased to operate? Why at this time is it called into action? Can no reason be assigned for this conduct? Or must it be resolved into the wanton exercise of arbitrary power? And shall the descendants of Britons, tamely submit to this---No Sirs! We never will, while we reverse the memory of our gallant and virtuous ancestors, we never can surrender those glorious privileges, for which they fought, bled, and conquered. Admit that your fleets could destroy our towns, and ravage our sea-coasts;---these are inconsiderable objects, things of no moment, to men whose bosoms glow with the ardor of liberty.---We can retire beyond the reach of your navy, and without any sensible diminution of the necessaries

of life, enjoy a luxury, which from that period, you will want; the luxury of being free.

We know the force of your arms, and was it called forth in the cause of justice and your country, we might dread the exertion.—But will Britons fight under the banners of tyranny? Will they counteract the labours, and disgrace the victories of their ancestors? Will they forge chains for their posterity? If they descend to this unworthy task, will their swords retain their edge, their arms their accustomed vigour?—Britons can never become the instruments of oppression, till they lose the spirit of freedom, by which alone they are invincible.

Our enemies charge us with sedition; In what does it consist? In our refusal to submit to unwarrantable acts of injustice and cruelty? If so, shew us a period in your history, in which you have not been equally seditious?

We are accused of aiming at independence; but how is this accusation supported? By the allegations of your ministers, not by our actions.—Abused, insulted, and contemned, what steps have we pursued to obtain redress? We have carried our dutiful petitions to the throne;—we have applied to your justice for relief, we have retrenched our luxury and withheld our trade.

The advantages of our commerce were designed as a compensation for your protection: When you ceased to protect, for what were we to compensate?

What has been the success of our endeavours? The clemency of our sovereign is unhappily diverted; our petitions are treated with indignity; our prayers answered by insults. Our application to you remains unnoticed, and leaves us the melancholly apprehension, of your wanting either the will, or the powers, to assist us.

Even under these circumstances, what measures have we taken that betray a desire of independence? Have we called in the aid of those foreign powers, who are the rivals of your grandeur? When your troops were few and defenceless, did we take advantage of their distress and expel them our towns? Or have we permitted them to fortify, to receive new aid and to acquire additional strength?

Let not your enemies and ours persuade you, that in this we are influenced by fear or any other unworthy motive. The lives of Britons are still dear to us.—They are the children of our parents, an uninterrupted intercourse of mutual benefits had knit the bonds of friendship.—When

hostilities were commenced, when on a late occasion we were wantonly attacked by your troops, though we repelled their assaults, and returned their blows, yet we lamented the wounds they obliged us to give; nor have we yet learned to rejoice at a victory over Englishmen,

As we wish not to colour our actions, or disguise our thoughts; we shall, in the simple language of truth, avow the measures we have pursued, the motives upon which we have acted, and our future designs.

When our late petition to the throne produced no other effect than fresh injuries, and votes of your legislature, calculated to justify every severity; when your fleets, and your armies, were prepared to wrest from us our property, to rob us of our liberties or our lives; when the hostile attempts of General Gage evinced his designs, we levied armies for our security and defence; when the powers vested in the governor of Canada, gave us reason to apprehend danger from that quarter; and we had frequent intimations, that a cruel, and savage enemy, was to be let loose upon the defenceless inhabitants of our frontiers; we took such measures as prudence dictated, as necessity will justify. We possessed ourselves of Crown-Point and Ticonderoga. Yet give us leave, most solemnly to assure you that we have not lost sight of the object we have ever had in view; a reconciliation with you on constitutional principles; and a restoration of that friendly intercourse, which, to the advantage of both, we till lately maintained.

The inhabitants of this country apply themselves chiefly to agriculture and commerce.—As their fashions and manners are similar to yours; your markets must afford them the conveniences and luxuries for which they exchanged the produce of their labours. The wealth of this extended continent centres with you; and our trade is so regulated as to be subservient, only to your interest. You are too reasonable to expect that by taxes (in addition to this) we should contribute to your expence, to believe after diverting the fountain that the streams can flow with unabated force.

It has been said that we refuse to submit to the restrictions on our commerce. From whence is this inference drawn? Not from our words, we having repeatedly declared the contrary, and we again profess our submission to the several acts of trade and navigation passed before the year 1763, trusting nevertheless in the equity and justice of Parliament, that such

such of them as upon cool and impartial consideration, shall appear to have imposed unnecessary or grievous restrictions, will at some happier period, be repealed or altered. And we cheerfully consent to the operation of such acts of the British parliament as shall be restrained to the regulation of our external commerce for the purpose of securing the commercial advantages of the whole empire to the Mother-country, and the commercial benefits of its respective members, excluding every idea of taxation internal or external, for raising a revenue on the subjects in America without their consent.

It is alledged that we contribute nothing to the common defence, to this we answer that the advantages which Great-Britain receives from the monopoly of our trade, far exceeds our proportion of the expence necessary for that purpose. But should these advantages be inadequate thereto, let the restriction of our trade be removed, and we will cheerfully contribute such proportion when constitutionally required.

It is a fundamental principle of the British constitution, that every man should have at least a representative share in the formation of those laws by which he is bound. Were it otherwise, the regulation of our internal police by a British parliament, who are, and ever will be unacquainted with our local circumstances, must be always inconvenient, and frequently oppressive, working our wrong, without yielding any possible advantage to you.

A plan of accomodation (as it has been absurdly called) has been proposed by your ministers to our respective Assemblies. Were this proposal free from every other objection, but that which arises from the time of the offer, it would not be unexceptionable. Can men deliberate with the bayonet at their breast? Can they treat with freedom, while their towns are sacked; when daily instances of injustice and oppression, disturb the slower operations of reason?

If this proposal is really such as you should offer, and we accept, why was it delayed till the nation was put to useless expence, and we were reduced to our present melancholly situation?—If it holds forth nothing, why was it proposed. Unless in deed to decieve you in a belief that we were unwilling to listen to any terms of accomodation: But what is submitted to our consideration? we contend for the disposal of our property; we are told that our demand is unreasonable, that our Assemblies may indeed col-

lect our money, but that they must at the same time offer; not what you exigencies, or ours, may require; but so much: shall be deemed sufficient to satisfy the desires of a minister and enable him to provide for favorites and dependents. (A recurrence to your own treasury will convince you how little of the money already extorted from us has been applied to the relief of your burthens.) To suppose that we would thus grasp the shadow, and give up the substance, is adding insult to injuries.

We have nevertheless again presented an humble and dutiful Petition to our Sovereign; and to remove every imputation of obstinacy, have requested his Majesty to direct some mode, by which the united applications of his faithful colonists may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation. We are willing to treat on such terms as can alone render an accommodation lasting, and we flatter ourselves, that our pacific endeavours will be attended with a removal of the troops, a repeal of those laws, of the operation of which we complain on the one part, and a dissolution of our army and commercial associations on the other.

Yet conclude not from this, that we propose to surrender our property into the hands of your ministry, or vest your parliament with a power which may terminate in our destruction. The great bulwarks of our constitution we have desired to maintain by every temperate by every peaceable means; but your ministers (equal foes to British and American freedom,) have added to their former oppressions, an attempt to reduce us by the sword to a base and abject submission. On the sword therefore we are compelled to rely for protection.—Should victory declare in your favour, yet men trained to arms from their infancy and animated by the love of liberty, will afford neither a cheap or easy conquest.—Of this at least we are assured, that our struggle will be glorious, our success certain, since even in death we shall find that freedom which in life you forbid us to enjoy.

Let us now ask what advantages are to attend our reduction? The trade of a ruined and desolate country is always inconsiderable, its revenue trifling; the expence of subjecting and retaining it in subjection, certain and inevitable. What then remains but the gratification of an ill judged pride, or the hope of rendering us subservient to designs on your liberty.

Soldiers who have sheathed their swords in the bowels of their American brethren,

will not draw them with more reluctance against you. When too late you may lament the loss of that freedom, which we exhort you, while still in your power, to preserve.

On the other hand, should you prove unsuccessful; should that connection, which we most ardently wish to maintain be dissolved; should your ministers exhaust your treasures; waste the blood of your countrymen, in vain attempts on our liberty; do they not deliver you, weak and defenceless to your natural enemies?

Since, then, your liberty, must be the price of your victories; your ruin, of your defeat: What blind fatality can urge you to a pursuit destructive of all that Britons hold dear?

If you have no regard to the connection that has for ages subsisted between us; if you have forgot the wounds we received fighting by your side, for the extension of the empire; if our commerce is an object below your consideration; if justice and humanity have lost their influence on your hearts, still motives are not wanting, to excite your indignation at the measures now pursued; your wealth, your honour, your liberty are at stake.

Notwithstanding the distress to which we are reduced, we sometimes forget our own afflictions: to anticipate and sympathize in yours. We grieve that rash and inconsiderate councils should precipitate the destruction of an empire, which has been the envy and admiration of ages. And call GOD to witness! that we would part with our property, endanger our lives, and sacrifice every thing but Liberty, to redeem you from ruin.

A cloud hangs over your heads and ours; e'er this reaches you, it may probably have burst upon us; let us then (before the remembrance of former kindness is obliterated) once more repeat those appellations which are ever grateful in our ears. Let us entreat heaven to avert our ruin, and the destruction that threatens our friends, bretheren, and countrymen on the other side of the Atlantic.

By order of the Congress.

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

Attested by

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

Philadelphia, July 8, 1775.

To the PEOPLE of Ireland,

From the DELEGATES appointed by the United Colonies of New-hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York,

Vol. I.

New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Lower Counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina and South-Carolina, in General CONGRESS at Philadelphia, the 10th of May 1775.

FRIENDS and FELLOW SUBJECTS,

AS the important contest into which we have been driven, is now become interesting to every European state, and particularly affects the members of the British empire, we think it our duty to address you on the subject. We are desirous, as is natural to injured innocence, of possessing the good opinion of the virtuous and humane.—We are peculiarly desirous of furnishing you with a true state of our motives and objects: the better to enable you to judge of our conduct with accuracy, and determine the merits of the controversy with impartiality and precision.

However incredible it may appear, that, at this enlightened period, the leaders of a nation, which in every age has sacrificed hecatombs of her bravest patriots on the altar of liberty, should presume gravely to assert, and by force of arms attempt to establish an arbitrary sway over the lives, liberties, and property of their fellow-subjects in America; it is nevertheless a most deplorable and indisputable truth.

These colonies have, from the time of their first settlement, for near two centuries, peaceably enjoyed those very rights of which the Ministry have for ten years past endeavoured by fraud and by violence to deprive them. At conclusion of the last war the genius of England and the spirit of wisdom, as if offended at the ungrateful treatment of their sons, withdrew from the British counsels and left that nation a prey to a race of ministers, with whom ancient English honesty and benevolence disdained to dwell. From that period, jealousy, discontent, oppression and discord have raged among all his majesty's subjects; and filled every part of his dominions with distress and complaint.

Not content with our purchasing of Britain at her own price, cloathing and a thousand other articles used by near three million of people on this vast Continent; not satisfied with the amazing profits arising from the monopoly of our trade, without giving us either time to breathe after a long though glorious war, or the least credit for the blood and treasure we have expended in it.—Notwithstanding the zeal we had manifested for the service of our Sovereign, and the warmest attachment to the constitution of great Britain and the people of England, a black and horrid design was formed, to

C c c

convert

their quiet. To propose, therefore, as this resolution does, that the monies given by the colonies shall be subject to the disposal of parliament alone, is to propose that they shall relinquish this right of enquiry, and put it in the power of others to render their gifts ruinous, in proportion as they are liberal.

That this privilege of giving or withholding our monies is an important barrier against the undue exertion of prerogative, which, if left altogether without controul, may be exercised to our great oppression; and all history shews how efficacious is its intercession for redress of grievances and re-establishment of rights, and how improvident it would be to part with so powerful a mediator.

We are of opinion that the proposition contained in this resolution is unreasonable and insidious: unreasonable, because, if we declare we accede to it, we declare without reservation, we will purchase the favour of Parliament, not knowing at the same time at what price they will please to estimate their favour: It is insidious, because, individual colonies having bid and bidden again, till they find the avidity of the seller too great for all their powers to satisfy; are then to return into opposition; divided from their sister colonies, whom the minister will have previously detached by a grant of easier terms; or by an artful procrastination of a definitive answer.

That the suspension of the exercise of their pretended power of taxation being expressly made commensurate with the continuance of our gifts, these must be perpetual to make that so. Whereas no experience has shewn that a gift of a perpetual revenue, secures a perpetual return of duty or of kind disposition. On the contrary, the Parliament itself, wisely attentive to this observation, are in the established practice of granting their supplies from year to year only.

Desirous and determined as we are to consider in the most dispassionate view every seeming advance towards a reconciliation made by the British Parliament, let our brethren of Britain reflect what would have been the sacrifice to men of free spirits; had even fair terms been proffered, as these insidious proposals were, with circumstances of insult and defiance. A proposition to give our money, accompanied with large fleets and armies, seems addressed to our fears rather than to our freedom. With what patience would Britons have received articles of treaty from any power on earth, when borne on the point of a bayonet by military plenipotentiaries?

We think the attempt unnecessary to raise upon us by force or by threats our proportional contributions to the common defence, when all know, and themselves acknowledge, we have fully contributed, whenever called upon to do so in the character of freemen.

We are of opinion it is not just that the colonies should be required to oblige themselves to other contributions, while Great-Britain possesses a monopoly of their trade. This of itself lays them under heavy contribution. To demand, therefore, additional aids in the form of a tax, is to demand the double of their equal proportion. If we are to contribute equally with the other parts of the empire, let us equally with them enjoy free commerce with the whole world. But while the restrictions on our trade shut to us the resources of wealth, is it just we should bear all other burdens equally with those to whom every resource is open?

We conceive that the British Parliament has no right to intermeddle with our provisions for the support of civil government, or the administration of justice. The provisions we have made please ourselves, and are agreeable to our own circumstances; they answer the substantial purposes of government and of justice, and other purposes than these should not be answered. We do not mean that our people shall be burthened with oppressive taxes, to provide sinecures for the idle or the wicked, under colour of providing for a civil list. While Parliament pursue their plan of civil government within their own jurisdiction, we also hope to pursue ours without molestation.

We are of opinion the proposition is altogether unsatisfactory; because it imports only a suspension of the mode, not a renunciation of the pretended right to tax us: because too it does not propose to repeal the several acts of Parliament passed for the purposes of restraining the trade and altering the form of government of one of our colonies; extending the boundaries and changing the government of Quebec; enlarging the jurisdiction of the courts of Admiralty and Vice-admiralty; taking from us the rights of trial by a jury of the vicinage in cases affecting both life and property; transporting us into other countries to be tried for criminal offences; exempting by mock-trial the murderers of colonists from punishment; and quartering soldiers on us in times of profound peace. Nor do they renounce the power of sus-
pending

pending our own legislatures, and of legislating for us themselves, in all cases whatsoever. On the contrary, to shew they mean no discontinuance of injury, they pass acts, at the very time of holding out this proposition, for restraining the commerce and fisheries of the provinces of New-England, and for interdicting the trade of other colonies with all foreign nations, and with each other. This proves unequivocally they mean not to relinquish the exercise of indiscriminate legislation over us.

Upon the whole, this proposition seems to be held up to the world, to deceive it into a belief that there was nothing in dispute between us but the mode of levying taxes; and that the Parliament having now been so good as to give up this, the colonies are unreasonable, if not perfectly satisfied: whereas in truth, our adversaries still claim a right of demanding *ad libitum*, and of taxing us themselves to the full amount of their demand; if we do not comply with it. This leaves us without any thing we can call property. But what is of more importance, and what in this proposal they keep out of sight, as if no such point was now in contest between us, they claim a right to alter our charters and established laws, and leave us without any security for our lives or liberties. The proposition seems also to have been calculated more particularly to lull into fatal security, our well-affected fellow subjects on the other side of the water, till time should be given for the operation of those arms, which a British minister pronounced would instantaneously reduce the "cowardly" sons of America to unreserved submission. But when the world reflects, how inadequate to justice are those vaunted terms; when it attends to the rapid and bold succession of injuries, which, during a course of eleven years, have been aimed at these colonies; when it reviews the pacific and respectful expostulations which, during that whole time, were the sole arms we exposed to them; when it observes that our complaints were either not heard at all, or were answered with new and accumulated injury; when it recollects that the minister himself on an early occasion declared, "that he would never treat with America, till he had brought her to his feet," and that an avowed partisan of the ministry has more lately denounced against us the dreadful sentence, "*delendo est Carthago*," that this was done in presence of a British senate, and being unapproved by them, must be taken to be

their own sentiment; (especially as the purpose has already in part been carried into execution by their treatment of Boston and burning of Charlestown;) when it considers the great armaments with which they have invaded us, and the circumstances of cruelty with which these have commenced and prosecuted hostilities; when these things, we say, are laid together and attentively considered, can the world be deceived into an opinion that we are unreasonable, or can it hesitate to believe with us, that nothing but our own exertions may defeat the ministerial sentence of death or abject submission.

By Order of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Philadelphia, July 31, 1775.

To the KING's most excellent MAJESTY,

Most gracious SOVEREIGN,

WE your Majesty's faithful subjects of the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Suffex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, in behalf of ourselves, and the inhabitants of these Colonies, who have deputed us to represent them in General Congress, entreat your Majesty's gracious attention to this our humble petition: The union between our Mother-Country and these Colonies, and the energy of mild and just Government, produced benefits so remarkably important, and afforded such an assurance of their permanency and increase, that the wonder and envy of other nations were excited, while they beheld Great-Britain rising to a power, the most extraordinary the world had ever known.

Her rivals observing, that there was no probability of this happy connection being broken by civil dissensions; and apprehending its future effects, if left any longer undisturbed, resolved to prevent her receiving such continual and formidable accessions of wealth and strength, by checking the growth of those settlements from which they were to be derived.

In the prosecution of this attempt, events so unfavourable to the design took place, that every friend to the interest of Great-Britain and these Colonies, entertained pleasing and reasonable expectations of seeing an additional force and

extention