

honourable answer to the remonstrance, will be considered as a fresh mark of the king's anger against our unhappy brethren, as well as of his displeasure against his faithful citizens of his capital.

Thus, fellow-citizens! it is evident, by the clearest demonstration, that our rights are not to be recovered by humble addresses, remonstrances, and petitions to the throne. Meditate upon the king's late answer; reflect upon the immediate outrage of the city of London. Say, does not the one exclude every ray of hope of an equitable accommodation by peaceable applications—is not the other a lesson 'in terrorem' to such of our friends in England, as may be inclined to intercede in favour of America! But, difficulties ever animated and invigorated those, who had virtue to stand up in defence of public rights; and success almost ever attended such a conduct. We are now to act in defence of all that is held dear and valuable—Americans! let us, at least, approve ourselves worthy of enjoying the rights of mankind!

# WILMINGTON.

*A Monthly Meeting of the Committee for the Town of Wilmington, and County of New-Hanover, at which were, occasionally, present a Number of Gentlemen, Members of the different Committees in this District, July 20th. 1775.*

**T**HIS committee having taken into consideration an act of the British parliament for restraining the trade of the colonies of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex, on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and South-Carolina, to Great-Britain, Ireland, and the British West-Indies, which is to take place this day; it is

Resolved unanimously, that the the exception of this colony, and some others out of the said act, is a base and mean artifice, to seduce them into a detraction of the common cause of America.

Resolved, that we will not accept of the advantages insidiously thrown out by the said act, but will adhere strictly to such plans as have been, and shall be, entered into by the honourable continental congress; so as to keep up a perfect unanimity with our sister colonies.

The inhabitants of Poole (a free port in the English channel) having manifested themselves, not only inimical to America, but lost to every sense of honour and humanity, by petitioning parliament to restrain the New-England fisheries; by which iniquitous act, the virtuous inhabitants of those colonies are cruelly deprived of the means of procuring a subsistence; and rendered almost entirely dependent on the bounty of their neighbours; in testimony of our resentment of a conduct so injurious to our fellow-citizens and so disgraceful to human nature, We **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVE** not to freight, or in any manner employ, any shipping belonging to that town, and that we will not carry on any commercial intercourse or communication with the selfish people of Poole.

WHEREAS it appeared, upon incontrovertible evidence, that JOHN COLLETT, commander of Fort Johnston, was preparing the said fort (under the auspices of Governor Martin) for the reception of a promised reinforcement, which was to be employed in reducing the good people of this province, to a slavish submission to the will of a wicked and tyrannic minister; and, for this diabolical purpose, had collected several abandoned profligates, whose crimes had rendered them unworthy of civil society; and that the said commander, had wantonly detained vessels, applying for bills of health, thereby defeating the salutary purposes for which the fort had been established and continued—had threatened vengeance against magistrates, whose official opinions he chose to disapprove—had set at defiance the high sheriff of the county, in the execution of his office, and treated the king's writs, when served on him for just debts, (which, both as a soldier and subject, it was his duty to obey) with the shameful contempt of wiping his hands with them—had, with the most unparalleled injustice, detained and embezzled a large quantity of goods, which, having been wrecked near the fort, had the highest claim to his attention and care, for the benefit of the sufferers; in whose behalf, many and repeated applications were legally made, in vain, to the said com-

mander—had, contrary to every principle of honour and honesty, most unwarrantably seized, by force, a quantity of corn, the private property of an individual; an act of robbery the more inexcusable, as provisions were never withheld from him, whenever he would pay for them—had bailey encouraged slaves to elope from their masters, sed and employed them, and declared openly, that he would excite them to an insurrection: it also appeared, that the said John Collett had further declared, that, as soon as the expected reinforcement should arrive, the king's standard would be erected, and that, to it should be invited, all those (as well slaves as others) who were base enough to take up arms against their country.

The committee of New-Hanover and Wilmington, having taken these things into consideration, judged it might be of the most pernicious consequences to the people at large, if the said John Collett should be suffered to remain in the fort, as he might thereby have opportunities of carrying his iniquitous schemes into execution. This opinion having been communicated to the officers, and the committees of some neighbouring counties, a great many volunteers were immediately collected; a party of whom reached Brunswick, when accounts were received, that the said commander had carried off all the small arms, ammunition, and part of the artillery (the property of this province) together with his furniture, on board a transport, hired for that purpose, there to remain until the reinforcement should arrive, and then again to take possession of the fort: the original design being thus frustrated, but the different detachments having met at Brunswick, about 300 men marched to the fort, and burnt and destroyed all the houses, &c. in and about the same, demolished, as far as they then could, the back parts of the fortification, and effectually dislodged that atrocious FREDOM LIEK.

Resolved therefore, that one thanks of the committee be given to the officers and soldiers, who, with such ready alacrity, gave themselves up to effect a matter of so much real importance to the public.

Copied from the minutes. THOMAS CRAIKE, Sec. As this party was returning from the fort, they were met by a detachment of near 300 men, from Bladen county, who had turned out at a minute's warning: and we are well assured the people were in motion in several other counties at a greater distance. This we mention with pleasure, as a proof of the readiness of the people in general to appear, upon any emergency, in defence of their rights and privileges.

Besides the honourable testimony given to the officers and soldiers by the committee of New-Hanover and Wilmington of their approbation; we have the best authority to say, that the enterprise in which they so charitably embarked, has been approved of by several very respectable committees in this province.

The list of the American men killed in battle near Poole, by the return made to General Washington, is 118 killed, 301 were hurt, and 7 missing. They are deposited on New-Hanover County, Wilmington, July 27, 1775.

## IN COMMITTEE.

In consequence of a letter from Samuel Johnston, Esq. appointing the 20th of August next for the meeting of the provincial convention at Hillsborough, and recommending that five delegates, at least, should be sent by each county;

Resolved, that Tuesday the 8th day of August be appointed for an election of additional delegates for this county and town, and that the freeholders do attend at the court-house in Wilmington for that purpose on the said 8th day of August next.

By order of the committee,

CORNELIUS HARNETT, Chairman.

**T**HE Freeholders of the respective Counties and Towns in this Province are requested to choose and elect Delegates, to meet in PROVINCIAL CONVENTION, at Hillsborough, on the Twentieth Day of August next.

July 10, 1775. SAM. JOHNSTON.

Deputy Secy. of the