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RECORDS  
OF THE  
COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND  
AND  
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
IN  
NEW ENGLAND.



PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

EDITED BY

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT,  
SECRETARY OF STATE.

VOL. VII.

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1770 to 1776.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE present volume includes but seven years of the Colonial Records. It begins with the year 1770 and ends with the session of September, 1776. So voluminous are the proceedings of the General Assembly of the latter year (that of the Declaration of Independence), that it was found impossible to include them all in this volume, without increasing its size much beyond that of the previous volumes.

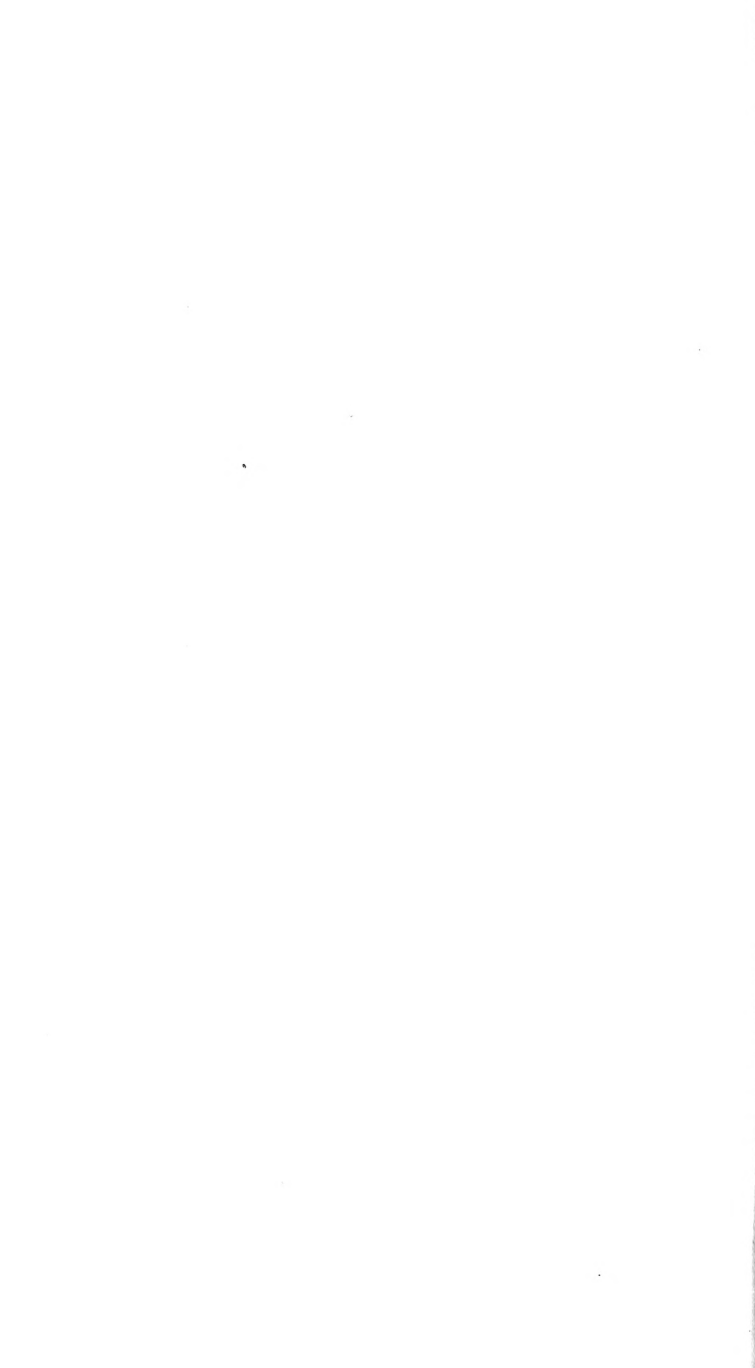
The events which took place in the colony immediately preceding the Declaration of Independence, are of deep interest, and are given at length in the volume, accompanied by the letters and documents connected therewith. The most important of these, is the destruction of His Britannic Majesty's schooner *Gaspee*, Lieutenant Dudingston, in Narragansett Bay, on the night of the 9th of June, 1772. The history of this interesting event, accompanied by the correspondence which grew out of it, the action of the General Assembly thereon, and the official journal of the proceedings of the commission of inquiry, appointed by King George the Third, upon the same, are given at length. The documentary portion of this history, is more complete than any before published. For several of these, the Secretary is indebted to the kindness of the Hon.

George Bancroft, who furnished him copies from those in his possession, which are transcripts from the originals in Her Majesty's State Paper office, in London. These copies, together with the original documents referred to, are bound together among the public archives in the Secretary of State's office, Providence.

J. R. B.

PROVIDENCE, January, 1862.

**RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.**



# RHODE ISLAND RECORDS.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on the last Monday in February, 1770.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

## ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Peleg Thurston,

Mr. Job Bennett,

Mr. Solomon Drown,

Mr. David Harris,

Mr. Weston Hix,

Mr. Thomas Wickes,

Mr. Jonathan Randall,

Mr. John Congdon,

Mr. Joseph Hazard,

Mr. William Richmond, Jr.

## DEPUTIES.

### *Newport.*

Mr. Nicholas Easton,

Mr. John Wanton,

Mr. George Hazard,

Capt. Samuel Carr,

Capt. William Read,

Mr. Thomas Freebody.

### *Providence.*

Mr. Daniel Jenckes,

Mr. Moses Brown,

Mr. Benoni Pearce,

Mr. Job Smith.

## DEPUTIES.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Metcalfe Bowler,  
 Mr. Benjamin Hall,  
 Mr. Jeremiah Lawton,  
 Mr. John Almy.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Philip Greene,  
 Col. James Arnold,  
 Mr. Stephen Arnold,  
 Mr. Thomas Rice.

*Westerly.*

Capt. Edward Saunders,  
 Mr. Joseph Clarke, Jr.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. Paul Niles.

*North Kingstown.*

Mr. Ezekiel Gardner,  
 Mr. John Northup.

*South Kingstown.*

Mr. William Potter,  
 Mr. Stephen Hazard.

*East Greenwich.*

Maj. Preserved Pierce,  
 Mr. William Pierce.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Oliver Haszard,  
 Capt. William Haszard.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Caleb Aldrich,  
 Mr. Daniel Mowrey, Jr.

*Scituate.*

Mr. Job Randall,  
 Mr. Benjamin Slack.

*Glocester.*

Mr. Thomas Owen,  
 Maj. Rufus Smith.

*Charlestown.*

Mr. Gideon Hoxie,  
 Mr. Job Taylor.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Benjamin Tillinghast,  
 Mr. Isaac Johnston.

*Coventry.*

Mr. Stephen Potter,  
 Mr. John Rice.

*Exeter.*

Mr. Daniel Barber,  
 Mr. Daniel Sunderlin.

*Middletown.*

• Mr. John Barker,  
 Mr. Thomas Coggeshall.

*Bristol.*

Col. Simeon Potter,  
 Mr. William Bradford.

*Tiverton.*

Mr. Samuel Durfee,  
 Mr. William Cooke.

*Little Compton.*

Mr. Thomas Church,  
 Mr. Nathaniel Searle, Jr.

*Warren.*

Mr. Cromel Child,  
 Maj. Samuel Allen.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. Jeremiah Whipple,  
 Mr. David Brown.

## DEPUTIES.

*Richmond.*

Mr. Edward Perry,  
Mr. Joshua Clarke.

*Cranston.*

Mr. Gideon Comstock,  
Capt. Richard Searle.

*Hopkinton.*

Mr. Thomas Wells, Jr.,  
Mr. Abel Tanner.

*Johnston.*

Mr. Henry Harris,  
Mr. Abraham Belknap.

*North Providence.*

Mr. Thomas Olney,  
Mr. Job Olney.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, speaker; Mr. Wm. Ellery, clerk.

Mr. Henry Ward, secretary.

Mr. Oliver Arnold, attorney general.

Mr. Joseph Clarke, general treasurer.

James Helme, Esq., chief justice of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery.

## SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Walter Chaloner. Providence county—Mr. Paul Tew. Kings county—Mr. Beriah Brown. Bristol county—Mr. Richard Smith. Kent county—Mr. Henry Rice.

## FIELD OFFICERS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Benjamin Sherburne, Esq., colonel; Wm. Cooke, Esq., of Portsmouth, lieutenant colonel; Isaac Dayton, Esq., major.

Providence county—Knight Dexter, Esq., colonel; Abraham Winsor, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Chad Brown, Esq., major.

Kings county—John Crandall, Esq., colonel; Moses Barber, Esq., lieutenant colonel; Sylvester Gardner, Esq., major.

Bristol county—Simeon Potter, Esq., colonel; Samuel Allen, 2d, lieutenant colonel; John Waldron, Esq., major.

Kent county—John Waterman, Esq., colonel; James Arnold, son of Elisha, Esq., lieutenant colonel; William Matteson, Esq., major.

Whereas, Messrs. John Jenckes, Moses Brown, John Brown, David Harris, William Smith, John Updike, Knight Dexter, Ebenezer Thompson, Joseph Lawrence, Zephaniah Andrews, Elijah Bacon, Noah Mason, John Smith, Jonathan Ellis, Jonathan Hamman, Thomas Greene and James Lovett, in behalf of themselves and their associates, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that from a regard to the instruction of youth, in the most necessary parts of learning, they, with the town of Providence, have caused to be built within the said town, a commodious brick school house, two stories high; the upper part of which, containing two rooms, belongs to them and their associates; that, for the better carrying their design in building the said rooms into execution, they have formed themselves into a society, known by the name of the Proprietors in the Town School House; and thereupon, for the well ordering and governing the said school, in the upper part of said house, and for the better establishing the rules and orders already made; and also all future regulations respecting the same, they pray this Assembly to grant and extend to the said society, their heirs and assigns, a full and ample power, at all times hereafter, to order, ordain and enact all such rules and regulations, as may from time to time, appear to them necessary for the well ordering all prudential affairs of the said society; and that all rules, acts, orders and regulations so made, as may (not repugnant or disagreeable to the laws of this colony, or the acts and orders of the said town of Providence), be, to all intents and purposes, valid and binding upon the said society, and each individual thereof; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the au-



thority thereof it is enacted, that the prayer of the petitioners, in the foregoing petition contained, be, and the same is hereby, granted.

At the special request of the inhabitants of the town of Providence, made by their representatives,—

It is voted and resolved, that the inhabitants of the said town of Providence, be, and they are hereby, permitted and authorized to sell all kinds of spirituous liquors, in any quantities not less than one quart; provided, that the same be not drank in the house of the retailer; any law of this colony to the contrary, in any wise, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that the petition preferred to this Assembly, praying that all that part of the town of Providence, lying westward of Weybosset Bridge, and the harbor or bay, may be set off and incorporated into a new towship, be referred to the next session; and that, in the mean time, the town of Providence be cited to appear and show cause (if any they have), why the same should not be granted.

Whereas, Mr. John Greene and others, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that Nathaniel Greene and Company, John Greene and Company, Griffin Greene and Christopher Greene, have been at a very great expense in erecting and building dams, forges, anchor works and saw mills upon the south branch of Pawtuxet river, in providing a very considerable stock, and employing a great number of hands, to prosecute the business; the emolument arising from which, is the principal support of themselves and their dependants, amounting to upwards of one hundred in number; that there is a law of this colony, directing that suitable fish-ways be made and kept open on the said south branch of said river, from the 21st of April to the 1st of June, annually; that if the said law be carried into execution, it will render it almost impossible for them to pursue their business; that the number of fish coming up to those dams, is so small and contemptible, that the benefit arising from them, is by no means to be compared with the great advantages derived to the public from their works; and

thereupon, they prayed this Assembly, that the dams above enumerated, standing on the said south branch of Pawtuxet river, may be established by act of government, and totally exempted from preparing and providing fish-ways, in the same manner as the dams on the north branch of the same river are now established, and exempted from preparing and providing fish-ways ; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the prayer of the petitioners, in the foregoing petition contained, be, and the same is hereby, granted.

Whereas, Moses Brown, presented the following memorial unto this Assembly, to wit :

*Memorial of Moses Brown, relative to the Northern Boundary Line of Rhode Island.*

To the Honorable the General Assembly :

Gentlemen :—Agreeably to the vote of this Assembly, at their last session, I received and have taken copies of the plats and papers respecting the northern boundary line of this colony ; by which papers, it appears that the colony had made application in conjunction with the colony of Connecticut, to Mr. Partridge, then agent for both colonies, to pursue the settlement of the said line ; and it appears that this colony, in the month of April, 1753, formed a petition to His Majesty, upon this subject ; whether it was forwarded or not, or what further was done, does not appear by the papers I have yet been able to collect ; but am informed by one of the commissioners, who conferred with the commissioners of the colony of Connecticut, upon this matter, in April, 1752, that the two colonies agreed to prosecute the case jointly ; and as this government had expended a considerable sum in running the line, procuring evidence, and fitting the case to go home, Connecticut was to pursue it at home until they had laid out the same sum that we had ; after which, the expense for any more, should be necessary, was to be paid by both governments equally.

This being the case, and it appearing clear to me, that the colony had a just right to a strip of four miles and fifty-six rods ; the width of the colony being about twenty-two miles, I propose and desire this Assembly to appoint some proper person or persons to make application to the Governor or secretary of the colony of Connecticut, and procure information how the case was left ; and if they are unable to inform us, to write to the agent of this colony, who, about the time this matter was in agitation in England, lived with Mr. Partridge, and without doubt, hath the papers respecting this matter, that belong to the colony, and request him to examine the papers, and inform us of the circumstances this affair was under at the

commencement of the late war; which I suppose was the occasion of its not being determined.

As Joseph Harrison, Esq., one of this colony's committee to run the line; and Col. Lyman, who was one of Connecticut's committee, are both in London, and are acquainted with all the circumstances of this case, I apprehend a more favorable opportunity for the colony to get information in this matter, could not happen.

I am obliged to the General Assembly for their confidence in depositing the papers in my hands, and herewith return them.

I am, gentlemen, &c., &c.,

MOSES BROWN.

On consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said memorial be accepted; that Moses Brown, be, and he is hereby, appointed to make the inquiry therein mentioned; and when he shall have obtained the best information he can procure, that he make report thereon, to the General Assembly.

Whereas, Esther Sachem (calling herself queen of the tribe of Indians in this colony), Thomas Sachem, her husband, and Henry Harry, with others, as her council, who preferred a petition unto this Assembly, praying that she, with her husband and council, and James Helme, Joseph Haszard and Sylvester Robinson, Esqs., (who were a committee appointed by this Assembly, to dispose of the estate of Thomas Ninegret, deceased, late sachem of said tribe, for the payment of his debts,) may make a deed or deeds of the estate of the said Thomas Ninegret, for the payment of his just debts in the same manner as the said Thomas Ninegret, in his life time, with his council, and the said committee, by act of Assembly, might have done; and whereas, Samuel Niles and others (calling themselves a council, appointed by said tribe, for transacting their public affairs), did appear before this Assembly, and for the settlement of the disputes and differences subsisting in said tribe, did mutually agree that the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq., the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq. and Joseph Haszard, Esq., or any two of them (by their consent, and by order of this Assembly), should be empowered to inquire into the subject matter of their disputes, and in particular to ascertain and to set off all the lands which shall, upon inquiry and examination, appear to them to have been the lands or estates of the said

Thomas Ninegret, deceased, for the payment and satisfaction of the debts due to his creditors and to his heirs, after such debts as are paid and satisfied ; that the expense of such inquiry and examination be equally paid by the said two parties ; and that that the said report be made to this Assembly at the next session ; and the premises being duly considered,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the above recited agreement be, and hereby is, approved ; and that the said Joseph Wanton, Stephen Hopkins and Joseph Haszard, or any two of them, be empowered to do, and transact every thing submitted to them, by said agreement.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the above named James Helme, Joseph Haszard and Sylvester Robinson, or any two of them, be empowered to take into their care and possession, all such lands as shall be set off as the estate of the said Thomas Ninegret, deceased, and the same to improve, in such manner as they shall think most for the interest of his heirs and creditors, until so much of them shall be disposed of, as will be sufficient to satisfy and pay his just debts.

God save the King.

*The Earl of Hillsborough to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

No. 20.]

Whitehall, February 17, 1770.

Gentlemen :—As it is necessary that the King should be duly informed of all acts and proceedings of government in all His Majesty's colonies in America, I am commanded to desire you will punctually transmit to me, to be laid before His Majesty, as well the journals and proceedings of every meeting of the General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, as copies of the laws enacted by such Assembly ; and I am to acquaint you, that those which have been already sent, are not continued down lower than the seventh year of His Majesty's reign.

I am, gentlemen, &c., &c.,

HILLSBOROUGH.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1770.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged :

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Nicholas Easton,

Mr. Thomas Wickes,

Mr. Samuel Dyre,

Mr. Jonathan Randall,

Mr. Solomon Drown,

Mr. John Congdon,

Mr. David Harris,

Mr. Joseph Haszard,

Mr. Weston Hix,

Mr. William Richmond.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Thomas Cranston,

Mr. John Wanton,

Mr. George Hazard,

Capt. Samuel Carr,

Capt. William Read,

Mr. Thomas Freebody.

*Providence.*

Mr. Daniel Jenckes,

Mr. Moses Brown,

Mr. Benjamin Man,

Mr. Stephen Hopkins.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Metcalfe Bowler,

Mr. Thomas Brownell,

Mr. Jonathan Freeborn,

Mr. John Almy.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Philip Greene,

Mr. Benjamin Greene,

Mr. Stephen Arnold,

Mr. Paul Greene.

## DEPUTIES.

<i>Westerly.</i>	<i>Exeter.</i>
Mr. James Rhodes,	Mr. Daniel Barber,
Mr. Oliver Babcock.	Mr. George Pearce.
<i>New Shoreham.</i>	<i>Middletown.</i>
Mr. Paul Niles.	Mr. Thomas Coggeshall,
<i>North Kingstown.</i>	Mr. Thomas Peckham.
Mr. Ezekiel Gardner,	<i>Bristol.</i>
Mr. John Northup.	Mr. Christopher Ellery,
<i>South Kingstown.</i>	Mr. William Pearce.
Mr. Rowland Robinson,	<i>Tiverton.</i>
Mr. Samuel Rodman.	Mr. Samuel Durfee,
<i>East Greenwich.</i>	Mr. William Cooke.
Maj. Preserved Pierce,	<i>Little Compton.</i>
Mr. William Pierce.	Mr. Thomas Church,
<i>Jamestown.</i>	Mr. Nathaniel Searle, Jr.
Mr. John Eldred,	<i>Warren.</i>
Capt. William Haszard.	Mr. Ebenezer Cole,
<i>Smithfield.</i>	Maj. Samuel Allen.
Mr. Caleb Aldrich,	<i>Cumberland.</i>
Mr. Daniel Mowrey, Jr.	Mr. Jeremiah Whipple,
<i>Scituate.</i>	Mr. John Dexter.
Mr. William West,	<i>Richmond.</i>
Mr. Job Randall.	Mr. Robert Stanton.
<i>Glocester.</i>	<i>Cranston.</i>
Maj. Rufus Smith,	Mr. Caleb Potter,
Mr. Moses Cooper.	Capt. Matthew Manchester.
<i>Charlestown.</i>	<i>Hopkinton.</i>
Mr. Gideon Hoxie,	Mr. Thomas Wells, Jr.,
Capt. Joseph Stanton.	Capt. Abel Tanner.
<i>West Greenwich.</i>	<i>Johnston.</i>
Mr. William Nichols,	Col. John Waterman,
Mr. Thomas Rogers.	Mr. John Beverly.
<i>Coventry.</i>	<i>North Providence.</i>
Mr. Stephen Potter,	Mr. Elisha Brown,
Mr. Nathaniel Greene.	Capt. Joseph Olney.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, speaker ; Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

Mr. Henry Ward, secretary.

Mr. Oliver Arnold, attorney general.

Mr. Joseph Clarke, general treasurer.

Stephen Hopkins, Esq., chief justice of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery.

#### SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Walter Chaloner. Providence county—Mr. Paul Tew. Kings county—Mr. Beriah Brown. Bristol county—Mr. Simeon Munro. Kent county—Mr. Henry Rice.

#### FIELD OFFICERS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Daniel Dunham, Esq., colonel ; Joseph Belcher, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; John Forrester, Esq., major.

Providence county—Knight Dexter, Esq., colonel ; Abraham Winsor, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; Chad Brown, Esq., major.

Kings county—John Crandall, Esq., colonel ; Moses Barber, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; Sylvester Gardner, Esq., major.

Bristol county—Simeon Potter, Esq., colonel ; Nathaniel Martin, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; Thomas Gray, Esq., major.

Kent county—John Waterman, Esq., colonel ; Isaac Greene, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; Benjamin Vaughan, Esq., major.

It is voted and resolved, that the petition for dividing the town of Warren into two towns, be, and the same is hereby, referred to the next session ; and that the inhabitants of the said town be served with a copy of the said petition, and cited to appear then (if they shall think fit), to answer the same.

[No business of a public nature, except the election, was done at this session.]

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the second Monday in June, 1770.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Moses Brown, be, and he is hereby, requested to import from England, for the use of this colony, seven boxes of Bristol or Newcastle crown sash glass, to wit :

Three boxes, of twelve by sixteen ; three, of eleven by fifteen ; and one, of twelve by seventeen ; to contain seven hundred feet in the whole : that the same be shipped as soon as conveniently may be, after the duty upon glass ceases, and the other governments generally import that article ; and that the general treasurer pay for the same, according to the common advance upon such goods.

It is voted and resolved, that all such sum and sums of money, as remain unpaid of the rates assessed by this colony, be paid into the general treasury within forty days, from and after the rising of this Assembly ; that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to issue an execution for principal and interest, against every collector of rates who shall be delinquent, returnable in ten days after the expiration of the said forty days ; excepting the collector of rates for the town of South Kingstown ; against whom, no execution shall be issued until after the next session of this Assembly.

Whereas, Esther Sachem, and Thomas Sachem, preferred the following petition unto this Assembly, to wit :



*Petition of Esther Sachem, and her husband, to the General Assembly, relative to Thomas Ninegret, late Sachem of the Narragansett tribe of Indians.*

To the Honorable General Assembly, to be holden at Newport, in the county of Newport, on the second Monday of June, A. D. 1770 :

Humbly show, Esther Sachem, of Charlestown, in Kings county, who is heir at law to Thomas Ninegret, sachem of the Narragansett tribe of Indians, together with her husband, Thomas Sachem, that the General Assembly did take the affairs of her deceased brother into their care, long before his death, and appointed a committee to take an account of his debts, and dispose of so much of his lands, as would discharge the debts against him ; who proceeded so far as to take an account of his debts, and to dispose of a small part of his lands ; when the General Assembly interposed, and appointed a new committee, to set off what did belong to the sachem, that should be sold to discharge the debts against the estate ; which said committee have done nothing ; that, as the affair hath been several years in this situation, the creditors to said estate are uneasy, and the principal part of said estate is under a heavy mortgage, and unless the General Assembly orders something to be immediately done, all the creditors will sue at the August court ; and that the mortgage is now in suit, and hath been continued two terms, and must be yielded up at the rising of the August court, unless the affair can be settled before ; besides, the debts are upon interest, and increase fast, which, with the charges of two law suits, will swallow up the whole estate, if speedy remedy be not taken.

Therefore, they humbly pray the General Assembly to take their distressed circumstances into consideration, and order the last appointed committee to proceed immediately, and set off what lands shall be sold ; and upon their setting off said land, that the former committee immediately proceed to dispose of the lands, and pay the demands against the estate, so far as the General Assembly have ordered them to be paid.

And they, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

ESTHER SACHEM, her  $\surd$  mark,  
THOMAS SACHEM, his  $\surd$  mark.

July 11, 1770.

On consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the foregoing petition be, and hereby is, granted.

An Act for incorporating the west part of the town of Warren, into a township, to be distinguished and known by the name of Barrington.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the town of Warren be, and the same is hereby, divided into two distinct and separate towns ; that the bounds between them, be as the river between

Bristol and Rumstick extends itself northerly to Miles's Bridge ; that all the lands on the westerly side of the said river, be, and they are hereby, erected and made into a township, to be distinguished, called and known by the name of Barrington ; and that the inhabitants thereof shall choose two deputies to represent them in the General Assembly ; and shall have, hold and enjoy all and singular the liberties, privileges and immunities which the other towns in this colony have, enjoy and are entitled to.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all debts due, and money belonging to the town of Warren, before the division thereof, by this act made, shall be divided according to the last tax ; that all debts due from the said town, before the division, shall be settled and made in the same manner ; and that the poor of the said town be divided between the said two towns in proportion to their taxes and debts.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all and every of the justices of the peace, and military officers, who were chosen and appointed for the town of Warren, and live in that part thereof which is now made Barrington, be, and they are hereby, continued in their respective offices, with as full power and ample authority, in every particular, as they had in consequence of their being chosen into, and commissioned for, the offices by them respectively sustained ; and that James Brown, Esq., be, and he is hereby, authorized and fully empowered, to issue a warrant and call the freemen of the town of Barrington, to meet together at such time and place, within said town, as he shall think fit, on or before the 8th day of July next, in order to choose and appoint all officers necessary for managing and conducting the prudential affairs of said town, agreeably to the laws of this colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said town of Barrington shall send three grand and two petit jurors to each of the superior and inferior courts, which shall be holden in the county of Bristol ; and that the town of Warren shall send three grand and four petit jurors to each of the said courts.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that Nathaniel Fales, Thomas Throop and Daniel Bradford, Esqs., all of Bristol, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to settle and proportion the debts and poor of said town, agreeably to the last tax of said town.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the second Monday in September, 1770.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq. and Joseph Hazard, Esq., presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit :

*Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, relative to the affairs of the Narragansett tribe of Indians.*

We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee, by the General Assembly, to enquire into some disputes subsisting among the Narragansett tribe of Indians, and to endeavor to settle the same, do report :

That we repaired into the Indian country, convened all the principal Indians there, before us, and prevailed with them all to agree, that as much of their land may be sold as will pay the late Sachem Thomas's debts ; provided, that no land be sold for that purpose, but such as the tribe shall appoint ; and that the General Assembly pass an act, that no more of the Indian lands may be sold afterwards, upon any pretence, whatsoever.

The Indians requested that the committee, appointed to adjust the Sachem Thomas's debts, may be empowered to examine for what the debts became due, notwithstanding they may now be reduced to mortgages, bonds, notes, &c., suggesting great impositions therein.

The Indians further requested, that the General Assembly would appoint two of them to be justices of the peace, for punishing drunkenness, breach of the peace, and other offences amongst themselves.

Then the Indians pointed out the following parcels of land to be sold :

1. The large house, the late Sachem Thomas lived in, with twenty-six acres of land adjacent to it.

2. The house the late Sachem George dwelt in, with about sixty acres of and about it.

3. A tract of land, heretofore sold at vendue, to Isaac Nye, but not yet measured, nor any deed given.

4. A small piece of land, in possession of James Perry.

5. A small piece of land, in possession of Joseph Hoxsie.

6. Nine acres and an half of land lying by a place called Welshare.

And lastly, as much of the Cedar Swamp, as will complete the payment of Thomas's debts.

Finally, the Indians did agree and promise to provide as good a support for the remaining branches of the royal family, as the small remains of their public lands, and the loyal affections of a poor people can admit.

All which agreements and requisitions we promised the Indians to recommend to the General Assembly, as fit to be confirmed and granted. And we do accordingly recommend them as worthy the notice and approbation of the General Assembly, and presume to subscribe ourselves,

Their faithful servants,

STEPHEN HOPKINS,

JOSEPH HASZARD.

East Greenwich, Sept. 10, 1770.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted and approved; excepting that part thereof, recommending it to the General Assembly to appoint Indian justices of the peace, which is disapproved by this Assembly.

It is further voted and resolved, that the several pieces and parcels of land and estates, mentioned in the said report, be sold for paying the late Sachem Thomas's debts; and that no other of the Indian lands be thereafter sold on any pretence, whatever.

It is further voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to adjust the said Sachem Thomas's debts, and to sell the lands for payment thereof, be, and they are hereby, empowered to examine how the debts became due, notwithstanding they may now be reduced to mortgages, bonds, notes or judgments of court which have been obtained by default; that no more of said debts be paid, than shall appear to be justly due; and that the said committee be, and they are hereby, empowered to defend against all actions that have been, or shall be, brought against the late Sachem Thomas's estate; and that all

expenses and costs, attending the defending in any action, brought, or that may be brought against the said estate, shall be defrayed out of the said estate.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., be, and he is hereby, added to the committee appointed to adjust the debts of the said Thomas, to examine how they became due, and to sell and dispose of the lands for the payment thereof.

Whereas, the deputies of the town of Newport, by order and in behalf of said town, represented unto this Assembly, that Job Bennett, Esq. and Mr. John Wanton, son of Gideon, presented a remonstrance to said town, in town meeting assembled, praying the town to pay them the money due to them, for carrying on the building of the market house and granary in said town, so far as the same is done; and thereupon, the said deputies prayed this Assembly to appoint Joseph Wanton, Jr., Esq., Mr. Samuel Lyndon, Jr., Joseph Wanton, Esq., son of Gideon; Mr. Thomas Freebody, Daniel Dunham, Esq. and Charles Spooner, Esq., directors, to carry on a lottery or lotteries, to finish said building; and also, to pay the said Job Bennett and John Wanton, the money due to them, out of the first money that shall be raised by said lottery or lotteries; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Joseph Wanton, Jr., Samuel Lyndon, Jr., Joseph Wanton, son of Gideon; Thomas Freebody, Daniel Dunham and Charles Spooner, be, and they are hereby, appointed directors of the said market house and granary lotteries, to be carried on for raising money to pay the late committee appointed to build the said market house and granary, and for finishing and completing the same; and that the same be done without any expense to the colony.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the last Monday in October, 1770.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

An Act to incorporate certain persons by the name of the Benevolent Congregational Society, in the town of Providence, in this colony.

Whereas, divers persons have petitioned this Assembly, for an act of incorporation, whereby they may be enabled to promote certain purposes set forth in their petition, and hereinafter mentioned ;—

Therefore, be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that Darius Sessions, Ephraim Bowen, Sam'l Nightingale, Benj. Bowen, Jabez Bowen, Jacob Wightman, Jona. Badger, John Foster, Jr., Charles Keen, Nathaniel Greene, Eleazer Harding, Benjamin West, Amos Throope, Nathaniel Frothingham, Samuel Nightingale, Jr., Stephen Dexter, William Dexter, Elihu Robinson, Joseph Manning, Levi Hall, Nathaniel Metcalf, James Greene, Ezekiel Burr, Joshua Hacker, Nehemiah Sweet, Paul Allen, John Carpenter, Jonathan Arnold, Amos Atwell, Jonathan Russell, Jonathan Ellis, Alexander Sampson, Joseph Nightingale, William Bowen, Henry Stirling and Timothy Gladding, together with such others, as they shall elect from time to time, shall be, forever hereafter, a body corporate and politic, in fact and name, by the name of the Benevolent Congregational Society, in the town of Providence, in the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, for the purpose of raising a fund, by free and voluntary subscriptions, contributions, legacies and donations, for the support of public

worship in the Congregational Society, in the town of Providence, aforesaid, of which the Reverend David Shearman Rowland, is at present minister.

[Here follows the act of incorporation.]

Whereas, Jeremiah Whipple and John Dexter, Esqs., deputies for the town of Cumberland, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the great bridge built over Pawtucket river, between the towns of Smithfield and Cumberland, called Whipple's Bridge, is so out of repair, that it is almost impassable, and if not soon repaired, will be entirely useless; and thereupon pray, that a lottery may be granted, to raise the sum of \$400, in one or more classes, as the directors shall think best, to be applied for repairing said great bridge; and that Jeremiah Whipple, Esq., Capt. Benjamin Tower, Mr. David Dexter and Mr. Elisha Waterman, may be appointed directors of said lottery; they giving bond according to custom; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; provided, that no expense arises to the colony thereby.

Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of the town of Cranston, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that there is a considerable number of people in that, and the neighboring towns, who are religiously inclined, of the sect called Baptists, whose principles are contained in Hebrews, chapter six, and first and second verses, who are willing to devote a part of their time to the public worship of God; that there being no meeting house within a convenient distance of the place where the greatest part of that church or society live; meetings have been kept up in said place, for upwards of thirty years, at private houses, until about two years past, they have hired a house at the corner where two roads meet, near the Reverend Elisha Greene's, in said Cranston, for a place of public worship; that the said house and lot are now to be sold, and it being a very convenient and commodious place for a meeting house, they are inclined to purchase it for that

purpose, for the church that is under the care and direction of the said Elisha Greene ; but that the said society is not able to purchase the same by subscription, and repair it ; and therefore, they prayed this Assembly to grant them a lottery, to raise the sum of \$300, to be applied towards purchasing and repairing the said house and lot ; and that Messrs. Joseph Stone, Elisha Greene, Jr., Zerobabel Westcot and Nehemiah Knight, all of Cranston, aforesaid, may be appointed directors or managers of said lottery ; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted ; that the directors give bond to the general treasurer, and be engaged for the faithful performance of their trust ; and that the said lottery be divided into such and so many classes as they shall think proper.

Whereas, this Assembly is informed that His Majesty's jail, in the county of Kings county, was, in the night of the 3d day of this instant November, broken open by a number of people in disguise, and several of the prisoners, to wit : William Reynolds, Thomas Clarke, Elisha Reynolds and Samuel Casey (the said Casey being under sentence of death), were set at liberty ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to issue a proclamation immediately for apprehending the perpetrators of that atrocious crime, and therein promise a reward of £50, lawful money, and an indemnification to any person or persons who shall discover any one or more of the persons who were aiding or assisting in breaking open said jail (excepting those already discovered), so that such person or persons be convicted ; and also £50, lawful money, to any person or persons, who shall apprehend and bring the said Samuel Casey before legal authority, in this colony, so that he may be committed.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to send home all the acts of the General Assembly, that have not yet been sent, agreeably to



His Majesty's requisition, signified to the colony, by a letter from the Right Honorable the Earl of Hillsborough.

It is voted and resolved, that the town of Providence be, and they are hereby, empowered and directed to tax the several owners or possessors of the lands westward of the eastern banks of the river or bay, from the boundary of the colony on Bullock's Neck, northward, to the line of North Providence; and that in default of payment of such tax, so assessed, the salt grass sedge or thatch, growing thereon, be annually sold for the payment thereof.

It is also resolved, that the town of North Providence tax the owners or possessors of the lands, tenements and other estate, lying westward of the colony's boundary, near the east butment of Pawtucket Bridge, and from thence southerly, as far as the range of the north line of Providence; and that the assessors and collectors have the same power over such estates, as they have over the estates on the west side of Seekonk river; the said eastern shore being clearly comprehended within the charter of this colony.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the monies arising from the estates, herein ordered to be taxed, be lodged in the general treasury, to be applied towards keeping up and supporting Pawtucket Bridge.

It is voted and resolved, that the petition for dividing the town of Westerly, be, and the same is hereby, referred to the next session; and that the said town be served with a copy thereof, and cited to appear at the next session, to answer the same.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their session in October, 1767, passed an act, appointing Matthew Robinson, Esq., to draw a deed, to be executed by Thomas Ninegret, late sachem of the Narragansett tribe of Indians in this colony, and five of his council, to the secretary, of an island in Charlestown, for the use of a school, for the said tribe of Indians, and to see the same executed, &c., as by the said act will appear; and whereas, the said Thomas Ninegret hath since deceased, without having executed the said deed,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said act be revived, and that the present queen of said tribe, with five

of her council, be, and they are hereby fully empowered to make, execute and give such a deed, as in the said act is mentioned.

God save the King.

*Public Acts passed during the year 1770.*

[The following laws will be found at length in the printed "Schedules," or acts and resolves of the General Assembly, for the year 1770.]

- An Act for the breaking up disorderly houses, kept by negroes and mulattoes; and for putting out such negroes and mulattos to service. (February.)
- An Act to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases among the cattle in this colony. (February.)
- An Act for the more equal distribution of intestate estates. (February.)
- An Act in addition to the acts now in force, regulating elections, and the admission of freemen into this colony. (June.)
- An Act for calling in and sinking all the old tenor bills of public credit, that are outstanding, and now passing in this colony. (September.)
- An Act to prevent frauds in the tare of butter-firkins and tubs. (September.)
- An Act for the more effectual governing of Indian, mulatto and negro servants and slaves, in the town of Newport, and further regulating the manumission of slaves in that town. (September.)
- An Act for assessing, upon the inhabitants of this colony, a rate or tax of £12,000, lawful money. (September.)

*The Earl of Hillsborough to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, 11th December, 1770.

Gentlemen:—The House of Commons having voted an augmentation to the King's forces, consisting (among other particulars) of an additional light company to every battallion, and of twenty men to every company on the British establishment, and it being of great importance in the present situation, that the several battallions now serving in America, should be completed as soon as possible, I am commanded to signify to you His Majesty's pleasure, that you should exert your utmost endeavors to give efficacy and dispatch to this plan of augmentation, by assisting His Majesty's officers to raise such a number of recruits as shall be sufficient for that purpose, giving every encouragement in your power, that may induce His Majesty's faithful subjects to engage in a service so essential to their security and defence; and I think fit to press this matter with the greater urgency, as nothing has happened since my secret and confidential letter of the 28th of September, to strengthen the hopes I then expressed, that the peace might still be preserved; and consequently every motive for a vigilant attention to the security of every part of His Majesty's dominions still exists in its full force.

I am, etc.,

HILLSBOROUGH.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1771.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged :

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Nicholas Easton,

Mr. Thomas Wickes,

Mr. Samuel Dyre,

Mr. Jonathan Randall,

Mr. Solomon Drown,

Mr. John Congdon,

Mr. David Harris,

Mr. Joseph Haszard,

Mr. John Almy,

Mr. William Richmond.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Thomas Cranston,

Mr. John Wanton,

Mr. George Hazard,

Mr. Joseph Wanton, Jr.,

Capt. William Read,

Mr. Thomas Freebody.

*Providence.*

Mr. Daniel Jenckes,

Mr. Moses Brown,

Mr. Benjamin Man,

Mr. Stephen Hopkins.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Metcalfe Bowler,

Mr. John Almy,

Mr. Jonathan Freeborn,

Mr. Thomas Brownell.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Benjamin Greene,

Col. James Arnold,

Mr. Jacob Greene,

Mr. Christopher Greene.

## DEPUTIES.

<i>Westerly.</i>	<i>Middletown.</i>
Mr. James Rhodes,	Mr. Thomas Coggeshall,
Mr. Phineas Clark.	Mr. John Holmes.
<i>North Kingstown.</i>	<i>Bristol.</i>
Mr. Ezekiel Gardner,	Mr. Christopher Ellery,
Mr. John Northup.	Mr. William Pearce.
<i>South Kingstown.</i>	<i>Tiverton.</i>
Mr. William Potter,	Mr. Edward Gray,
Mr. Rowland Robinson.	Mr. Oliver Cook.
<i>East Greenwich.</i>	<i>Little Compton.</i>
Mr. Sylvester Sweet,	Mr. Philip Taylor,
Mr. Joseph Fry.	Mr. John Peckham.
<i>Jamestown.</i>	<i>Warren.</i>
Mr. George Tew,	Mr. Cromel Child,
Mr. John Gardner.	Mr. Daniel Cole.
<i>Smithfield.</i>	<i>Cumberland.</i>
Mr. Caleb Aldrich,	Mr. Jeremiah Whipple,
Mr. Daniel Mowrey, Jr.	Mr. John Dexter.
<i>Scituate.</i>	<i>Richmond.</i>
Mr. William West,	Mr. Stephen Hoxsie,
Mr. Charles Harris.	Mr. Edward Perry.
<i>Glocester.</i>	<i>Cranston.</i>
Mr. Timothy Wilmarth,	Mr. James Harris,
Mr. Zebedee Hopkins, Jr.	Mr. Gideon Comstock.
<i>Charlestown.</i>	<i>Hopkinton.</i>
Mr. John Congdon,	Mr. Thomas Wells, Jr.,
Mr. Sylvester Robinson.	Capt. Abel Tanner.
<i>West Greenwich.</i>	<i>Johnston.</i>
Mr. William Nichols,	Col. John Waterman,
Mr. Samuel Hopkins, Jr.	Mr. Daniel Manton.
<i>Coventry.</i>	<i>North Providence.</i>
Mr. Nathaniel Greene, Jr.,	Capt. Eseck Hopkins,
Mr. Ichabod Borden.	Mr. Thomas Whipple.
<i>Exeter.</i>	<i>Barrington.</i>
Mr. George Pearce,	Mr. Josiah Humphrey,
Mr. Hopson Wilcox.	Mr. Samuel Allen, 2d.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, speaker ; Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

Mr. Henry Ward, secretary.

Mr. Henry Marchant, attorney general.

Mr. Joseph Clarke, general treasurer.

Stephen Hopkins, Esq., chief justice of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery.

#### SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Walter Chaloner. Providence county—Mr. Paul Tew. Kings county—Mr. Beriah Brown. Bristol county—Mr. John Brown. Kent county—Mr. Henry Rice.

#### FIELD OFFICERS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Daniel Dunham, colonel ; Mr. Isaac Dayton, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. John Forrester, major.

Providence county—Mr. Knight Dexter, colonel ; Mr. Abraham Winsor, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Chad Brown, major.

Kings county—Mr. John Crandall, colonel ; Mr. Moses Barber, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. John Allen, son of Jonathan, major.

Bristol county—Mr. Simeon Potter, colonel ; Mr. Nathaniel Martin, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Thomas Gray, major.

Kent county—Mr. John Waterman, colonel ; Mr. Aaron Bowen, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Benjamin Vaughan, major.

Whereas, Henry Marchant, Esq., designs in a short time to proceed to London,—

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., George Hazard, Esq. and William Potter, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill, requesting and fully empowering him to join with Joseph Sherwood, Esq., our present agent, in applying for the money due from the crown to this

colony, and in every other affair that may concern the colony, during his residence in Great Britain; and that they lay the same before this Assembly as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the petition, preferred to this Assembly, by divers inhabitants of the town of Barrington, praying that they may be set off to the town of Warren, be, and the same is hereby, referred to the next session; and that, in the mean time, the said town of Barrington be notified to appear at the next session, if they shall think fit, to answer the same.

It is voted and resolved, that the time for paying in the last colony rate, be lengthened to the next session of this Assembly; and that the rate gatherers collect the interest until that time, as well as the principal, and pay the same into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that \$85, be allowed to the chief justice of the superior court of judicature, &c.; and \$75, to each of the other justices of the said court (including the allowance already made), for their extraordinary time and trouble at the terms of the said court, held in Kings county, in October and April last, in trying the criminals for counterfeiting gold and silver coins, and for breaking open His Majesty's jail in said county, and releasing the prisoners; and that the additional sum now allowed, being \$35, to the chief justice, and \$37, to each of the assistant justices, be paid out of the fines of the said criminals, when a sufficient sum shall be collected, and paid into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the consideration of the letter from General Gage, to His Honor the Governor, requesting that quarters, &c., may be provided for His Majesty's 64th regiment, in this colony, be referred for the present; that, if the said regiment shall arrive before the next session, and require any supplies from the colony, His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to call the General Assembly, if he shall find it necessary.

Whereas, the General Assembly did heretofore appoint the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., James Helme, Esq., Joseph

Hazard, Esq. and Sylvester Robinson, Esq., a committee, they, or the major part of them, to settle and adjust the accounts and demands of the creditors of Thomas Ninegret, late sachem of the Narragansett tribe of Indians, in this colony, and to assist in the sale of so much of his lands as would discharge his debts, and the necessary expenses attending said affair; and whereas, the said sachem is since deceased, and proper deeds of sundry tracts of land bargained and sold for that purpose, were not in the life time of said sachem, duly made and executed to the purchasers of said lands,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that the aforesaid committee, or the major part of them, together with the council of the said late sachem, or the major part of them, make and execute deeds of so much of the lands of said sachem, as will be sufficient for the purpose aforesaid.

An Act appointing Henry Marchant, Esq., joint agent with Joseph Sherwood, Esq., for this colony, at the court of Great Britain.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that Henry Marchant, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed joint agent with Joseph Sherwood, Esq., for this colony, at the court of Great Britain, to act in all matters and things, which are now pending, or that may hereafter arise, in which this colony is, or may be interested, during his residence in Great Britain, or until further orders from this Assembly; and in a more special manner, to apply for, if they shall apprehend it fit and necessary, and procure payment of the monies reported, by the secretaries at war and paymaster general, in Great Britain, to be due to this colony, for the provisions, artillery stores, &c., supplied to His Majesty's troops, in the year 1756.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to cause copies of all such letters and papers, as are in his possession, respecting the said matters, to be delivered to the said

Henry Marchant; that the secretary also furnish him with copies of all such papers and records, as are in his office, respecting the same; and that the secretary be, and hereby is, appointed to prepare a draught of a letter of agency to the said Henry Marchant, for the purposes aforesaid, and lay the same before this Assembly, as soon as may be.

Whereas, the secretary presented unto this Assembly, the following draught of a letter of agency to Henry Marchant, Esq., which was approved, to wit:

*Letter of Agency, by the Governor of Rhode Island, to Henry Marchant, appointing him Joint Agent for the Colony, in London.*

By the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq., Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief, of and over the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, in America.

To all unto whom these presents shall come; greeting:

Whereas, the Governor and Company of the colony, aforesaid, in General Assembly, convened at Newport, in the said Colony, on the first Wednesday in this instant May, did pass an act, choosing and appointing Henry Marchant, of Newport, aforesaid, Esq., jointly with Joseph Sherwood, of the city of London, in the kingdom of Great Britain, Esq., agent and attorney for the said Governor and Company, in Great Britain, aforesaid, with full power and authority, with the said Joseph Sherwood, to act, transact, accomplish and finish, all matters and things whatsoever, pending, or that may be pendent, in Great Britain, for or against the said Governor and Company, during his residence there; more especially to obtain the monies claimed by the said Governor and Company from the crown, for provisions, artillery stores, &c., supplied for His Majesty's service, for the expedition against Crown Point, in the year 1756, or upon any other account, whatever; and requested me, for the purposes aforesaid, to make and execute a full and ample letter of agency and attorney to him, the said Henry Marchant, under my hand, and the seal of this colony.

Now know ye, that I, the Governor above mentioned, by force and virtue of the afore recited act, in behalf of the said Governor and Company, have constituted, ordained and appointed, and by these presents, do constitute, ordain and appoint him, the said Henry Marchant, during his residence in Great Britain, jointly with the said Joseph Sherwood, absolute and lawful agent and attorney, for the said Governor and Company in Great Britain; and in their names and stead to appear before His Majesty in Council, and either or both Houses of Parliament, or any court or courts, judge or judges, minister or ministers of justice, as shall have jurisdiction, cognizance or power to hear, adjudge, determine, sentence or decree, in, or upon, any cause or causes, moved or pending, or to be moved or pendent, in Great Britain, by, for, or against, the said Governor and Company, whether by memorial, petition, claim, demand, appeal, complaint, or otherwise; and there, in the name,



stead and behalf, of the said Governor and Company, jointly with the said Joseph Sherwood, to say, do, act, transact, accomplish and finish, all and every matter and matters, thing and things, needful, requisite and expedient, for obtaining right and justice, in behalf of the said Governor and Company; more especially by petition, memorial, or by any other lawful ways and means whatsoever, in their name and stead, and to their use, to obtain and receive all such sums of money as the said Governor and Company claim from the crown, for provisions, artillery stores, &c., supplied for His Majesty's service, for the expedition against Crown Point, in the year of our Lord 1756, or upon any other account, whatever; and upon receipt of the same, or any part thereof, jointly with the said Joseph Sherwood, to give proper acquittances and lawful discharges.

And I do hereby, for the said Governor and Company, covenant, promise and engage to ratify and confirm, and to hold for ratified and confirmed, all and whatsoever the said Henry Marchant, jointly with the said Joseph Sherwood, shall lawfully do or cause to be done, in or about the premises, by virtue of these presents.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the said colony, at Newport, aforesaid, this — day of May, in the eleventh year of the reign of His Most Sacred Majesty George the Third, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, &c., Anno Domini 1771.

JOSEPH WANTON.

By His Honor's command.

HENRY WARD, Secretary.

Whereas, the town of Warwick preferred a petition unto this Assembly, and represented that the large bridge, commonly called Capt. Green's Bridge, over Pawtuxet river, about six miles above the falls, was, in March last, carried away by a large flood; that the said bridge stood upon a road very much frequented; and the loss of it is a very great damage to the public; and that the said town of Warwick is greatly burthened with bridges, having many other large ones to maintain; and thereupon, they prayed this Assembly to grant a lottery, for re-building the said bridge, agreeably to the scheme that follows; and that Messrs. Benjamin Arnold and Thomas Helden, both of said Warwick; and Elisha Greene, Jr. and Nehemiah Knight, both of Cranston, may be appointed directors of the said lottery; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that the petition for erecting a new town, to be called Pawtuxet, to be taken off from Warwick

and Cranston, be, and the same is hereby, referred to the next session ; and that, in the mean time, the said towns of Warwick and Cranston, be notified to appear at the next session, if they shall think proper, to answer the same.

Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of the towns of Warwick and Cranston, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, and represented that the bridge, called Pawtuxet Bridge, was carried away by a great flood, in March last, and wholly destroyed ; and thereupon, prayed that a sufficient sum may be granted them, out of the general treasury, to re-build the said bridge ; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of \$200, and no more, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, towards repairing the said bridge.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the second Monday in June, 1771.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that George Hazard, Esq., William Brooks Simpson, Esq., Mr. William Ellery and the secretary, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for the relief of insolvent debtors ; and that they present the same to this Assembly, at the next session.

Whereas, the church and congregation, worshipping in Clarke street, [known as the Second Congregational Church], in Newport, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, praying that a bill, by them presented, with the said petition, for the

incorporation of the said church, may be passed into an act of this Assembly ; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that no person or persons, whatsoever, shall hereafter be allowed or permitted to appeal to His Majesty in Council, in Great Britain, from the judgment of the superior court of judicature, in this colony, for any matter or thing whatsoever, unless the matter or thing in controversy, be of the value of £300, lawful money, to be valued by the court, where the appeal shall be prayed ; any law, custom or usage to the contrary, hereof, in any wise, notwithstanding.

Whereas, there is a sentence or judgment, in favor of the colony, against William Reynolds, on the records of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, in the county of Kings county, for the sum of \$1,000, and cost, as a fine for counterfeiting the public coin,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that upon the payment of \$300, immediately, and \$300, on or before the 25th day of December next, and the remainder of said judgment on or before the 25th day of December, A. D. 1772, into the general treasury, the colony shall, and will, release, and quit all their right, title, interest, claim and demand of, in and to, all the real estate of the said William Reynolds.

It is voted and resolved, that all persons who are possessed of any of the lawful money bills, emitted in the year 1760, or any of the notes given by the general treasurer for such bills, bring all such bills and notes into the general treasury, within six weeks from and after the rising of this Assembly, in order to be exchanged for silver and gold; and that after the expiration of said time, no interest be allowed thereon ; and that the general treasurer give public notice of this vote, by an advertisement in the Newport and Providence newspapers.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that no seine be drawn, or net be cast, for the catching the fish between the 1st day of March

and last day of May, annually, in Barrington River, between the water-lot of Daniel Kinnicut, and the Meeting House Point, under the penalty of £10, lawful money; one half to the informer, and the other half to and for the use of the said town of Barrington.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., John Dexter, Esq., Mr. Moses Brown and Matthew Robinson, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draw a state of the case of the northern boundary line of this colony, and deliver the same to Henry Marchant, Esq., to carry with him to Great Britain; who, in concurrence with Joseph Sherwood, Esq., is to take such counsel and advice thereon, as they may think proper, respecting the obtaining an order from His Majesty, for commissioners to settle the line, agreeably to the charters of the Massachusetts Bay and this colony.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed not to put forth the colony's executions against the town of South Kingstown, till after the next session of this Assembly; and that the treasurer empower said town to collect the sums due upon said executions, by issuing his warrants therefor, when said town shall have assessed said sums, so due, upon the inhabitants of said town.

It is voted and resolved, that forty days longer be allowed to the several delinquent towns to pay in their respective rates, they paying interest for the same, up to the time of payment; and that, at the expiration of said time, the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed and fully empowered, to issue his warrants against all those that shall be then deficient.

God save the King.

*The Earl of Hillsborough to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

No. 21.]

Whitehall, July 19th, 1771.

Gentlemen:—The lords commissioners of His Majesty's treasury have communicated to me, several papers received from the commissioners of the customs, in America, relative to certain outrages committed on their officers, and the neglect of

the governors and civil magistrates, in giving them assistance and protection; and their lordships have desired that I would take such measures as I shall judge most expedient, to prevent in such governors and civil magistrates, the like neglect of their duty, for the future.

From these papers, it appears, that some of the most violent of these outrages have been committed at Newport, in Rhode Island; particularly, in April last, when the collector of His Majesty's customs at that port, was, in the execution of his duty, assaulted, and grossly ill-treated, even to the danger of his life, by a number of the inhabitants, without any protection being given him; that in general, the officers of the customs have received no support or countenance from that government, and have in vain applied to the superior court for writs of assistance in cases where such writs were judged necessary.

It has given me great concern, to receive complaints, of such a nature, against a colony for which I have a great regard, and from which, I have received such strong professions of loyalty and duty to the King; but, after the repeated signification of the King's pleasure to the governors of all His Majesty's colonies, that they should use their most strenuous efforts, and exert themselves in the most effectual manner, for the support of the commissioners of the customs, and their officers, and for enabling them to carry the laws of trade into due execution; any further exhortation on that subject would be useless; and it must remain with those, to whom the powers of government in Rhode Island, are entrusted, to consider what must be the consequences, if, after such repeated admonition, the laws of this kingdom are suffered to be trampled upon, and violences and outrages of so reprehensible a nature, are committed with impunity.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

HILLSBOROUGH.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the third Monday in August, 1771.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that a rate or tax, of £12,000, lawful money, be assessed and levied upon the inhabitants of the several towns in this colony; £10,000, thereof, to be appropriated towards sinking the outstanding lawful money bills, emitted in the year 1762, and such treasurer's notes as have been given for said bills; and the other £2,000, for the sup-

ply of the treasury ; and that Rowse J. Helme and Joseph Aplin, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to prepare a bill for that purpose ; and that they lay the same before this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that if the town of Westerly shall pay one half of what remains unpaid of the said town's proportion of the last colony tax, the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to receive the same, and issue out an alias execution for the remainder, returnable in six weeks, with the interest accruing thereon.

It is voted and resolved, that no part of the bills of public credit of the old tenor, now in the general treasury, be burnt, until further orders from this Assembly.

Whereas, divers inhabitants of the town of Providence, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the street leading from the court house to the Main street, hath been, by the late heavy rains, so gullied and worn, as to render it almost impassable, and endanger the foundation of the court house, so that unless it be repaired, it must inevitably fall to the ground ; and that the inhabitants of the said town, as well as those of the adjacent country, suffer many inconveniences for the want of a market house ; provisions being often almost spoiled by being carried about the streets through wet and heat ; and fish rendered more scarce than it would otherwise be, if they had a proper place to expose them for sale ; and therefore prayed, that they may have liberty to raise a sufficient sum of money, by way of lottery, to pave and secure the said Court House street ; and also to build a public market on the town's land, near the bridge ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted ; and that Messrs. Moses Brown, William Russell, Amos Atwell, James Lovet and Benjamin Cushing, Jr., be appointed directors of the said lottery ; they giving bonds in the usual manner, as soon as the sum to be raised, shall be ascertained ; provided, that no expense accrue to the colony, thereby.

It is voted and resolved, that if the town of Portsmouth shall pay into the general treasury the sum of £420, lawful money, of what remains due of the said town's proportion of the last colony rate; and the town of North Kingstown shall pay £100, lawful money, the said towns shall be allowed one month to pay the remainder; and that the town of Jamestown be allowed the same time, to pay in the remainder of their proportion of their said rate; the said towns paying interest for the same.

God save the King.

*From Governor Hutchinson of Massachusetts, to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Boston, 2d September, 1771.

Sir:—Having lately received His Majesty's instructions for my conduct in the administration of government, it is incumbent on me, to transmit an extract from them, to the colony of Rhode Island, which I shall enclose to you; and being, as I suppose, nothing different from what hath been transmitted by my predecessors, since the royal charter, I have no occasion to make any remarks. I have only to add, that

I am, with very great regard, &c., &c.,

THO. HUTCHINSON.

To the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq., Governor of Rhode Island.

*Extracts from the King's Instructions to Thomas Hutchinson, Esq., Governor of Massachusetts Bay.*

“Whereas, we have thought fit, by our commission, under our great seal, of Great Britain, bearing date the — day of —, to constitute and appoint you, our captain general and governor in chief in and over our province, of the Massachusetts Bay; and likewise captain general and commander in chief of the militia, and of all our forces by sea and land, within the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and the Narragansett Country, or King's Province, in New England, and of the forts and places of strength, within the same; you are, therefore, duly to observe the following instructions, viz.:

You are to cause notification to be given, if not already done, to our colonies of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and the Narragansett Country, of the powers wherewith you are entrusted, concerning the militia forces and forts within the said colonies and country, as aforesaid.”

A true copy: THO. HUTCHINSON.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on the last Wednesday in October, 1771.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Messrs. Jeremiah Whipple, Benjamin Tower, David Dexter and Elisha Waterman, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that at the session of this Assembly, held in October, A. D. 1770, they were appointed directors of a lottery, to raise a sum of money, to re-build the bridge over Pawtucket River, between the towns of Smithfield and Cumberland, called Whipple's Bridge; that they did raise the sum of \$400, with which, and an additional sum by them advanced, they have made the said bridge passable at present; and that one half of said bridge is covered with plank almost worn out, so that they can last only a few months; and therefore, they prayed this Assembly, to empower them to raise \$100 more, by way of lottery, to complete said bridge, and reimburse them the money they have advanced, and to appoint a committee to audit their accounts; and that in case there should be a small sum remaining, after the raising the said sum of \$100, that it may be appropriated to the use of said bridge; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions of giving bond, &c.

Whereas, divers of the inhabitants of the town of North Providence, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the road or highway from Providence to Smithfield, leading by the dwelling houses of Capt. Eseck Hopkins and Isaiah Hawkins, Esq.; and a branch of the road to the eastward of the dwelling house of Mr. Jonathan Whipple, is,



by reason of the wetness of the land, for about one hundred and fifty rods, so muddy and miry, that at some seasons of the year it is almost impassable; that the said road is much wanted to be used in passing through the colony; and that the inhabitants in that district are but few, which renders it very difficult to keep said road in repair; and therefore, they prayed the Assembly to grant a lottery, for raising the sum of £60, lawful money, to be laid out in repairing the said road, under the direction of Thomas Whipple, Esq., Capt. Enoch Angell, Mr. Daniel Clark and Mr. Hope Angell; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions of giving bond, &c.

Whereas, Messrs. John Smith and John Innis Clark, wardens of the Episcopalian Church, in Providence, preferred a petition, and represented to this Assembly, that the congregation hath been at a very great expense in repairing the church, so that they are unable to build a steeple and procure a clock, which are much wanted, and will prove ornamental and serviceable to the town; and therefore, they prayed this Assembly to grant them liberty to raise the sum of \$600, by a lottery, for the purpose, aforesaid; and that the said John Innis Clark, John Smith, and Messrs. Ebenezer Thompson and Joseph Nash, may be appointed directors, to carry on the same; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions; and that in case either or any of the directors shall refuse to serve, that another or others shall be appointed in his or their room, by the society of the church, he or they, who shall be so appointed, giving bond, as usual.

Whereas, the Hon. Darius Sessions, Esq., Ephraim Bowen, Esq., Samuel Nightingale, Esq., Mr. Jacob Whitman and Mr. James Greene, the committee of the Presbyterian or Congregational Society, in Providence, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that at the session of this Assem-

bly, held in February, A. D. 1763, a lottery was granted, for raising the sum of £560, lawful money, to be applied to purchasing a parsonage for the use of said society, necessary charges for carrying the same into execution, being first deducted ; that the said lottery, by reason of many unforeseen difficulties, hath hitherto been delayed ; that almost all the managers have declined proceeding therein ; and that the scheme of said lottery is not thought so eligible as some other ; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly to give liberty to adopt a new scheme for raising the said sum of £560, lawful money, for the purpose, aforesaid ; that Jabez Bowen, Esq., Messrs. Nathaniel Greene, Samuel Nightingale, Jr., Charles Keen and Paul Allen, may be appointed managers or directors thereof ; and that the whole may be under the same regulations and restrictions, as in the aforesaid grant ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition, be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions ; and that in case either, or any of the directors shall refuse to serve, that another, or others, shall be appointed in his or their room, by the said society ; he, or they, who shall be so appointed, giving bond, as usual.

It is voted and resolved, that a new jail be built in the town of Newport.

It is voted and resolved, that the new prison house, to be built in Newport, be thirty-six feet wide, and not exceeding forty-five feet in length ; that Mr. Oliver Ring Warner, Mr. Thomas Freebody, Walter Chaloner, Esq., Job Bennett, Esq. and Mr. John Wanton, son of Gideon, be a committee, to procure materials for building the same, at cash price ; that nothing be purchased but by agreement of the major part of the committee ; that they be empowered to draw money out of the general treasury, for that purpose ; and that the said committee inquire into the value of the old prison house, and endeavor to find the best place in Newport to erect the new one upon.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Benjamin Man, be, and

he is hereby, appointed to finish the court house in Providence ; and to draw a sufficient sum of money out of the general treasury, for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that William Greene and Thomas Aldrich, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed to finish the court house in East Greenwich ; and to draw a sufficient sum of money out of the general treasury, for that purpose.

Whereas, the deputies of the towns of Warwick, North Kingstown and East Greenwich, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, praying that a lottery may be granted, for raising \$150, to build the abutments of the bridge, ordered to be built over Hunt's River, (the overplus, if any, to be appropriated as this Assembly shall think fit) ; and that said lottery may be managed by William Greene, William Hall, John Northup and Sylvester Sweet, Esqs., or any three of them ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be granted, under the usual restrictions of giving bond, &c.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to cause two fair copies of the draught of the letter to the Earl of Hillsborough, now lying before this Assembly, to be made, and transmit them to His Lordship ; and also to transmit two copies, thereof, to the agent.

It is voted and resolved, that the act for the more effectual repairing the highways in this colony, be immediately published in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

God save the King.

*Public Acts passed during the year 1771.*

[The following laws will be found at length in the printed "Schedules," or acts and resolves of the General Assembly, for the year 1771.]

An Act incorporating the Second Congregational Church, in Newport. (June.)

An Act to prevent hogs going at large in the compact part of the towns of East Greenwich and Warwick, adjoining. (August.)

An Act for the relief of insolvent debtors. (August.)

An Act for assessing a rate or tax, of £12,000. (August.)

An Act for the more effectual repairing of the highways in this colony. (October.)

*The Governor of Rhode Island to the Earl of Hillsborough.*

No. 36.]

Rhode Island, November 2, 1771.

My Lord:—Your Lordship's letter, dated at Whitehall, the 19th day of July last, I have received, and communicated to the General Assembly, of this colony, who have directed me to return a particular answer to the several charges against the colony, and its officers, therein contained.

Your Lordship observes, that by the papers "received from the commissioners of the customs, in America, it appears that some of the most violent of these outrages have been committed at Newport, on Rhode Island; particularly in April last, when the collector of His Majesty's customs at that port, was in the execution of his duty, assaulted, and grossly ill-treated, even to the danger of his life, by a number of the inhabitants, without any protection being given him; that in general, the officers of the customs have received no support or countenance from that government; and have in vain applied to the superior court, for writs of assistance in cases when such writs were judged necessary."

To this, I answer, that Mr. Dudley, collector of the customs at Newport, in April last, in the dead time of the night, singly and alone, went on board a vessel lying at one of the wharves in Newport, where he met with a number of persons, supposed to be drunken sailors, and was cruelly and scandalously abused by them; that Mr. Dudley never applied to any civil authority for protection or assistance, until after the abuse had happened. Then application was made to me, by the officers of the customs; and what ensued upon that application, will best appear by the letters that passed between these officers and myself, at that time; copies of which, are herewith transmitted, for Your Lordship's satisfaction.

That Mr. Dudley, or any other persons, never afterwards made any application to any of the authority in this colony, for apprehending those persons that had thus abused him; which, had he done, the government would have exerted itself in the most vigorous manner for bringing to justice and punishing those atrocious offenders; that it does not evidently appear, that any one of the inhabitants of the colony were concerned in or privy to the abuse offered to Mr. Dudley; but it is apprehended, it was wholly perpetrated by a company of lawless seamen.

As to that part of the complaint against the superior court, for refusing writs of assistance, the General Assembly, willing to know the truth of that matter, called the justices of the superior court before them, to give an account of what application had been made to them for writs of assistance, and what was the occasion they refused to give the officers of the customs that protection the law required them to give; that all the justices of the superior court declared upon their honors, to the Assembly, that no kind of application whatsoever, had been made to them, or any of them, by any officers of the customs, for any writ of assistance or other protection, of any kind, for several years last past; and the justices of the superior court, further said, that when any application should be made to them, by the custom house officers, for writs of assistance or other protection, that they would readily and cheerfully give them every assistance in the execution of their duty, which the law puts in the power of the superior court to give.

And now My Lord, permit me, in my turn, to complain of the officers of His Majesty's customs in America, for their abusing and misrepresenting the colony of Rhode Island and its officers; for how unkind and ungentlemanly-like, is it for offi-

cers, sent abroad by the crown, to reside in the colonies, by every means in their power, to traduce and even falsely accuse His Majesty's faithful subjects of this colony, to their sovereign and his ministers of state.

I am now to thank Your Lordship for the kind concern you are pleased to express for this colony and its safety, and hope that Your Lordship will transfer your reprehensions from the innocent colony of Rhode Island, to those guilty officers who have so shamefully misinformed you in all those matters contained in Your Lordship's letter. I am, &c., &c.,

JOSEPH WANTON.

To the Right Honorable the Earl of Hillsborough.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1772.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged :

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Samuel Dyre,

Mr. Thomas Wickes,

Mr. James Barker,

Mr. Jonathan Randall,

Mr. Solomon Drown,

Mr. John Congdon,

Mr. David Harris,

Mr. Rowland Robinson.

Mr. John Almy,

Mr. William Richmond.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Thomas Cranston,

Mr. John Wanton,

Mr. George Hazard,

Mr. Joseph Wanton, Jr.,

Mr. Oliver R. Warner,

Mr. Thomas Freebody.

*Providence.*

Mr. Stephen Hopkins.

Mr. Thomas Greene,

Mr. Benjamin Man,

Mr. John Jenckes.

## DEPUTIES.

<i>Portsmouth.</i>	<i>West Greenwich.</i>
Mr. Metcalfe Bowler,	Mr. William Nichols,
Mr. John Jepson,	Mr. Thomas Gorton.
Mr. Joseph Cundall,	<i>Coventry.</i>
Mr. Jonathan Brownell.	Mr. Nathaniel Greene, Jr.,
<i>Warwick.</i>	Mr. Ichabod Bowen.
Mr. Benjamin Greene,	<i>Exeter.</i>
Mr. Samuel Aborn,	Mr. George Pearce,
Mr. Jacob Greene,	Mr. Jeffrey Wilcox.
Mr. Christopher Greene.	<i>Middletown.</i>
<i>Westerly.</i>	Mr. Joshua Barker,
Mr. James Rhodes,	Mr. Isaac Smith.
Mr. Phineas Clark.	<i>Bristol.</i>
<i>North Kingstown.</i>	Col. Simeon Potter,
Mr. Peter Phillips,	Mr. William Bradford.
Mr. John Northup.	<i>Tiverton.</i>
<i>South Kingstown.</i>	Mr. Edward Gray,
Mr. John Rose,	Mr. Oliver Cook.
Mr. Samuel Babcock.	<i>Little Compton.</i>
<i>East Greenwich.</i>	Mr. Thomas Church,
Mr. Sylvester Sweet,	Mr. George Pearce.
Mr. Thomas Tillinghast.	<i>Warren.</i>
<i>Jamestown.</i>	Mr. Sylvester Child,
Mr. John Gardner,	Mr. Nathan Miller.
Capt. Samuel Slocum.	<i>Cumberland.</i>
<i>Smithfield.</i>	Mr. John Dexter,
Mr. Welcome Arnold.	Mr. Joseph Brown.
<i>Scituate.</i>	<i>Richmond.</i>
Mr. Ezekiel Cornell,	Mr. Edward Perry,
Mr. Rufus Hopkins.	Mr. Robert Stanton.
<i>Glocester.</i>	<i>Cranston.</i>
Mr. Abraham Waterman,	Mr. John Andrews,
Mr. Thomas Wood.	Mr. William Dexter.
<i>Charlestown.</i>	<i>Hopkinton.</i>
Mr. Samuel Kinyon,	Mr. Thomas Wells, Jr.,
Mr. Benjamin Hoxsie, Jr.	Capt. Abel Tanner.

## DEPUTIES.

*Johnston.*

Mr. Peleg Williams.

*North Providence.*

Capt. Eseck Hopkins,

Mr. Jonathan Jenckes, Jr.

*Barrington.*

Mr. Nathaniel Martin.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, speaker ; Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

Mr. Henry Ward, secretary.

Mr. Henry Marchant, attorney general.

Mr. Joseph Clarke, general treasurer.

Stephen Hopkins, Esq., chief justice of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery.

## SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Walter Chaloner. Providence county—Mr. Paul Tew. Kings county—Mr. Beriah Brown. Bristol county—Mr. John Brown. Kent county—Mr. Henry Rice.

## FIELD OFFICERS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Daniel Dunham, colonel ; Mr. Isaac Dayton, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. John Forrester, major.

Providence county—Mr. Knight Dexter, colonel ; Mr. Abraham Winsor, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Chad Brown, major.

Kings county—Mr. Thomas Gardner, colonel ; Mr. Moses Barber, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Jonathan Vaughan, major.

Bristol county—Mr. Simeon Potter, colonel ; Mr. Nathaniel Martin, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Thomas Gray, major.

Kent county—Mr. John Waterman, colonel ; Mr. Aaron Bowen, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Benjamin Vaughan, major.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to build the new jail, in Newport, proceed to build the same,

agreeably to the plan presented to this Assembly, excepting that the front be made two feet longer than was before ordered, and the entry be ten feet wide ; and that no money be drawn out of the general treasury, without the consent of the major part of the committee.

Whereas, Henry Harry, Christopher Harry, James Daniel, Samuel Niles, James Niles, Ephraim Coheas, Thos. Lewis, John Shattock and Joseph Tucky, the council for the tribe of Narragansett Indians, in this colony, represented unto this Assembly, that they are all of opinion, it will be best to sell the little house, and the two acre lot, and the wood lot, (the exact quantity not being ascertained), and as much of Fort Neck, as will pay all Thomas Ninegret's just debts ; and that they are all of one mind, to sell so much of Fort Neck, as will pay those debts, and to reserve the lands which will be left, to support all their poor ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to sell a part of the real estate of Thomas Ninegret, the late sachem, for the payment of his debts, proceed to do the same, agreeably to the above mentioned proposal.

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of £90, lawful money, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, towards re-building Pawtucket Bridge ; provided, the inhabitants of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, raise money, and build one of the abutments ; and that Messrs. Eseck Hopkins and Stephen Jenckes, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, and empowered to draw the said sum out of the general treasury, and to lay out the same, for the purposes, aforesaid ; and that they procure the materials at cash price.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that the act passed by this Assembly, at the session held at East Greenwich, on the third Monday in August, A. D. 1771, entitled “ An act for the relief of insolvent debtors,” be, and it is hereby, repealed, and rendered null and void for the future.

Whereas, Mrs. Catharine Earl, exhibited unto this Assem-



bly, an account by her charged against the colony, for billeting a party of His Majesty's troops, passing through this colony; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that £9 6s., lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid the said Catharine Earl, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the draught of a letter to Admiral Montagu, be approved; that His Honor the Governor, be, and hereby is, requested to transmit the same to the admiral; and also, to transmit to the secretary of state, as soon as may be, a narrative containing all the proceedings referred to in the said letter, together with a copy of the Admiral's letter, and the said answer; and to lay a copy thereof, before this Assembly, at the next session.\*

It is voted and resolved, that the several collectors of taxes within this colony, be, and they are hereby, empowered to collect interest for all the taxes now unpaid, from the individuals who have not paid the same.

Whereas, complaint hath frequently been made to this Assembly, that, through the combination of the inhabitants of the island of New Shoreham, no writ of mesne process or execution, can be served upon any of the said inhabitants; who do, thereby, in a great measure, evade justice.

For remedy, whereof, this Assembly have thought proper that some more effectual laws, than are now in force, be made, particularly for the inhabitants of said island; and that the said town may have a full hearing, before any such laws be made,—

It is voted and resolved, that the clerk of the lower house, be, and he is hereby, directed to issue forth a notification to the inhabitants of the said island of New Shoreham, to appear before this Assembly, at the next session, to be held by adjournment, at Newport, on the third Monday in August next, to show cause, if any they have, why more effectual laws

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\* This relates to events which led to the destruction of the Gaspee; all the particulars and documents relative to which, are inserted at the close of the following August session.

should not be made, particularly for the inhabitants of New Shoreham, for bringing them to justice.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the third Monday in August, 1772.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, divers inhabitants of the town of Newport, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that at the session of this Assembly, held in February, A. D. 1768, a lottery was granted, to raise the sum of \$500, to be applied towards the paving of King street, in Newport, aforesaid; that the directors have accordingly raised the said sum, but find it insufficient for that purpose, owing to the situation of the street, which rendered the making a large common sewer necessary; the charge, whereof, was much greater than it was estimated at; and that the finishing the said street, upon the plan proposed, will not only make it very elegant, but extremely useful to the inhabitants of the said town, in general; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly to enable them to raise a further sum of money, sufficient to complete the paving and other necessary repairs of the said street, by a lottery, to consist of one or more classes, as the directors shall think most prudent; that the present directors may be continued, and empowered to perform the said business; and that if any of them shall refuse, the town of Newport may appoint one or more directors in his or their stead, refusing; the person or persons so to be appointed, giving bond in the usual manner; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the aforesaid petition

be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions ; provided, that the colony incur no expense in consequence thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that John Dexter, Esq., Mr. Oliver Ring Warner and Mr. Rufus Hopkins, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill to empower the several town councils, in this colony, to lay out drift ways, as well as highways.

It is voted and resolved, that John Jepson, Esq. and Mr. John Jenckes, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to prepare a bill for destroying barberry bushes, throughout this colony.

Whereas, John Dexter and Joseph Brown, Esqs., deputies from the town of Cumberland, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the bridge built over Pawtucket River, between the towns of Smithfield and Cumberland, aforesaid, near the Furnace Unity, so called, which was first built by lottery, hath, by length of time, and the great floods in the said river, during the last winter, become almost impassable, and unless repaired, will very soon become useless ; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly to grant them another lottery, to raise the sum of £40, lawful money, to repair the said bridge ; and that Abner Lapham, Esq. and Capt. John Fisk, of said Cumberland, may be appointed managers, thereof ; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions ; provided, that no expense be incurred by the colony, in consequence thereof.

Whereas, divers of the inhabitants of the town of Barrington, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the Congregational meeting house in said town, is very much out of repair ; that the laying out three roads, one to the southward, and two to the westward of the said meeting house, will greatly accommodate the inhabitants and travelers towards Fuller's Ferry, and the meeting house ; and

that their circumstances are such, they cannot effect the same, without the interposition of this Assembly; and therefore prayed this Assembly to grant them a lottery, upon such scheme as the managers shall think proper, to raise the sum of £165, lawful money; £110, thereof, to be appropriated towards repairing the said meeting house, and the remainder towards opening or laying out the said highways; and that James Brown, Josiah Humphrey, Nathaniel Martin, Samuel Allen and Edward Bosworth, Esqs., may be appointed managers of the said lottery; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions; provided, that no expense be brought upon the colony thereby.

Whereas, the Hon. Darius Sessions, Esq., exhibited unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the colony, for the expenses he was at, in going to Pawtuxet, and taking evidences respecting the loss of His Majesty's schooner Gaspee; for cash paid for victualling while on shore, and carrying on board the Beaver, the people belonging to said schooner, and provisions during their passage; for cash paid for the hire and expenses of an express sent to Newport, to His Honor the Governor, with an account of the said affair, and copies of the depositions; and for cash paid for defraying the charge of taking up, and securing sundry stores belonging to the said schooner; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that £9 1s. 9d., lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid the said Darius Sessions, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. Samuel Aborn, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the colony, for the expenses of taking up, and securing the anchors, guns and other stores, of His Majesty's schooner, the Gaspee, &c.; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that £11 18s. 2d., lawful money, being the balance thereof, be paid the said Samuel Aborn, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, His Honor the Governor, hath laid before this Assembly, a full and particular narrative of the measures he hath pursued, in consequence of the burning of His Majesty's schooner, the *Gaspee*; and of the steps he hath taken to discover the perpetrators of that atrocious piece of villainy; upon due consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the whole of His Honor's proceedings be approved; and that His Honor be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit a copy thereof, to the agent of the colony, in Great Britain; and to pursue such further measures respecting the said affair, during the recess of the General Assembly, as shall appear necessary.

And whereas, His Honor issued a proclamation, promising a reward of £100, sterling, to any person or persons who shall discover the persons guilty of the said crime;—

It is therefore further voted and resolved, that this Assembly will make provision for paying the above mentioned reward, in case any person or persons shall be entitled thereto.

And it is further voted and resolved, that no copies of letters, or other proceedings, relating to the above mentioned affair, be delivered out by the secretary, to any person or persons, whomsoever.

It is voted and resolved, that the letter from His Honor the Governor, to the Right Honorable the Earl of Hillsborough, of the 20th of May last, containing a narrative of the proceedings respecting His Honor's calling Lieutenant Dudingston before him, &c., be, and the same is hereby, approved.

Whereas, Joseph Rhodes, of Cranston, cooper, hath in his hands the sum of \$79, belonging to Lieutenant Dudingston, which he refuseth to deliver,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, and the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., be, and they are hereby, requested and empowered to make in-

quiry into that affair, and to settle all differences between the parties; and that if the said Rhodes will not comply therewith, they advise the said Dudington to [take] the proper method for obtaining his right.

Whereas, Messrs. John Greene and Company, and Griffin Greene, all of Coventry; and Nathaniel Greene and Company, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that on the night of the 17th instant, the buildings of the forge, in said Coventry, of which they were owners, were entirely consumed by fire; that the loss is so great that they cannot repair it without assistance; that some of them are considerably indebted, have increasing families to maintain, and by the said misfortune are deprived of their principal dependance; that, although they, the petitioners, are the immediate sufferers, yet many others must consequently share in the calamity, as a considerable part of the country adjacent, were employed by means of said forge; which also furnished a very material and expensive article for shipping; and that, if the said forge be not repaired, the anchor works, which still remain, will be in a manner useless; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly to grant them a lottery, to raise the sum of \$2,500, under the direction of Messrs. William Greene, Christopher Greene and Charles Holden, they giving bond for the faithful performance of the said trust; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

Whereas, Messrs. Nicholas Goddard, Samuel Gorton, Caleb Hill, Hopkins Cooke and William Arnold, in behalf of themselves and others, of the denomination of Baptists, in and about the town of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the Baptist meeting house, in said town, is very much decayed, and cannot be repaired to advantage; that the number of people who attend religious worship in said house, is increased to such a degree, as to make a larger meeting house necessary; and that the poverty of the members renders it impracticable

to build a new one, without assistance ; and thereupon, they prayed this Assembly to grant them the liberty of raising the sum of \$1,500, by lottery, to be applied towards erecting a Baptist meeting house in the said town ; and that they, the petitioners, may be appointed directors of the said lottery, giving bond, as usual, for the faithful discharge of said trust ; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions.

Whereas, divers freemen, inhabitants of the town of Warwick, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the town wharf, in Warwick harbor, is so far gone to decay, that it is extremely difficult to land upon said wharf, or take off any kind of goods or merchandise, whatever ; and therefore prayed this Assembly to grant them a lottery, to raise the sum of \$500, to be appropriated to the building a wharf on the highway laid out to said Warwick harbor, for that purpose ; which wharf may be freely made use of, by any of the inhabitants of this colony, wharfage free ; and that Capt. Benjamin Gorton, Capt. Thomas Greene and Capt. John Lippitt, may be appointed managers in the said business ; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions.

Whereas, divers inhabitants of the town of Newport, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the street called Pelham street, in Newport, aforesaid, is so situated that it cannot be kept in repair without very great expense, unless the same be paved ; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly to grant them a lottery, for paving the said street, to be divided into classes, at the discretion of the directors, so that a sum sufficient for carrying the said design into execution, may be raised ; and that Messrs. Simon Pease, Robert Stoddard, Charles Handy, John Bannister, Thomas Gordon Stelle and Samuel Bours, may be appointed directors of the

said lottery, they giving bond for the faithful execution of the said trust ; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

God save the King.

*Public Acts passed during the year 1772.*

[The following laws will be found at length in the printed "Schedules," or acts and resolves of the General Assembly, for the year 1772.]

An Act incorporating Field's Fountain Society. (May.)

An additional Act empowering justices of the inferior court of common pleas, or any three of them, to constitute and hold special courts of common pleas, on certain occasions. (May.)

An Act for assessing a rate or tax of £12,000, lawful money. (August.)

An Act to prevent horse stealing, and to punish the persons guilty thereof. (August.)

An Act for destroying barberry bushes throughout this colony. (August.)

An Act empowering the several town councils in this colony, to lay out drift-ways in their respective towns. (August.)

*The Earl of Dartmouth to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, August 14, 1772.

Gentlemen:—The King having been graciously pleased to appoint me to be one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, and to commit to my care, the dispatch of all such business as relates to His Majesty's colonies, I take the earliest opportunity of acquainting you therewith.

It will give me great satisfaction to be able to fulfill His Majesty's gracious intentions in this appointment ; and as it is His Majesty's pleasure that your dispatches should, for the future, be addressed to me, I shall not fail to lay them immediately before the King, and to transmit to you such orders as His Majesty shall think fit to give thereupon.

I am, &c., &c.

DARTMOUTH.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.



A HISTORY OF THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S  
SCHOONER GASPEE, IN NARRAGANSETT BAY, ON THE 10TH  
JUNE, 1772; ACCOMPANIED BY THE CORRESPONDENCE CON-  
NECTED THEREWITH; THE ACTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEM-  
BLY OF THE COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND THEREON, AND THE  
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMIS-  
SION OF INQUIRY APPOINTED BY KING GEORGE THE THIRD,  
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The records of the proceedings and the correspondence of the preceding years, show that an illicit trade had long been carried on, not only in Rhode Island, but in the other English colonies. They show, too, that efforts had been repeatedly made by the commissioners of customs, to put a stop to this practice, by placing armed vessels in Narragansett Bay, and at other places along the coast, from Casco Bay to Cape Henlopen, in 1764. Serious riots, too, had, in several instances occurred, in consequence of the vigilance of the custom house officers, in their endeavors to check this illicit trade.

The vessel assigned to this station, in 1764, by the King's authority, was the schooner *St. John*, Lieut. Hill, commander. This vessel seized the cargo of a brig, which had discharged near Howland's Ferry, and following her at sea, made a prize of her, and brought her to Newport. Other difficulties, which grew out of her presence, at Newport, led to the fitting out of an armed sloop, with the intention of destroying her, which was only prevented by the presence of the "Squirrel" man of war, in that harbor. Nevertheless, the people on board the sloop landed on Goat Island, seized the battery, and discharged its guns at the large ship.

During the same year, another event took place in the harbor of Newport, which tended greatly to exasperate the people. The *Maidstone*, a vessel belonging to the British navy, lay here, several months, and gave great dissatisfaction, by impressing seamen from vessels entering the harbor, as well as in taking them from the boats and small craft in the bay. Other ships of the royal navy, which visited Newport, also had difficulties with the people there, all of which tended to arouse them, and lead to some measures of retaliation. The climax was reached, when a brig from Africa, entering the port, was boarded by the officers from the *Maidstone*, and her entire crew pressed into the naval service. The same night, a mob of about five hundred men and boys, exasperated by the affair, seized one of the boats belonging to the *Maidstone*, which lay at the wharf, pulled her on shore, and after dragging her

through the streets to the Common, in front of the court house, burnt her, amid the shouts of an immense crowd, which the occasion had brought together. The affair was so suddenly concocted and carried into effect, that the authorities had no time to interfere.

The next important event in order, in resisting the authority of the government in its efforts to suppress illicit trade, was the affair of the armed sloop *Liberty*, Capt. Reid, which the commissioners of the customs had sent to Newport, in 1769. This officer had exhibited an extraordinary zeal in executing the orders he had received, and had greatly annoyed vessels entering our ports.

On the 17th July, while cruising in Long Island Sound, he took a brig and a sloop, belonging to Connecticut, which he suspected had been engaged in illicit trade, and brought them to Newport. The commander of the brig, Capt. Packwood, it appeared, had duly reported his cargo at the custom house, before sailing, and no proof was exhibited that he had made any attempt to evade the revenue. On the 19th, as no charges had been made, or prosecution entered against the brig, Packwood went on board the *Liberty*. The captain being absent, some difficulty took place, which led to the firing of several musket balls at Capt. Packwood's boat on her return to the shore. Obtaining no redress for this outrage, the people of Newport boarded the obnoxious vessel, cut her cables, and suffered her to drift on shore, near Long Wharf. They then cut away her masts, threw her armament overboard, when, with the first high tide, she drifted over to Goat Island. The first night she lay here, a party from Newport, went over and burnt her.

His Majesty's armed schooner, the *Gaspee*, of eight guns, Lieut. Dudingston, accompanied by the *Beaver*, made their appearance in the waters of Narragansett Bay, in March, 1772, on duties similar to those of the "*St. John*" and "*Liberty*," to which allusion has been made, viz.: to prevent breaches of the revenue laws, and to stop the illicit trade, so long and so success-

fully carried on in the colony. The commander of the *Gaspee* was quite as exacting as Capt. Reid of the *Liberty* had been. He stopped all vessels, including small market boats, without showing his authority for so doing; and even sent the property he had illegally seized, to Boston, for trial, contrary to an act of Parliament, which required such trials to be held in the colonies where the seizures were made. In these acts, Dudington had clearly transcended his powers. Shortly after the *Gaspee* had commenced her illegal proceedings, the complaints from the people of Providence were so numerous to the Deputy Governor, Darius Sessions, that he submitted the question to Chief Justice Hopkins, who did not hesitate to give his opinion, "that no commander of any vessel has a right to use any authority in the body of the colony, without previously applying to the Governor, and showing his warrant for so doing; and also being sworn to a due exercise of his office." Upon receiving this opinion, the Deputy Governor, who then resided in Providence, addressed the following letter to Governor Joseph Wanton, at Newport:

*The Deputy Governor to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Providence, March 21, 1772.

Sir:—The inhabitants of this town, have, of late, been much disquieted in their minds, by repeated advices being brought of a schooner, which, for some time past, hath cruised in the Narragansett Bay, and much disturbed our navigation. She suffers no vessel to pass, not even packet boats, or others of an inferior kind, without a strict examination; and where any sort of unwillingness is discovered, they are compelled to submit, by an armed force. Who he is, and by what authority he assumes such a conduct, it is thought needs some inquiry; and I am requested by a number of gentlemen, of this town, on their behalf, to acquaint Your Honor therewith, and that you would take the matter into consideration; and, if the commander of that schooner has not as yet made proper application, and been duly authorized in his proceedings, that some proper measures be taken to bring him to account.

It is suspected he has no legal authority to justify his conduct; and his commission, if he has any, is some antiquated paper, more of a fiction than anything else; and this seems to be confirmed by Mr. Thomas Greene, who says he saw it, and believes it to be no other than the commission the famous Reid had, who lost his sloop at Newport, or something else, of no validity.

In consequence of the above mentioned application, I have consulted with Chief Justice Hopkins thereon, who is of opinion, that no commander of any vessel has any right to use any authority in the body of the colony, without previously applying to the Governor, and showing his warrant for so doing; and also, being sworn to a due exercise of his office; and this, he informs me, has been the common custom in this colony.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

DARIUS SESSIONS.

To Governor Wanton.

This letter led to the following correspondence between the Governor and the commanding officer of the schooner :

*The Governor of Rhode Island to the Commander of the Gaspee.*

Newport, Rhode Island, March 22, 1772.

Sir:—A considerable number of the inhabitants of this colony have complained to me, of your having, in a most illegal and unwarrantable manner, interrupted their trade, by searching and detaining every little packet boat plying between the several towns. As I know not by what authority you assume this power, I have sent off the high sheriff, to inform you of the complaint exhibited against you, and expect that you do, without delay, produce me your commission and instructions, if any you have, which was your duty to have done when you first came within the jurisdiction of this colony.

I am your humble servant,

J. WANTON.

To the commanding officer of a schooner near Brenton's Point.

*Lieut. Dudingston to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Schooner Gaspee, Rhode Island,  
March 23, 1772.

Sir:—Last night I received your letter informing me, that a “number of the inhabitants of this colony had complained” to you, of my having, “in a most illegal and unwarrantable manner, interrupted their trade, by searching and detaining every little packet boat, plying between the several towns.”

In answer to which, I have done nothing but what was my duty; and their complaint can only be founded on their ignorance of that. When I waited on you, on my arrival, I acquainted you of my being sent to this government, to assist the revenue. I had my commission to show you, if required, as it was ever understood by all His Majesty's governors I have had the honor to wait on, that every officer commanding one of His Majesty's vessels, was properly authorized, and never did produce it, unasked for. The officer I send, is equally qualified and has been in the boats in boarding most of the vessels, and can give any information relative to my proceeding.

Sir, your humble servant,

W. DUDINGSTON.

To Governor Wanton.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Lieut. Dudingston.*

Newport, Rhode Island, March 23, 1772.

Sir:—Yours, of this day, I have received, which does not give me that satisfaction I had a right to expect; neither was the bearer of the letter qualified to give me any authentic information respecting the legality of that authority you have presumed to exercise within this colony. I expect that you do, without delay, comply with my request of yesterday; and you may be assured, that my utmost exertions shall not be wanting to protect your person from any insult or outrage, on coming ashore. I am your humble servant. J. WANTON.

To Mr. W. Dudingston, of the schooner Gaspee.

With this, the correspondence between Governor Wanton and Lieut. Dudingston ended. The lieutenant's sense of propriety was evidently shocked by the letters from Governor Wanton, and of his peremptory demand to exhibit to him his commission and instructions. He seems to have believed that the authority from which his commission emanated, was paramount to that of the colonial governor. He therefore enclosed the letters of Governor Wanton, together with his own, to Admiral Montagu, at Boston, who was then in command of His Majesty's fleet on this station. The admiral plainly espoused the side of Dudingston, and feeling his own dignity wounded at the demand of the Governor on his lieutenant, addressed the insolent letter, which follows, to Governor Wanton:

*Admiral Montagu to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Boston, 8th April, 1772.

Sir:—Lientenant Dudingston, commander of His Majesty's armed schooner, and a part of the squadron under my command, has sent me two letters he received from you, of such a nature, I am at a loss what answer to give them, and ashamed to find they come from one of His Majesty's governors. He informs me, that he waited upon you, and showed you the admiralty and my orders for his proceedings; which, agreeably to his instructions, he is to do, that you may be acquainted that he is on that station to protect your province from pirates, and to give the trade all the assistance he can, and to endeavor, as much as lays in his power, to protect the revenue officer, and to prevent (if possible,) the illicittrade that is carrying on at Rhode Island.

He, sir, has done his duty, and behaved like an officer; and it is your duty, as a governor, to give him your assistance, and not endeavor to distress the King's offi-



eers for strictly complying with my orders. I shall give them directions, that, in case they receive any molestation in the execution of their duty, they shall send every man so taken in molesting them, to me. I am also informed, the people of Newport talk of fitting out an armed vessel to rescue any vessel the King's schooner may take carrying on an illicit trade. Let them be cautious what they do; for as sure as they attempt it, and any of them are taken, I will hang them as pirates. I shall report your two insolent letters to my officer, to His Majesty's secretaries of state, and leave them to determine what right you have to demand a sight of all orders I shall give to all officers of my squadron; and I would advise you not to send your sheriff on board the King's ship again, on such ridiculous errands. The captain and lieutenants have all my orders, to give you assistance whenever you demand it, but further, you have no business with them; and, be assured, it is not their duty to show you any part of my orders or instructions to them.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

J. MONTAGU.

To Governor Wanton.

This produced the following dignified and spirited answer:

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Admiral Montagu.*

Rhode Island, May 8, 1772.

Sir:—Your letter, dated April the 8th, at Boston, I have received. Lieutenant Dudingston has done well in transmitting my letters to you, which I sent him; but I am sorry to be informed there is any thing contained in them that should be construed as a design of giving offence, when no such thing was intended. But Mr. Dudingston has not behaved so well, in asserting to you “he waited on me, and showed me the admiralty and your orders for his proceedings, which, agreeably to his instructions, he is so to do;” but in that he has altogether misinformed you; for he, at no time, ever showed me any orders from the admiralty or from you; and positively denied that he derived any authority either from you or the commissioners; therefore, it was altogether out of my power to know, whether he came hither to protect us from pirates, or was a pirate himself. You say, “he has done his duty and behaved like an officer.” In this, I apprehend you must be mistaken; for I can never believe it is the duty of any officer, to give false information to his superiors. As to your attempt to point out what was my duty as Governor, please to be informed, that I do not receive instructions for the administration of my government, from the King's admiral, stationed in America.

You seem to assert, that I have endeavored to distress the King's officers, for strictly complying with your orders. In this, you are altogether mistaken; for I have at all times heretofore, and shall constantly for time to come, afford them all the aid and assistance in my power, in the execution of their office.

The information you have received, “that the people of Newport talked of fitting out an armed vessel to rescue any vessel the King's schooner might take carrying on an illicit trade,” you may be assured is without any foundation, and a scandalous imposition; for, upon inquiring into this matter, I cannot find that any such design was ever conceived, or so much as talked of; and therefore, I hope you will

not hang any of His Majesty's subjects belonging to his colony, upon such false information.

I am greatly obliged for the promise of transmitting my letters to the secretary of state. I am, however, a little shocked at your impolite expression, made use of upon that occasion. In return for this good office, I shall also transmit your letter to the secretary of state, and leave to the King and his ministers to determine on which side the charge of insolence lies.

As to your advice, not to send the sheriff on board any of your squadron, please to know, that I will send the sheriff of this colony at any time, and to any place, within the body of it, as I shall think fit.

In the last paragraph of your letter, you are pleased flatly to contradict what you wrote in the beginning: for there you assert that Dudingston, by his instructions, was directed to show me the admiralty and your orders to him; and here you assert, that I have no business with them; and assure me, that it is not his duty to show me them, or any part thereof. I am, sir, &c., &c., J. WANTON.

To Admiral Montagu.

The Governor laid the preceding letter from Admiral Montagu, before the General Assembly, at their May session, 1772, and the following resolution passed that body, in relation to the answer sent to the admiral:

“Resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be requested to transmit a copy of the letter written to Admiral Montagu; and likewise, that His Honor the Governor, be requested to transmit to the secretary of state, a narration, containing the proceedings referred to in said letter, together with a copy of the admiral's letter, as soon as may be; and that he present a copy thereof, to this Assembly, at the next session of the same.”

The letter of the Governor, led to some further correspondence between the admiral and the lieutenant, of which only the following letter is found among the archives:

*Lieut. Dudingston to Admiral Montagu.*

Schooner Gaspee, Rhode Island,  
May 22, 1772.

Sir:—I have received your letters of the 14th and 18th instant, and copy of commissioners' to you. By theirs, I see plainly, I cannot look to them to be supported for sending the sloop and rum to Boston, notwithstanding I was assured by their officers at this port, no seizure could be safe with them. There was only the alternative to send her, or remain in this harbor, and guard twelve hogsheads of rum; a

bait, the inhabitants of this government would willingly put in my way, if that could fix the schooner. I was not, at the time, ignorant of the statute to the contrary; but never doubted, if the sloop got safe, I should be supported by them, as I informed the board.

The owner of the rum resided in Coventry, which is but little further from Boston, than Newport; and of course, could, at as little expense, defend this property at the one as the other. As I find the exigencies not considered, but law referred to by them, for the future shall take care not to act repugnant to it, let what may be the consequence. If I should have any doubt about that, I will take the opinion recommended to their officers, relative to the officers in the navy being arrested here by the attorney general. I shall also be on my guard, not to put it in their power to arrest me, or any officer under my command in this government.

What passed between the Governor and me, was, as near as I can recollect, what follows. The morning after my arrival from Boston, was when I first saw him.

Lieut. D.—Sir, I command His Majesty's schooner Gaspee, and am ordered into this government by Admiral Montagu, to assist the revenue.

Governor—Is it the schooner Capt. Allen commanded? (meaning the lieutenant I superseded).

Lieut.—Yes.

Governor—We have had many different schooners here lately; (mentioning the Sultana, St. John and Halifax).

Lieut.—Yes; and you may remember me here about two years ago, when the Colonels Dalrymple and Robinson came with me. (I am not sure whether he said he did or not.)

Governor—What vessel was that which seized the packet?

I told him whom she was commanded by and belonged to, and my being there at the time, and said, it would not have happened had the officer come near the Gaspee, which was his duty, with more on the subject, too trivial for you to hear. He then related the conduct of the collector and Mr. Reid, late commander of the custom house sloop Liberty, and said it was in their power to have saved her before she had received much damage; and said he would not mind what they represented concerning him, if they had told facts. I said I had heard it otherwise mentioned; but hoped I should meet with no difficulty in the execution of my duty.

Governor—You may depend on my support and assistance.

I then observed, it was not clear to me, if I made a seizure, it would be safe.

Governor—I will do all in my power.

I then instanced what had been the fate of one made by the officers of the port a little before; and added, I did not think if I made one, I should put it to the trial.

Governor—I suppose you will be much here. I shall always be glad to see you.

Lieut. D.—I shall be where I find I can best execute the service. I was much obliged to him.

Governor—I hope, Captain, we shall have a good understanding.

I said it was my wish, and should give him as little trouble as possible. Much was said about his government and police; but never did he ask me to show my orders, or even mention them. The weather kept me some days in the harbor; and I was in company with some of his friends; but never heard my authority questioned, till I sent the sloop to Boston, on my return here; at which time, I gave him my reason in a letter, (a copy of which, I enclose to you), for not showing my

orders, as he, till then, had never required me to do so; at which time I sent them by an officer, which I informed you of.

I must now beg leave to observe, if he had asked me to show my orders, is it possible I should behave so much unlike an officer and gentleman, in telling a falsehood, by doing which, I must be ruined as an officer, and in reputation forever? The fallacy is easily seen, when it is considered, the only thing that makes the schooner respected, is said to be denied by me. Had such an assertion come from a private character, I should hope for reparation, for an attempt to wound my reputation as an officer. In my present situation, I have only to hope my word will be respected as an officer, as much as his, as a Governor, who can make it appear by no better evidence than an old woman and clerk in the naval office, and not in the station of a gentleman; and I do not think either would be base enough to witness so great a falsehood.

As to his letter, it cannot be looked upon as his, but the Assembly's, where it was put to the vote to answer your letter or not. They were all for the answer; the Governor alone, for sending it to Lord Hillsborough.

Mr. Greene is one of the house, the owner of the rum. I could expect no quarter from people of that stamp. On the 20th, the sloop was condemned. I have taken the liberty to enclose my letter to the commissioners for your perusal, open; as it was the intention of the people here, to have the sloop sold in the manner they have been used to, and which always falls into the old owners' hands, without opposition. I hope soon to have the board's answer, to determine her destination.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

W. DUDINGSTON.

To Admiral Montagu.

At the next session of the Assembly, which was in August following, and to which reference is made in the Colonial Records, Vol. VII, p. 51, Governor Wanton presented a copy of his letter to the secretary of state, which was as follows:

*The Governor of Rhode Island to the Earl of Hillsborough.*

Newport, Rhode Island, May 20, 1772.

My Lord:—In conformity to a vote of the General Assembly, of this colony, I herewith transmit Your Lordship a copy of a letter I received from Admiral Montagu, and the answer. They have also requested me to transmit to Your Lordship a narrative of all the proceedings referred to, in said letter.

As Admiral Montagu has endeavored to fix a stigma on my character and administration as Governor of this colony, by charging me with attempting to distress the King's officers from strictly complying with his orders, Your Lordship will indulge me with giving a short account of my proceedings, by which the ungenerous accusation of Admiral Montagu, will, I flatter myself, appear not to have the least foundation in truth.

On the 21st of March last, a number of the inhabitants of this colony, gentlemen of established character, and whose loyalty to their sovereign is not to be questioned, exhibited to me a complaint in writing, that a certain schooner was cruising

in the Narragansett River, boarding every vessel and boat that passed, and otherwise interrupting them in the pursuit of their lawful business: and not knowing by what authority the persons belonging to said schooner exercised that power within the body of the colony, requested me to make such inquiry concerning the same, as was consistent with law.

It therefore, became my indispensable duty, in order to satisfy the complaints, to demand of the commanding officer of said schooner, the reason of his thus acting, and whether he was vested with such powers as would justify his proceedings, which produced my letter to him of the 22d of March. It was answered by Wm. Dudingston, of the schooner Gaspee; but, as he did not give me that satisfaction I conceived I had an indisputable right to expect, I wrote another letter; whereupon, he sent me, by one of his officers, an order from the lords of the admiralty, for his commanding the schooner Gaspee; also, their letter to the commissioners at Boston, requesting that board to give him a deputation in the customs, both which, I returned to the officer in the same hour he brought them, without attempting in the least, to distress or oppose him in the execution of his duty.

This, My Lord, is a true state of facts; and I believe Your Lordship is convinced that, in my proceedings, I have done nothing but what was my duty; and that Admiral Montagu's accusation is as groundless as it is illiberal.

When I wrote my first letter, I do, upon my honor, declare, that I did not know whether the schooner complained of, was the Gaspee or not; and even if I did, in my opinion, I am justifiable, as I was entirely unacquainted with Mr. Dudingston's authority, either as an officer in the revenue or navy; and I do not believe he had any right to officiate as a custom house officer within the body of this colony, before he had communicated to me, or some proper authority, his commission for so doing.

I must not omit mentioning, that the information which Admiral Montagu says he has received, that the people of Newport talk of fitting out an armed vessel to rescue any seizures which may be made by the King's vessels, is, Your Lordship may be assured, a malicious representation, calculated, by the enemies of our happy constitution, to injure the colony, and bring upon the inhabitants his Majesty's displeasure.

I acknowledge it a singular happiness, that this affair is brought before Your Lordship; and that your candor and inflexible integrity will fix the charge of insolence where it really belongs. I submit the dispute with pleasure, from a thorough conviction, that Your Lordship's opinion thereupon, will be consonant to the strictest equity.

It is now my turn to complain of Mr. Dudingston's illegal proceedings, in carrying a quantity of rum, he had seized on board a small boat, lying within the county of Kent, in this colony, to Boston, for trial; notwithstanding, by the 8th of His Majesty, it is expressly declared, that all forfeitures of this kind, shall be tried in that colony where the offence is committed.

To recite every particular of his unwarrantable proceedings, would, My Lord, be too tedious. Let it then suffice, that since the Gaspee and Beaver have been stationed in this colony, the inhabitants have been insulted without any just cause, with the most abusive and contumelious language; and, I am sorry that I have reason to say, that the principal officers belonging to said vessels, have exercised that power with which they are vested, in a wanton and arbitrary manner, to the very great injury and disturbance of the colony.

I have, My Lord, constantly afforded the King's officers all the assistance in my power, in the legal discharge of their trust; but if any of them, through prejudice, ignorance of their duty or youthful indiscretion, insult this colony, it is my duty, as His Majesty's Governor, to remonstrate against it.

I am, &c., &c., J. WANTON.

To the Right Honorable Earl of Hillsborough, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, Whitehall.

The foregoing letters present an account of the events which preceded the memorable night of the 9th of June, when the *Gaspee* was destroyed. That Dudingston did not act wisely, to say the least, in exerting the authority he did, without first exhibiting his commission, is evident. But it is certain, that in sending some of the property seized by him, within the jurisdiction of the county of Kent, in Rhode Island, to Boston, there to be adjudicated upon by the court of vice admiralty, he was clearly in the wrong; as an act of Parliament expressly declares that such seizures shall be adjudicated in the colony where the seizure is made. The goods here referred to, consisted of twelve hogsheads of rum, and some sugars, which were on board a sloop, bound from Greenwich to Newport, and were the property of Jacob Greene & Co., of Warwick.\*

Dudingston seems to have been aware that this act was an illegal one, as he did not dare to go on shore, having been threatened with a suit at law by the owners of the goods.

Next in order, is the destruction of the *Gaspee*, the narrative of the particulars of which, we shall give, as written by Col. Ephraim Bowen, the last survivor of the party which destroyed this vessel.

*Narrative of the Capture and Burning of the British Schooner Gaspee.*

“In the year 1772, the British government had stationed at Newport, Rhode Island, a sloop of war, with her tender, a schooner, called the *Gaspee*, of eight guns, commanded by William Dudingston, a lieutenant in the British navy, for

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\* The firm consisted of Jacob, William, Elisha, Christopher and Perry Greene.

the purpose of preventing the clandestine landing of articles, subject to the payment of duty. The captain of this schooner made it his practice to stop and board all vessels entering or leaving the ports of Rhode Island, or leaving Newport for Providence.

On the 10th day of June, 1772, Capt. Thomas Lindsey left Newport, in his packet for Providence, about noon, with the wind at the north; and soon after, the Gaspee was under sail, in pursuit of Lindsey, and continued the chase as far as Namquit Point, which runs off from the farm in Warwick, about seven miles below Providence, now owned by Mr. John Brown Francis, our late Governor.

Lindsey was standing easterly, with the tide on ebb about two hours, when he hove about, at the end of Namquit Point, and stood to the westward; and Dudingston, in close chase, changed his course, and ran on the Point, near its end, and grounded.

Lindsey continued on his course up the river, and arrived at Providence about sunset, when he immediately informed Mr. John Brown, one of our first and most respectable merchants, of the situation of the Gaspee. He immediately concluded that she would remain immovable until after midnight, and that now an opportunity offered of putting an end to the trouble and vexation she daily caused.

Mr. Brown immediately resolved on her destruction, and he forthwith directed one of his trusty shipmasters to collect eight of the largest long boats in the harbor, with five oars to each; to have the oars and row-locks well muffled, to prevent noise, and to place them at Fenner's Wharf, directly opposite to the dwelling of Mr. James Sabin, who kept a house of board and entertainment for gentlemen; being the same house purchased a few years after, by the late Welcome Arnold, one of our enterprising merchants; and is now owned by, and is the residence of Col. Richard J. Arnold, his son.\*

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\* "This house, then unfinished, was occupied as an inn. It was soon after purchased and completed by Welcome Arnold, who resided there, till his death, in 1798. It then became the residence of his eldest son, Samuel G. Arnold, father of the writer [the Hon

About the time of the shutting up of the shops, soon after sunset, a man passed along the main street, beating a drum, and informing the inhabitants of the fact that the Gaspee was aground on Namquit Point, and would not float off until three o'clock, the next morning; and inviting those persons who felt a disposition to go and destroy that troublesome vessel, to repair in the evening to Mr. James Sabin's house. About nine o'clock, I took my father's gun, and my powder horn and bullets, and went to Mr. Sabin's, and found the south-east room full of people, where I loaded my gun, and all remained there till about ten o'clock, some casting bullets in the kitchen, and others making arrangements for departure, when orders were given to cross the street to Fenner's Wharf, and embark; which soon took place, and a sea captain acted as steersman of each boat; of whom, I recollect Capt. Abraham Whipple, Capt. John B. Hopkins (with whom I embarked), and Capt. Benjamin Dunn. A line, from right to left was soon formed, with Capt. Whipple on the right, and Capt. Hopkins on the right of the left wing.

The party thus proceeded, till within about sixty yards of the Gaspee, when a sentinel hailed, "Who comes there?" No answer. He hailed again, and no answer.

In about a minute, Dudingston mounted the starboard gunwale, in his shirt, and hailed, "Who comes there?" No answer. He hailed again, when Capt. Whipple answered as follows:

"I am the sheriff of the county of Kent, G-d d—n you. I have got a warrant to apprehend you, G-d d—n you; so surrender, G-d d—n you."

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Samuel G. Arnold], and subsequently of his youngest son, Richard J. Arnold, the present owner, who has altered and enlarged it materially, within a few years. It is now the winter residence of the author of this history. The house is No. 124, on the east side of South Main Street, on the north-east corner of Planet Street.

This brief sketch may find an excuse in the rich revolutionary associations that surround it. The year before his death, Col. Ephraim Bowen, the last survivor of the Gaspee expedition, wrote an account of that affair, which was engrossed by his daughter, and now hangs in the dining room of the old mansion; the identical room in which the plot was laid."—*Note to Arnold's Hist. of Rhode Island, Vol. II. p. 312.*



I took my seat on the main thwart, near the larboard rowlock, with my gun by my right side, facing forwards.

As soon as Dudingston began to hail, Joseph Bucklin, who was standing on the main thwart, by my right side, said to me, "Ephe, reach me your gun, and I can kill that fellow." I reached it to him, accordingly; when, during Capt. Whipple's replying, Bucklin fired, and Dudingston fell; and Bucklin exclaimed, "I have killed the rascal."

In less than a minute after Capt. Whipple's answer, the boats were alongside of the Gaspee, and boarded without opposition. The men on deck retreated below, as Dudingston entered the cabin.

As soon as it was discovered that he was wounded, John Mawney, who had for two or three years been studying physic and surgery, was ordered to go into the cabin, and dress Dudingston's wound, and I was directed to assist him. On examination, it was found the ball took effect about five inches directly below the navel. Dudingston called for Mr. Dickinson to produce bandages and other necessaries, for the dressing of the wound, and when finished, orders were given to the schooner's company to collect their clothing, and every thing belonging to them, and put them into their boats, as all of them were to be sent on shore.

All were soon collected, and put on board of the boats, including one of our boats. They departed, and landed Dudingston at the old Still-house Wharf, at Pawtuxet, and put the chief into the house of Joseph Rhodes.

Soon after, all the party were ordered to depart, leaving one boat for the leaders of the expedition; who soon set the vessel on fire, which consumed her to the water's edge.

The names of the most conspicuous actors in this remarkable event, are as follows, viz: Mr. John Brown,\* Captains

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\* JOHN BROWN, and his brother JOSEPH BROWN, were (as Admiral Montagu observes in his letter to Governor Wanton,) among the most prominent citizens of Providence. This family, as is well known to the people of Rhode Island, have ever been among its most distinguished citizens.

The first of them, Chad Brown, was one of the five associates of Roger Williams, who were the earliest founders of the State. John Brown, at the period referred to, was the

Abraham Whipple,\* John B. Hopkins,† Benjamin Dunn and five others, whose names I have forgotten; and John Mawney,‡ Benjamin Page,§ Joseph Bucklin|| and Turpin Smith,¶

leading merchant in the colony. He was also distinguished as an earnest patron of literature and science; being among the founders of Brown University, and otherwise contributing liberally for the encouragement of science. His brother Moses, who died Sept. 6, 1836, in his 99th year, was a distinguished philanthropist and encourager of education. Obadiah, his cousin, was the founder of the Friends' Boarding School.

The descendants of these brothers, have been equally distinguished in commerce, navigation and manufactures, as well as liberal benefactors of our literary and charitable institutions.

\* ABRAHAM WHIPPLE was captain of a merchantman, in the West India trade. During the French war, he commanded the "Game Cock," a celebrated privateer, which, in one cruise, took twenty-three prizes. His shrewdness and bravery, led to his selection as captain of the party which destroyed the Gaspee. On the breaking out of the revolutionary war, he became a commander in the American navy, and rendered his country most important service.

† JOHN B. HOPKINS, was a son of Commodore Esek Hopkins, a distinguished officer of the revolution, and nephew of Gov. Stephen Hopkins, one of the signers of the declaration of Independence. He commanded the ship Cabot, one of the fleet that sailed from Rhode Island, February 17, 1776. In an action that took place on this cruise, he was severely wounded.

‡ JOHN MAWNEY, was a descendant of one of the Huguenot families, that came to this country about the year 1700. He was educated to the profession of medicine; though, having inherited an ample estate, he never practised it to a very great extent. He was at one time, a colonel in the Rhode Island militia, and afterwards sheriff of the county of Providence. He was distinguished for his classical attainments, and to the close of his long life, read with unabated interest, the Greek and Latin poets. He suffered greatly in the public esteem, on account of his bold and unblushing irreverence and infidelity.

It is believed that there are none of his descendants now living; it is certain that there are none in the male line. He died at a great age, on his estate, in that part of Cranston, now known as Elmwood.

§ BENJAMIN PAGE, was a prominent ship master, and for many years commander of a ship in the East India trade.

|| JOSEPH BUCKLIN, was well known in Providence, and kept a prominent restaurant, or place of resort, in South Main Street, where gentlemen resorted for their suppers. Here, too, they assembled, to discuss politics; and where, possibly, the expedition which destroyed the Gaspee, was discussed, as well as at Mr. Sabins's house, which was near it.

¶ TURPIN SMITH, after the revolution, became a prominent shipmaster; in which pursuit, he accumulated a handsome property. After his retirement from maritime life, he lived in Providence, greatly respected and beloved, discharging faithfully all the duties of a good citizen. He attained to more than four score years, and left to his posterity the rich inheritance of an unspotted name.

Extract from the *Providence Journal*, relative to the Gaspee affair, in the celebration of the 4th of July, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary. In speaking of the parties in the procession, the account says:

"After these, the four surviving captors of the King's armed schooner Gaspee, rode in an elegant barouche, procured by Mr. Blake, of the Franklin House, expressly for this occasion. Mr. Blake, himself, appeared on the box, and managed with great dexterity, the four spirited horses attached to the carriage.

It was a matter of most interesting association and recollection, to witness these four surviving *lads*, who burnt the Gaspee (as the orator so happily termed them), at the end of fifty-four years, riding in a splendid equipage, and receiving the award of a republican tri-

my youthful companions ; all of whom are dead, I believe, every man of the party, excepting myself ; and my age is eighty-six years, this 29th day of August, 1839.

EPHRAIM BOWEN."\*

Colonel Bowen is in error as to the day on which the Gaspee was destroyed. He gives it as the 10th ; whereas, it is certain that it was on the night of the 9th of June. Capt. Lindsey's sloop, called the Hannah, according to the Providence Gazette, of June 13, arrived at Newport on Monday the 8th, from New York, where she reported her cargo at the custom house ; and on the following day, proceeded up the bay, to Providence, chased by the Gaspee. The attack was planned and carried into execution on the night of the 9th, by the burning of the vessel ; but as the destruction was not complete until the morning of the 10th, either day is applicable to the event. The proclamation of Governor Wanton, in relation to the affair, which is dated on the 12th, says the vessel was destroyed on "the 9th instant, in the night." Col. Bowen is also in error, as to the name of the captain, which was Benjamin, and not Thomas Lindsey.†

Mr. John Mawney, who was one of the party conspicuous

umph, for a deed, the commission of which, at that time, had well nigh caused them to ride in a cart to Execution Dock, or to be drawn on a hurdle to Tyburn, for high treason ; an event they anticipated as vastly more likely, than that in 1826, the jubilee of American freedom, they should become the time honored objects of the greatest interest to an immense concourse of citizens, thronging the streets, and crowding to the altar of freedom, to offer up the sacrifices and thanksgivings of a great, prosperous and free people. These four veterans, Col. Ephraim Bowen, Capt. Benjamin Page, Col. John Mawney and Capt. Turpin Smith, are among our most respected citizens ; and on this occasion, the spirit that first animated them, in 1772, seemed to kindle anew in their still vigorous frames. We believe, from the present ages of these veterans, they were all not over twenty years of age, at the time of the attack upon the Gaspee."

\* The compiler of the present history of the Gaspee affair, was well acquainted with the venerable Col. Bowen, and often rode in his chaise with him, between Providence and his residence, in Pawtuxet. On these occasions, the Colonel liked to give his revolutionary reminiscences ; among which, his connexion with the destruction of the Gaspee, was prominent. The writer also remembers John Mawney and Turpin Smith, who, with Col. Bowen, always had a prominent place in the proceedings connected with the 4th of July celebrations in Providence.—J. R. B.

† Arnold's History of Rhode Island. Vol II. p. 320.

in the affair, published in the *Providence American and Gazette*, in the year 1826, a statement, in which some additional facts are given.

After hearing the drum beat, he hastened to Mr. Sabin's, the place of rendezvous, where he learned the object of the meeting; and on being urged by some of his acquaintances, was induced to accompany them, as surgeon.

*Statement of Dr. John Mawney.*

“To this,” he says, “I readily consented, and went to Corlis' wharf, with Capt. Joseph Tillinghast, who commanded the barge, it being the last boat that put off; and in going down, we stopped at Capt. Cooke's Wharf, where we took in staves and paving stones; which done, followed our commander, and came up with them a considerable distance down the river; after which, we rowed along pretty rapidly, till we came in sight of the schooner, when Capt. (the late Commodore Whipple,) ordered us to form a line, which was instantly complied with; after which, we rowed gently along, till we got near the schooner; when we were hailed from on board, with the words, ‘Who comes there?’

Capt. Whipple replied, ‘I want to come on board.’

The reply was, ‘Stand off, you can't come on board.’

On which Capt. Whipple roared out, ‘I am the sheriff of the county of Kent; I am come for the commander of this vessel, and have him I will, dead or alive; men, spring to your oars!’ when we were in an instant on her bows.

I was then sitting with Capt. Tillinghast, in the stern of the barge, and sprang immediately forward; and seeing a rope hang down her bows, seized it, to help myself in. The rope slipping, I fell almost to my waist in the water; but, being active and nimble, I recovered, and was the first of our crew on deck; when Simeon H. Olney handed me a stave, with which, seeing one that I took to be of the crew of the schooner, floundering below the windlass, I was in the attitude of lev-

elling a stroke, when he cried out, 'John, don't strike.' Being very intimately acquainted with Capt. Samuel Dunn, I knew his voice, left him, and sprang back of the windlass, where there was commotion and noise, but which soon subsided; the crew jumping down the hold, I immediately followed, when I ordered them to bring cords to tie their hands, and told them they should not be hurt, but be sent on shore. They brought some tarred strings, with which I tied the hands of two behind, when John Brown, Esq., called to me, saying I was wanted immediately on deck, where I was instantly helped.

When I asked Mr. Brown what was the matter, he replied, 'Don't call names, but go immediately into the cabin, there is one wounded, and will bleed to death.'

I hastened into the cabin, and found Lieut. Dudingston in a sitting posture, gently reclining to the left, bleeding profusely, with a thin, white woolen blanket, loose about him, which I threw aside, and discovered the effect of a musket ball, in his left groin; and thinking the femoral artery was cut, threw open my waistcoat, and taking my shirt by the collar, tore it to my waistband, when Mr. Dudingston said, 'Pray sir, don't tear your clothes, there is linen in that trunk;' upon which, I requested Joseph Bucklin to break open the trunk, and tear linen and scrape lint, which he immediately attempted; but finding the linen new and strong, could not make the lint.

I then directed him to place his hands as I had mine, which was, the ball of my left hand on the orifice of the wound; and gave him the word to slip his hand under mine, and to press hard, to prevent the effusion of blood; which being done, I went to the linen, and attempted to scrape it into lint, but found I could not effect it. As daylight was fast coming on, and our time short, I then tore the linen into strips, for compresses and the necessary bandages; which was done, by knotting them into long strips, placed the compresses five or six deep, and with the ligatures by the lieutenant.

All being prepared, I told Bucklin to raise his hands, when I instantly placed the compresses on the orifice ; and placing the bandage round the thigh, over the wound, and crossing it above, drew tight, so that the effusion of blood was stopped.

During the operation, I was several times called upon at the door, but was not ready. When the door was opened, many rushed in, and attacked the bottles. I having boots on, stamped on them, and requested others to assist, which was readily done. During this, Mr. Dudingston was carried out of the room, and I never saw him after, notwithstanding I had several invitations, through Dr. Henry Sterling.

When I came on deck, I saw Capt. Tillinghast, and some others. We got into the boat, and rowed up the river a certain distance, and went by land up to town ; when Capt. Tillinghast, who was then living with me, after taking breakfast, went on the hill to view the smoking ruins of the vessel, which was all in flames soon after we left it.\*

JOHN MAWNEY.”

This statement of Dr. Mawney, differs somewhat from that of Col. Bowen, though in nothing that is material. It is quite natural, that among so many men, incidents might take place which all did not observe. The attention of the doctor was particularly directed to the wounded officer ; though, it would appear that he had been as ready to inflict, as to cure wounds.

“ From a subsequent statement of Dr. Mawney, it appears that Lieut. Dudingston was not wanting in gratitude to his surgeon. After his wound was dressed, he offered Dr. Mawney a gold stock buckle, as a testimonial of his gratitude.

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\* The Providence Gazette, of June 13, 1772, after giving an account of the burning of the Gaspee, adds the following :

“ We hear that one Daggett, belonging to the Vineyard, who had served the beforementioned schooner, as a pilot, but at the time of her being destroyed, was on board the Beaver sloop of war, on going ashore a few days since, at Narragansett, to a sheep-shearing, was seized by the company, who cut off his hair, and performed on him the operation of shearing, in such a manner, that his ears and nose were in imminent danger.”

This was refused ; but a silver one was afterwards offered and accepted, and worn by Dr. Mawney, but a little while before his death.'\*'

The first official notice of the destruction of the *Gaspee*, is a letter from Deputy Governor Sessions, to Governor Wanton, written the day following that event, after he had paid a visit to Lieut. Dudingston, at Pawtuxet. It appears that the first act of the Deputy Governor, on hearing of the affair, was to see the wounded officer, and endeavor to do all that lay in his power to ameliorate his sufferings, and administer to his comforts.

### *Deputy Governor Sessions to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Providence, June 11, 1772.

Sir:—A very disagreeable affair has lately happened within this part of the colony. Last Tuesday night, as His Majesty's schooner, the *Gaspee*, lay aground on the point of land, called Namquit, a little below Pawtuxet, she was boarded in a hostile manner, by a number of persons unknown, who, in the attack, dangerously wounded the commander, William Dudingston, by firing a pistol or musket ball through his arm, from whence it passed and entered near his groin, and is now lodged in some part of his body.

As soon as they had secured the possession of the vessel, they took out the captain, with all the people ; the greater part being first pinioned, put them into boats, and then put them ashore on the main land, near Pawtuxet ; after which, they put fire to the schooner, which soon reduced her to ashes, down to the water's edge.

Upon my receiving the news, I immediately set out for Pawtuxet, attended by some gentlemen from this town, went directly to Capt. Dudingston, told him if he needed any money, surgeons, or a removal of his person to a place more convenient, I would give him all the assistance in my power.

He replied, he wanted no favors with respect to himself, but only desired some care might be taken of his people, that they might be collected together, and sent either to Boston, to the admiral, or else to the *Beaver*, at Newport, which I promised to take care to do.

I then informed him, that the design of my visit, at that time, was not only to afford him any relief his circumstances might require, but also to gain a declaration from his own mouth respecting the attack that had been made on his person, and the vessel he commanded, that the perpetrators might be brought to justice.

He answered, he would give me no account of the matter. First, because of his indisposition of body ; and secondly, because it was his duty to forbear any thing of the nature till he had done it to his commanding officer, at a court martial, to which, if he lived, he must be called ; but if he died, he desired it might all die with him.

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\* Judge Staples's Documentary History, p. 10.

I then asked him if he was willing I should examine any of his officers and people.

He said he was willing. I then proceeded to examine a number of them, they all agreeing nearly to the same thing; and herewith convey to Your Honor copies of the most material of their declarations. The dangerous tendency of this transaction, is too obvious, to pass it over with the least appearance of neglect; and therefore, doubt not Your Honor will give it due attention, and prosecute such measures as wisdom and prudence shall dictate.

It is the prevailing opinion of the gentlemen in this quarter, that a proclamation, with a large reward, be issued, for apprehending the persons who have thus offended. You will please consult the gentlemen your way; and, in the mean time, I will endeavor to collect the sentiments of the members of the Assembly, and other principal gentlemen by name, and send the same to Your Honor, as soon as may be.

I am, &c., &c.,

DARIUS SESSIONS.

To Governor Wanton.

Enclosed in this letter, were the following affidavits :

*Affidavit of Bartholomew Cheever.*

The examination of Bartholomew Cheever, seaman, lately belonging to His Majesty's schooner, the Gaspee, taken by Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., is as followeth, viz.:

That the said schooner, being bound from Newport up to Providence, to take on board some of His Majesty's seamen, that were expected from Boston, did, on the 9th of this instant, at about three o'clock, in the afternoon of said day, run aground on a point of land, about six miles below the town of Providence, where she, the said schooner, lay until twelve o'clock, at night, at which time, he, the said Cheever, was called upon deck, to take the watch. About three-quarters of an hour afterwards, the schooner yet being aground, he observed some long boats, about six or seven in number, full of men, drawing near to the schooner; upon which, he informed the commander, Capt. Dudingston, who immediately came on deck, and ordered him to hail them, and bid them stand off, on their peril; to which they answered, "D—n you, we have you."

The captain then ordered him to call all hands on deck, which he did; but before many of them got up, the boats were alongside, and the crews getting on board; and as they were entering the schooner, he saw the flash and heard the report of a musket, and heard the captain cry out, he was a dead man.

We were then ordered into the hold, and taken out separately, and put into the boat alongside, the most of us being pinnioned, and then put on shore on the main land; where we had not been long, before we saw the schooner on fire, where she continued burning, till the fire reached the water's edge.

Question—Did you, or do you know, or do you remember, ever to have seen before, any of those persons that boarded the schooner at that time?

Answer—No.

his

BARTHOLOMEW X CHEEVER.

mark.



Colony of Rhode Island, &c., }  
 Warwick, June 10, 1772. }

The above named Bartholomew Cheever was solemnly sworn to the truth of the foregoing declaration, to the which he has subscribed as above, before—

DARIUS SESSIONS,  
 Deputy Governor.

*Affidavits of John Johnson and William J. Caple.*

The examination of John Johnson, boatswain of His Majesty's schooner Gaspee, commanded by William Dudingston; together with the examination of Wm. J. Caple, a seaman on board said schooner, taken this 10th day of June, in the twelfth year of His Majesty's reign, A. D. 1772, before the Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor, severally say:

That on the 9th of June, being bound with said schooner, to the town of Providence, in order to take on board some of His Majesty's seamen, which were expected from Boston, in order to re-place them on board His Majesty's ship to which they belonged, about three o'clock in the afternoon of said day, the schooner grounded on a point in the Narragansett Bay, about six miles southward of the town of Providence; and about the middle of the night, following, the schooner still being on ground, there being but one hand on deck, he discovered seven or eight long boats, with a number of persons aboard them; on which, the person on deck informed the commander, Wm. Dudingston, who hailed the boats, and ordered them to keep off; but the persons on board said boats, not regarding the commander's orders, came near, in order to board said schooner; on which, the captain or commander, called all hands; but before he was on deck, we heard two small arms or pistols fired; and when coming on deck, the schooner was boarded; and being in the hatchway, said Johnson received several blows with a stick, and as soon as we were on deck, we were bound, and all the rest of the seamen bound likewise, and put on board their boat, and landed on the west side of said bay, together with the captain or commander, who was much wounded.

Question—Have you any knowledge of the persons that boarded the schooner?

Answer—No.

his

JOHN  $\times$  JOHNSON.

mark.

his

WILLIAM J.  $\times$  CAPLE.

mark.

Colony of Rhode Island, &c., }  
 Warwick, June 10, 1772. }

The within John Johnson and William J. Caple made solemn oath to the truth of the within or foregoing declaration, to which they have subscribed, before—

DARIUS SESSIONS,  
 Deputy Governor.

On the following day, June 12, Governor Sessions addressed another letter to Governor Wanton; the bearer of which, probably brought back to him the proclamation of Governor Wanton, which follows:

*Deputy Governor Sessions to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Providence, June 12, 1772.

Sir:—Since I wrote you yesterday, by Hacker, I have received the advice of all the civil authority in this town, as well as an application in writing, signed by a great number of the most reputable inhabitants, who are unanimously of opinion, and earnestly desire that Your Honor forthwith issue a proclamation, with proper reward, for the apprehending and bringing to justice any and every person that was concerned in destroying the schooner Gaspee, or in assaulting and wounding William Dudingston, the commander of said schooner; and, if Your Honor finds it expedient to put forth such a proclamation, it is requested that a copy thereof, may be sent by the bearer, who goes express, and has orders to wait until it is determined whether a proclamation be issued or not; and if it be, to bring it back with him timely, that it may be inserted in our newspaper to-morrow.

Some exceptions are taken at the Gaspee's being called His Majesty's schooner, as it is thought by some, she, in fact, really was not, and consequently did not deserve that appellation.

If the evidence we have in that respect, be sufficient to denominate her a King's vessel, she ought to be called so; if not, then only without any compliment, the schooner Gaspee; which is submitted to Your Honor's better knowledge and discretion, by—

Your Honor's most humble servant,

DARIUS SESSIONS.

P. S.—Dr. Sterling, who attends Capt. Dudingston, informed us yesterday that he was in a fair way to recover of his wounds.

To Governor Wanton.

To the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq., at Newport.

*Proclamation of the Governor of Rhode Island, relative to the  
Destruction of the Gaspee.*



By the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esquire, Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief of, and over the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, in America—

## A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, on Tuesday, the 9th inst., in the night, a number of people unknown, boarded His Majesty's armed schooner the *Gaspee*, as she lay aground on a point of land, called *Namquit*, a little to the southward of *Pawtuxet*, in the colony, aforesaid, who dangerously wounded *William Dudingston*, the commander, and by force took him, with all his people, put them into boats, and landed them near *Pawtuxet*, and afterwards set fire to the said schooner, whereby she was totally destroyed.

I have, therefore, thought fit, by and with the advice of such of His Majesty's Council as could be seasonably convened, to issue this proclamation, strictly charging and commanding all His Majesty's officers, within the said colony, both civil and military, to exert themselves with the utmost vigilance, to discover and apprehend the persons guilty of the aforesaid atrocious crime, that they may be brought to condign punishment.

And I do hereby offer a reward of one hundred pounds, sterling money of Great Britain, to any person or persons, who shall discover the perpetrators of the said villainy, to be paid immediately upon the conviction of any one or more of them.

And the several sheriffs in the said colony, are hereby required forthwith to cause this proclamation to be posted up in the most public places in each of the towns in their respective counties.

Given under my hand and seal at arms, at Newport,

this 12th day of June, in the twelfth year of the

reign of His Most Sacred Majesty *George the*

*Third*, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain,

and so forth. Anno Dom. 1772.

J. WANTON.



By His Honor's command:

HENRY WARD, Secretary.

God save the King.

Notwithstanding the wound of Lieutenant Dudingston, he probably on the morning of the 10th of June, dispatched a messenger to Admiral Montagu, with the news of the loss of his vessel.

The messenger was doubtless William Dickinson, a midshipman; as the following letter, dated the 11th, was received by Governor Wanton, from the admiral, endorsing the deposition of Dickinson.

*Admiral Montagu to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Boston, 11th June, 1772.

Sir:—Enclosed I transmit Your Excellency a deposition taken before me, of the piratical proceedings of the people of Providence, in Rhode Island government, by attacking His Majesty's schooner with an armed force, wounding her commander in a dangerous manner, and then setting her on fire.

I am to request Your Excellency will use such methods as you shall think proper, for apprehending and bringing the offenders to justice. I am now dispatching a sloop to England with the account I enclose to you; and am, &c., &c.,

J. MONTAGU.

To His Excellency Governor Wanton.

The deposition enclosed, was that of William Dickinson, which was as follows:

*Deposition of William Dickinson.*

William Dickinson, midshipman of His Majesty's schooner *Gaspee*, sayeth:

That the said schooner was at single anchor about three leagues below Providence, in Rhode Island government, 10th of June, 1772, and about half past twelve o'clock, in the night or morning, the watch gave the alarm that a number of boats were coming down the river, and very near us (being an exceeding dark night), we hailed them, and ordered them to keep off.

They instantly gave us three cheers; on which, we fired at them with muskets, which they immediately returned with a half a dozen muskets (or thereabouts). We then fired our pistols, on which they boarded us upon the starboard bow, and fired a number of small arms. Immediately Lieutenant Dudingston (her commander,) cried out, "Good God, I am done for." He was wounded in his groin and arm.

While we were disputing forward, relative to their boarding us, three other boats boarded us, upon the quarter. In the three boats which boarded us upon the quarter, there were thirty or forty men, at least; and in the whole, I suppose about one hundred and fifty in number, on which we thought proper (the lieutenant being wounded,) to surrender.

When they had got possession of the schooner, they used the people very ill, by pinioning of them, and throwing them into their boats, and refused the lieutenant and officers any necessaries but what they had on, and not even suffered the commanding officer to have his papers, and robbed his servant of several silver spoons, and threw his linen and apparel overboard.

We were then sent ashore, in two different boats; the lieutenant and part of the men in one boat, and myself with the rest of the people in the other boat, at the distance of about two miles asunder, as we found at daylight. I remained on the beach; and about half past three o'clock, saw the schooner on fire; and about half past four, I saw three boats put off from her, full of men, and rowed up towards Providence; and an hour after, another boat came by her, and landed her men at Pawtuxet.

*Questions by Admiral Montagu.*

Q.—How long had you been lying in Providence River?

A.—We came to an anchor there, at about four o'clock, in the afternoon of the 9th of June.

Q.—Had you sent any boat ashore.

A.—No; but employed sounding the harbor.

Q.—Had you been at Providence before, during the time you were upon that station?

A.—No.

Q.—Do you imagine that the people who boarded you, came from Providence?

A.—Yes; I believe the most part, but cannot say all, as one boat landed her men at Pawtuxet.

Q.—What distance is Pawtuxet from Providence, by land?

A.—Five miles.

Q.—What distance were the boats from the schooner, when they were first seen?

A.—I was not upon deck at first, myself; but when I saw them, they were about one hundred yards.

Q.—Why did you not fire your great guns at them?

A.—They boarded us upon the bows, and were so near to us, that we had not time to get our guns out at the bow ports.

Q.—Did any of the people that boarded you, appear like gentlemen?

A.—Yes; many of them appeared like men of credit and tradesmen; and but few like common men.

Q.—Did they make use of any opprobrious language?

A.—Yes; by threatening to put the lieutenant to death, and calling us piratical rascals.

Q.—Where did you leave the Beaver?

A.—Off Golden Island, in the mouth of Seaconnet Passage.

Q.—What distance from you?

A.—About twenty-five miles.

Q.—Could she be in sight when this happened?

A.—No; the main land is between.

Q.—Is there any thing more that you can recollect?

A.—Yes; one of the people took me by the collar, and said, "D—n you, where

is your pilot Daggett?" I answered, he was discharged six weeks ago. He answered, "D—n your blood, you lie;" and said they would find him, and flee him alive.

Q.—Did they suffer the lieutenant to put on any clothes, after he was wounded?

A.—No; he was in his shirt, with his great coat over his shoulders, and a blanket round his body.

Q.—Was any other person wounded, except the lieutenant?

A.—Yes; one in the head.

And I further declare, that when Lieutenant Dudingston came on deck, I saw him go and stand by the starboard foreshrouds, in his shirt, with a pistol in one hand and a hanger in the other. After he was wounded, he got aft, and sat down by the cabin companion way, when the two ring-leaders, with a number following them, came to him, and said:

"Now, you piratical rascal, we have got you. D—n you, we will hang you all by the laws of Great Britain. D—n you, what made you fire, when we answered you that the head sheriff was in the boat?"

The captain (N. B. The head sheriff and captain are fictitious names that the ring-leaders went by) said, "Stand aside, let me dispatch the piratical dog."

He then lifted a handspike over Mr. Dudingston's head, who asked "if they would give no quarters?"

They answered "No."

He then desired they would let me bind up his wounds, for he was shot, and showed them the wound in his left arm.

They then said, "D—n your blood, you are shot by your own people."

He was then taken down into the cabin, by some of the mob. They then pinioned me, and put me into the boat, where I remained for half an hour; when one of the mob called to their people in the boat to loosen me, for the lieutenant wanted me. I went down in the cabin to him. He was laid on the after lockers, and one of the mob washing and binding up his wounds. The mob then got him on deck, and put him into a boat, and put off.

Soon after, I was ordered into the boat again, and put off. In going on shore, I saw a negro with the lieutenant's hanger; being asked by another how he got it, he said he took it from the captain.

Being down in the cabin, with Lieutenant Dudingston, the ring-leaders, and some of the principal of the mob demanded his papers and orders for his proceeding in such piratical manner. I then showed them the commission from the lords of the admiralty, with all his orders and instructions that he had received from the admiral, which they took and carried away.

In going ashore, one of the mob that rowed the boat, said, that he and several more, would not have been there, but that they were taken out of a house by force, and compelled to go; that they beat a drum round the town of Providence, in the evening, to raise a mob.

W. DICKINSON.

Suffolk, sc.

Province of the Massachusetts Bay, }  
Boston, June 11, 1772. }

The above named William Dickinson, personally appearing, maketh solemn oath to the truth of the foregoing deposition, as written upon this and the six preceding pages, which is taken at the request of the Honorable John Montagu, Esq.

Before me,

EDMUND QUINCY.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Admiral Montagu, in reply.*

Newport, June 12, 1772.

Sir:—I have this moment received Your Honor's letter, of yesterday, upon the destruction of His Majesty's schooner Gaspee.

Upon the first information of this unhappy affair, which gives me, and every friend to government, the highest concern, I called together all the members of the General Assembly that I could conveniently, who unanimously advised me to publish the proclamation, of which I enclose you a copy.

I have not, as yet, been able to collect all the circumstances of this daring insult upon authority, so as to give you a perfect idea of it; but by the evidence of three of the people of the Gaspee, taken before His Honor the Deputy Governor, copies of which, I transmit, you will perceive that there is a material difference between them and the account given by William Dickinson.

You may rely upon the utmost and continued exertions of the officers of this colony to detect and bring to justice the perpetrators of this violent outrage.

I have the pleasure to inform you, that Lieutenant Dudingston is in a fair way of recovery. I am, sir, &c., &c., J. WANTON.

To His Honor Admiral Montagu.

On the 12th, Lieutenant Dudingston had so far recovered, as to be able to write a letter to Admiral Montagu, wherein he presented his version of the destruction of his vessel. This differs but little from those of Col. Bowen and Dr. Mawney, as to the attack of the boats, his being wounded and the surrender of his vessel to an overpowering force.

It will be inferred, however, from the Lieutenant's account, that he and his crew were pretty harshly handled, which may have been true. He had given great offence to the people, by his overbearing conduct, and by his unlawful seizure of property; so that they were little disposed, in the contest on board his vessel, to treat him kindly. But after he had been taken to Pawtuxet, wounded, every attention was paid him.

It is natural, that in stating the case to Admiral Montagu, Dudingston would represent the circumstances as favorable to himself and crew as possible.

*Lieut. Dudingston to Admiral Montagu.*

Pawtuxet, 12th June, 1772.

Sir:—On Wednesday morning, about one o'clock, as His Majesty's schooner was lying upon a spit of sand called Namcutt, the sentinels discovered a number of boats coming down the river, towards us.

As soon as I was acquainted with it, I came upon deck, and hailed the boats, forbidding them to come near the schooner, or I should order them to be fired upon.

They made answer, they had the sheriff with them, and must come on board.

I told them, the sheriff could not be admitted on board at that time of night; on which they set up a halloo, and rowed as fast as they could, towards the vessel's bows. I was then using every means in my power, to get the guns to bear upon them, which I could not affect, as they came right ahead of the vessel, she being aground. I then ordered the men to come forward with their small arms, and prevent them from boarding.

As I was standing myself to oppose them, and making a stroke with my sword, at the man who was attempting to come up, at that instant I found myself disabled in my left arm, and shot through the groin. I then stepped from the gunwale, with an intention to order them retire to close quarters; but soon saw that most of them were knocked down, and myself twice, (after telling them I was mortally wounded).

They damned me, and said I was not wounded; if I was, my own people had done it. As loss of blood, made me drop down upon deck, they ordered me to beg my life, and commanded the people to surrender. As I saw there was no possibility of defending the vessel against such numbers, who were in every respect armed, and commanded with regularity, by one who personated the sheriff, I thought it best for the people's preservation, to propose to them that I would order them to surrender, if they assured me they should not be hurt; which they did.

I then called out, which was immediately echoed by the people round me, that I had given them orders to surrender. They hurried all the people below, and ordered them up, one by one, and tied their hands behind their backs, then ordered them into different boats.

I then begged they would either dispatch me, or suffer my wounds to be dressed; upon that, they allowed my servant to be unbound, to get me things for dressing, and carried me below. But what was my surprise, when I came down in the cabin, two surgeons were ordered down from the deck, to dress me, who were furnished with drops, and began to scrape lint for that purpose.

During this time, I had an opportunity of observing the persons of about a dozen, who were in the cabin. They appeared to me to be merchants and masters of vessels, who were at my bureau, reading and examining my papers. They promised to let me have the schooner's books, and my clothes; instead of which, as they were handing me up, to go into the boat, they threw them overboard, or into some of the boats. I was soon afterwards thrust into a boat, almost naked.

During the time they were rowing me on shore, I had an opportunity of observing the boat; which appeared to me, to be a very large long-boat. I saw by the man who steered her, a cutlass lying by him, and directing the men to have their arms ready. As soon as they put off, the sheriff gave them orders to land me on some



neck, and the boat to come off immediately; and told me if I did not consent to pay the value of the rum, I must not expect to have any thing belonging to me, saved.

I made answer, whatever reparation the law would give, I was ready and willing; as to my things, they might do with them, as they pleased. They were accordingly going to land me on this neck, when I told them they had better throw me overboard. One man, who had a little more humanity than any of the rest, said they had better land me at the Point of Pawtuxet. As I was unable to stand, they unbound five of the men, and gave them a blanket to carry me up. When I was half way on shore, I heard some of the schooner's guns go off, and heard the people say she was on fire.

I had not been carried far, when the people exclaimed, I was on an island, and they saw no house; on which, they laid me down, and went in quest of one. Soon after, they came to acquaint me they saw one, which I was carried to: a man was immediately dispatched to Providence, for a surgeon. A little after, the people joined me, with the midshipman; all of whom, that I could persuade, are sent on board His Majesty's sloop Beaver.

The schooner is utterly destroyed, and every thing appertaining to her, me, and the schooner's company. If I live, I am not without hope of being able to convict some of the principal people that were with them. The pain, with the loss of blood, rendered me incapable of informing you before of the particulars. There are none of the people any ways wounded, but bruised with handspikes.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

W. DUDINGSTON.

To Admiral Montagu.

In the above letter, Dudingston says, that in taking him ashore, they told him, if he “did not consent to pay the value of the rum” he had seized, “he must not expect to have any thing saved belonging” to him; to which, he made answer, that he was ready to make “any reparation the law would give.”

It appears, by the following letter, from the collector of customs, at Providence, that the owners of the goods referred to, lost no time in laying their hands on his person.

*William Checkley, to the Commissioners of Customs.*

[Providence], 12th June, 1772.

Honorable Gentlemen:—Hearing this morning, that the high sheriff was gone to arrest Capt. Dudingston, on the suit of Jacob Greene and others, for goods which Capt. Dudingston lately seized in the river, and carried to Boston, I went down immediately, and found the sheriff had just before arrested him; a copy of the writ I herewith enclose to Your Honors.

I offered to be security for him; but Capt. Dudingston told me he should not ask

any person to be security, as he did not expect to live long, and the sheriff might do as he pleased. The surgeons told me he was too ill to be moved; and as I expect the sheriff will use great severity with him, I humbly request Your Honors to give me such direction in the matter as to you shall seem necessary.\*

I am, &c., &c.,

WILLIAM CHECKLEY.

To the Honorable His Majesty's Commissioners of Customs.

On the receipt of Lieutenant Dudingston's letter, of the 12th June, Admiral Montagu addressed the following to Governor Wanton.

The only thing that surprised the admiral in the statement of the lieutenant, was, that of his finding two surgeons in the cabin of the Gaspee, when he was taken down wounded; whence he doubtless inferred, that the attacking party expected to shed blood, and that it was a previously contrived plot.

*Admiral Montagu to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Boston, 15th June, 1772.

Sir:—By return of express, I am favored with Your Excellency's letter, and am much obliged for the part you have taken in endeavoring to find out and bring to justice, those rebellious, lawless and piratical people, who were concerned in wounding the King's lieutenant, and burning his schooner.

It will not bear a dispute but that they belonged to Providence, as they were heard by four or five gentlemen that were in the town, and are now here, beating the drum to arms, to raise a body of people to destroy the King's schooner. I have perused the depositions which Your Excellency enclosed; and although they differ in words, yet the matter is much to the same purpose.

I have, since I received yours, received one from Lieutenant Dudingston, whose account nearly agrees with the other, with this addition only: that when he was carried down to his cabin, after he was wounded, he, to his great surprise, found two surgeons, that came off from the shore in the boats, ready to dress his wounds, with drops and scraping of lint; and at least a dozen of these people who were in the cabin, who were at his bureau reading and examining his papers, appeared to him to be merchants and masters of vessels.

It gives me pleasure to hear the lieutenant is in a fair way of recovery.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

J. MONTAGU.

To His Excellency Governor Wanton.

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\* Jacob Greene & Co., the owners of the rum and sugar, referred to, commenced a suit at the July term of the court of common pleas, and recovered judgment against Dudingston, for the illegal seizure.

Admiral Montagu lost no time transmitting to His Majesty's secretary of state, the Earl of Hillsborough, an account of this affair. His letter is dated on the very day of Governor Wanton's first letter to him; and his account of it was given from the version as presented to him by Lieutenant Dudingston, or some one else from the Gaspee, on the day she was destroyed. His account is very brief.

The deposition referred to, is doubtless that of William Dickinson, a midshipman of the Gaspee, a copy of which, was transmitted by the admiral to Governor Wanton, in his letter to him, of the 11th June.

*Admiral Montagu to Lord Hillsborough.*

Boston, in New England, }  
12th June 1772. }

My Lord:—I was in hopes I should not have had occasion to trouble Your Lordship with any public letters, while I have the honor to command on the continent; but the lawless and piratical people of Rhode Island obliges me to write to you.

By the enclosed deposition, Your Lordship will see that this nest of daring smugglers have wounded in a most dangerous manner Lieut. Dudingston, and burnt the King's schooner Gaspee, under his command, for no other cause, except his being dilligent in the discharge of his duty, by giving every proper assistance to the fair trader, and using every endeavor to suppress the illicit trade that is carried on to a great degree, in that province, and which can never be checked unless there are more men-of-war stationed there, to keep the inhabitants in order.

I beg leave to refer Your Lordship to the enclosed deposition, for the particulars, and wait Your Lordship's instructions for what is to be done. Permit me to add, that the lieutenant that is wounded, is a sober, dilligent, good officer; and has most strictly done his duty since I have had the honor of commanding here, frequently at the hazard of his life, in assisting the revenue. Should he survive, which I have little hopes of, I beg leave to recommend him to Your Lordship's favor and protection.

I have the honor, &c., &c.,

J. MONTAGU.

To the Right Honorable Lord Hillsborough.

P. S. Herewith I transmit to Your Lordship copies of letters which have passed between me, Lieutenant Dudingston and the Governor of Rhode Island, which I did not think necessary to trouble Your Lordship with, until this melancholy affair of the schooner happened.

J. M.

The following is the official account of the destruction of the *Gaspee*, transmitted by Governor Wanton, to the Earl of Hillsborough.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to the Earl of Hillsborough.*

Newport, Rhode Island, }  
June 16, 1772. }

My Lord:—I did myself the honor to write to Your Lordship on the 20th ultimo. I am now reduced to the necessity of addressing Your Lordship upon a most disagreeable subject; the destruction of the schooner *Gaspee*, under the command of Lieutenant William Dudingston, by persons unknown. The particulars relating to this unwarrantable transaction, so far as I have been able to collect them, are as follows:

On the 9th inst., she run aground on a point of land called Namquit, a little below Pawtuxet, on the Narragansett River, within this colony. About three-quarters of an hour after twelve o'clock, at night, there being but one hand on deck, six or seven boats, full of men, were by him discovered drawing towards said schooner; and before many of her hands had time to get upon deck, was boarded by the people in the boats, who, as soon as they had secured the possession of the schooner, took out the captain and all the people, and set them ashore on the main land; after which, they set fire to the schooner. In the attack, Mr. Dudingston was wounded by a ball through his arm, from whence it passed and lodged in some part of his body.

Mr. Sessions, the Deputy Governor of this colony, immediately upon hearing of this unhappy affair, went to Mr. Dudingston, and offered him all the help and assistance in his power; but Mr. Dudingston said he wanted no favors for himself.

The Deputy Governor then told him, that he came not only to offer him any relief his distressed circumstances might require, but also to gain a declaration from his own mouth respecting the destruction of the schooner under his command, that proper and rigorous measures might be taken to discover and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Mr. Dudingston answered, he would give him no account, because of his indisposition; and also, because it was his duty to forbear any thing of that kind, till he had done it to his commanding officer, at a court martial, to which, if he lived, he must be called; but if he died, he desired it might all die with him.

The Deputy Governor, with the consent of Mr. Dudingston, then proceeded to examine a number of his men, and, on the 11th, transmitted copies of the most material of the examinations to me; upon the receipt whereof, I immediately convened such of His Majesty's Council and the house of deputies as could be seasonably notified, and laid before them the proceedings of the Deputy Governor, which they highly approved of, and unanimously recommended my issuing a proclamation, with a reward of £100, sterling, for the discovery of any of the persons concerned in this violent insult upon government, which I cheerfully complied with, and sent them into the several towns within this colony.

This transaction gives me the utmost uneasiness; and Your Lordship may be assured, that the utmost vigilance of the civil authority will not be wanting, to bring the perpetrators to exemplary and condign punishment; and in justice to the inhabitants of the colony, I must not omit mentioning, that the conduct of those who committed this outrage, is, by them, universally condemned.

I wish, My Lord, those officers who have lately been sent into this colony, under a pretence of assisting trade, had conducted with that temper, prudence and discretion which persons entrusted with the execution of the laws ought, upon every occasion, to manifest.

In my last, I informed Your Lordship, that the inhabitants had been insulted without any just cause; and I am extremely sorry that I have still reason to say, that the trade of this colony is interrupted in a most unprecedented and oppressive manner, without contributing, in the least, to the service of the revenue. Inward bound vessels have been detained several days, without the least colorable pretext, and then delivered up.

One from South Kingstown, for having on board a small quantity of tobacco, of the growth of this colony, which the owner was transporting to Newport, for a market; another, for having only three or four dozen wine laid in by the captain, for sea stores. The small freight boats, plying between the several towns, with the produce of the colony, are, by the severity of these officers, subjected to great inconvenience, which very sensibly affects the whole colony; and particularly, the town of Newport, its metropolis, whose inhabitants are principally supplied with the necessaries of life by water; and the obstructions they now experience, have contributed not a little to enhance the price of fuel and provisions, to the great disadvantage of the town; and in my humble opinion, if such measures are permitted to be pursued, the colony will ere long be involved in the deepest calamity.

These, My Lord, are serious and important truths; and as Your Lordship, from your thorough knowledge of the colony, must be perfectly acquainted with the nature and extent of our trade, the profits of which, ultimately centering in Great Britain, for the purchase of her manufactures, I have no room to doubt of Your Lordship's interposition in behalf of this colony, that all cause of complaint against any of the King's officers stationed here, may be removed, and the inhabitants treated with that respect which is due to the subjects of His Britannic Majesty.

As a proof, My Lord, that the trade of this colony stands upon as fair and legal a footing as the trade of any part of His Majesty's dominions, out of two hundred sail of vessels which have entered this port since the 1st day of March last, only two in that number have been prosecuted and condemned for breach of acts of trade, one of which, belongs to the Massachusetts Bay, notwithstanding they have been searched and rummaged with the greatest severity. These two vessels, although seized and condemned here, were sent by Capt. Linzee, of the Beaver, and Lieut. Dudingston, to Boston, for sale, in direct opposition to the orders of the court of vice admiralty, within this colony; and the marshal of the said court prevented by force from libelling one of these vessels for payment of the mariners' wages.

These, My Lord, are but a few of the many grievances which the people of this colony have been for months past harrassed and perplexed with; but as the General Assembly will soon be convened, I make no doubt they will order a more particular remonstrance to be made.

In the mean time, permit me, My Lord, to implore your attention to the com-

plaints of a much abused and injured people, whose loyalty and affection to their sovereign, claims Your Lordship's countenance and patronage.\*

I am, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

To the Right Honorable the Earl of Hillsborough.

“There is little room to doubt,” as Judge Staples observes, “but that Governor Wanton and the officers of the colony would have been satisfied that the authors of the mischief should remain undiscovered; although their duty as officers, and their interests, required them to exhibit a great zeal and loyalty on the occasion.

On the other hand, Admiral Montagu and his brother officers in the navy and revenue, were sincere in their exertions to bring the perpetrators to condign punishment.” This appears from the following letter, relative to the deposition of the negro Aaron, which is often referred to in the proceedings which follow.

\* The following extract of a letter, relating to the Gaspee affair, is found with the correspondence of Admiral Montagu, in the state paper office. It does not appear to whom it was written.

“*Charles Dudley, Esq., to* ————

Rhode Island, 23d July, 1772.

\* \* The attack upon the Gaspee was not the effect of sudden passion and resentment, but of cool deliberation and fore-thought. \* It had long been determined she should be destroyed.

The paragraph in the enclosed newspaper, under the Newport head, was the prelude to the diabolical scene. \* \*

The next public step, was a memorial or petition from the merchants in Providence; first laid before the superior court of judicature, then sitting in the town, and afterwards before the Governor, praying that the commander of an armed vessel, then cruising in the bay, should be called upon by the civil authority, to know by what powers he was authorised to search ships and other vessels on the high seas; though it was notorious that the armed vessel in question, sailed under British colors, and belonged to His Britannic Majesty.

The piece from the paper, Newport, February 24, speaks of an armed schooner, that had seized ten or twelve hogsheads of rum the first part of last week; also, last Thursday, three hogsheads of molasses, belonging to a poor man. Some say, this piratical schooner belongs to King George the Third; but we should think it a little below His Br-t-n-o Majesty, to keep men-of-war employed in robbing some of his poorest subjects.”

*Admiral Montagu to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Boston, 8th July, 1772.

Sir:—By express, last night, from Capt. Linzee, of His Majesty's sloop *Beaver*, I received the enclosed account; and, although it comes from a negro man, it carries with it the appearance of truth, as it agrees in many circumstances with Lieutenant Dudingston's letter (to me), and also with the deposition of the midshipman of the *Gaspee*; added to this, a man belonging to the *Gaspee*, swears to this negro's being in the boat that put him ashore, and challenged him as soon as he saw him come on board the *Beaver*.

These corroborating circumstances, put it out of all doubt with me, that he was actually concerned in taking and burning the King's schooner. And as he has impeached several others that were concerned in that piratical act, I am to beg Your Excellency will get the people mentioned in the enclosed account, apprehended, that they may be examined before you, in the presence of Lieutenant Dudingston, who, I dare say, will remember the person of the surgeon that dressed his wounds; and may possibly recollect the persons of Potter and Brown, who appear to me, to have been the ring-leaders in destroying His Majesty's schooner.

As this affair was transacted in Your Excellency's government, I must totally rely on you, to have these people secured, and (if there is sufficient proof against them) brought to justice. I doubt not but that you will exert yourself as much as is in your power; and I flatter myself, that, with your assistance, the King will have justice done him, and the offenders brought to punishment; which I hope will in future prevent the King's officers from being, upon all occasions, insulted, and check the lawless and piratical behaviour of the people of Rhode Island.

I am, sir, &amp;c., &amp;c..

J. MONTAGU.

To His Excellency Governor Wanton.

P. S. I should be glad if Your Excellency would inform me, whether this act was committed on the high seas, or in the body of the county; if on the former, I doubt not but, as one of the commissioners, you will use every proper method to get them apprehended, that they may be tried.

If you should think it proper to take the negro's deposition on oath, I should be glad if you would suffer a proper person to go on board the *Swan*, to take it; and that you will favor me with a copy of it.

*Statement of the Negro Aaron.*

Aaron, a negro man, has declared that he rowed from Providence, the evening His Majesty's schooner *Gaspee* was burnt, towards Warren, where he met a man, called Potter, of Bristol, in a rowing boat, with eight men, armed with pistols, guns and clubs; the said Potter desired him to go with him.

In consequence of Potter's desire, I rowed by his boat, until I came within a quarter of a mile of the King's schooner, that was on shore on a spit of land. I then got into Potter's boat, by his desire; he told me, with others, that he was to join other boats, that were coming down from Providence, in order to burn the King's

schooner, that lay on shore. In about half an hour after, we joined seventeen boats from Providence, commanded, as they informed me, by John Brown.

Immediately after the boats joined company, we rowed towards the schooner; before we came close to the schooner, they hailed the boats, and forbid them coming on board; but notwithstanding the officer of the schooner forbidding the boats to come on board, we had orders to row up to the schooner; which we did immediately, and boarded her.

I saw Brown fire a musket when in the boat, under the bows; the captain of the schooner immediately fell from the place he was standing on; the surgeon, that was ordered to dress the captain, was a tall, thin man, called Weeks, of Warwick; very soon after we got on board the schooner, the mens' hands, belonging to the schooner, were tied behind their backs, and put in boats and put on shore.

I rowed the bow oar in the boat that the captain came on shore in; I think there were five people belonging to the schooner, in the boat. The captain lay abaft all the oars; Potter, of Bristol, was in the boat, and John Brown, of Providence; Brown steered the boat on shore; I had on a red and white spotted handkerchief, tied on my head, and two frocks on my body.

A list of five men's names, that were concerned in destroying His Majesty's schooner Gaspee:

John Brown and Joseph Brown, principal men of the town of Providence; Simcon Potter, of Bristol; Doctor Weeks, of Warwick; ——— Richmond, of Providence.

N. B. One of the Gaspee's men declared, as soon as he saw the negro, that he was the man that rowed the bow oar in the boat he went on shore in; and that he assisted the negro to row the oar.

Admiral Montagu, at the same time, communicated the particulars which he had obtained from Aaron, to the Earl of Hillsborough. He also takes the occasion to add remarks relative to the character of the leading men supposed to have been implicated in the burning of the Gaspee, which are not at all flattering. Here follows his letter.

*Admiral Montagu to the Earl of Hillsborough.*

Boston, 11th July, 1772.

My Lord:—Since I had the honor of writing to Your Lordship last, I have received an express from Capt. Linzee, of His Majesty's sloop Beaver, at Rhode Island, informing me he had discovered and detained an indented black servant, who was in one of the boats that boarded the Gaspee schooner; that one of the men now on board the Beaver (late of the Gaspee), remembered the man the moment he saw him.

Enclosed, I transmit to Your Lordship the said black man's deposition (on being examined), by which Your Lordship will be able to judge of the people concerned, and of the measures necessary to be taken.

I beg leave to observe to Your Lordship, that I have inquired of many of the principal people of this place, who all knew Potter, of Bristol, mentioned in the en-



closed deposition, and in general agree that he is a man of fortune, but of the most infamous character possible to describe; and has been guilty of almost every vice a pirate can be guilty of. The Browns, of Providence, are principal people of that place.

It appears to me, My Lord, that these people were the ringleaders in this piratical proceeding. I have therefore, written to Governor Wanton, of Rhode Island, and begged his utmost exertions may be used for the apprehension and bringing to justice the people mentioned in the said deposition, as principals in this proceeding; but the disposition of the people of that government in general, is such, that I cannot flatter myself with much success, unless some other method is taken for apprehending them.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

J. MONTAGU.

To the Right Honorable the Earl of Hillsborough.

It does not appear that Governor Wanton adopted the course recommended by Admiral Montagu, to arrest the parties charged by the negro Aaron, with being concerned in the burning of the Gaspee. Whether he knew they were concerned in the affair, which is probable, and desired to screen them, or whether he disbelieved the statement of Aaron, and determined to make it so appear, the reader must judge. But it seems he lost no time in obtaining the following affidavits.

*Affidavits going to disprove Aaron's Statement.*

Samuel Thurston, of the island of Prudence, in the township of Portsmouth, in the county of Newport, of lawful age, declareth and saith:

That Aaron, a mulatto lad, of about sixteen years of age, now on board His Majesty's ship, the Swan, commanded by Capt. Ayscough, is an indented servant to Samuel Tompkins, of Prudence, aforesaid, son-in-law to the said Samuel Thurston; which Samuel Tompkins hath lived in the same house with the declarant for many years past, and have jointly managed a farm together; that he is fully persuaded the said Aaron hath not been off from the said island for more than twelve months preceding the 2d day of July instant; on the night of which, the said Aaron stole their boat, and went on board His Majesty's ship, the Beaver; that particularly on the night after the 9th of June last, being the same night that His Majesty's schooner, the Gaspee, was burnt, he is well assured that the said Aaron remained in his house the whole of the night, he having seen him on the evening and early in the morning of the 10th, at his work.

That, at that time, there was but one boat at that end of said island, which was then so much out of repair, that the said declarant thinks she could not swim, and then lay bottom upwards in order to be refitted, being the same boat the said Aaron stole after she was repaired.

That he, the declarant, thinks it absolutely impossible, that the said Aaron should have been, that night, any where near the place where the said schooner was burnt; and that the said Aaron remained at home from the said 9th of June

until the 2d day of July; and never, during that time, gave him the least information, suggestion or hint of his having any knowledge of the business of the said schooner.

SAML THURSTON.

Colony of Rhode Island, &c., }  
Newport, July 10, 1772. }

Personally appeared Samuel Thurston, (one of the people called Quakers,) and on his solemn affirmation, declared that the above written declaration is true, before—

J. WANTON,  
Governor.

Samuel Tompkins, of the island of Prudence, in the township of Portsmouth, in the county of Newport, on oath declareth and saith :

That Aaron, a mulatto lad of about sixteen years of age, now on board His Majesty's ship, the *Swan*, commanded by Capt. Ayscough, is an indented servant to the deponent; that he is fully persuaded the said Aaron hath not been off from the said island more than once or twice for twelve months preceding the 2d of July last, in the night of which, the said Aaron stole a boat belonging to the deponent and his father-in-law, Mr. Samuel Thurston, and went on board His Majesty's ship, the *Beaver*.

That particularly, on the night after the 9th of June last, being the same night that His Majesty's schooner, the *Gaspee* was burnt, he is well assured that the said Aaron remained in his house the whole of the night; he having seen him about nine o'clock, that evening, with the rest of the servants, in the family, about which time they retired to bed; and, also, very early in the morning of the 10th, the said Aaron, according to his usual custom, brought the cows into the yard, to be milked.

That, at the time, there was but one boat at that end of the island, which was then so much out of repair, that the deponent is confident she could not swim, and then lay bottom upwards, in order to be re-fitted, being the same boat the said Aaron stole after she was repaired.

That he, the said deponent, thinks it absolutely impossible that the said Aaron should have been that night any where near the place where the schooner *Gaspee* was burnt; and that he, the said Aaron, remained at home from the said 9th of June, until the said 2d day of July; and never, during that time, gave him the least information, suggestion or hint of his having any the least knowledge of the destruction of the said schooner.

SAML TOMPKINS.

Colony of Rhode Island, &c., }  
Newport, July 11, 1772. }

Mr. Samuel Tompkins personally appeared, and made solemn oath to t<sup>e</sup> truth of the above deposition by him subscribed, before—

J. WANTON,  
Governor.

Somerset, a mulatto, and Jack, a negro, indented servants, living with Samuel Thurston and Samuel Tompkins, on the island of Prudence, in the township of Portsmouth, in the county of Newport, of lawful age, on oath severally depose and say:


That to their certain knowledge, Aaron, a mulatto lad, who is also an indented

servant to the said Samuel Tompkins, and now, as they are informed, on board of a man-of-war, has not been off from said island for many months preceding the 2d day of July instant; in the night of which, the said Aaron stole a boat belonging to the said Samuel Thurston and Samuel Tompkins, and went on board a man-of-war.

That the said Aaron has slept with the deponents in the same bed for several years; and particularly on the night the schooner called the Gaspee, was burnt, the said Aaron was at home, at the dwelling-house of the said Thurston and Tompkins, and that he, the said Aaron, lay in the same room and bed with the deponents the whole of that night; having retired to bed together, between nine and ten o'clock, in the evening.

And the deponents severally say, that they have never had the least hint or information, from the said Aaron, of his having any knowledge of the burning of the said schooner Gaspee; and that they are well assured that he knows nothing of the transaction. And the deponents further say not.

The mark of  SOMERSET.

The mark of  JACK.

Colony of Rhode Island, &c., }  
Newport, July 11, 1772. }

In their proper persons came and appeared the above named Somerset and Jack; and after being cautioned to tell the truth, and nothing but the truth, made solemn oath to the above deposition, to which they have made their respective marks.

Before—

J. WANTON,

Governor.

About the same time, Capt. Linzee, of the Beaver, then lying in Newport, caused the following deposition to be taken:

### *Deposition of Patrick Earle.*

The deposition of Patrick Earle, of lawful age, lately belonging to His Majesty's armed schooner, Gaspee, commanded by Lieutenant Dudingston, but now to His Majesty's ship, the Beaver, commanded by John Linzee, Esq. This deponent saith:

That after a number of boats boarded the said schooner, as she lay aground, and the peoples' hands were tied, he, with several others, was put into the same boat that the captain was carried ashore in; and that he helped a negro man, called Aaron Briggs, to row the bow oar, which negro is now on board His Majesty's ship Beaver, who hath sworn that he did row ashore with the bow oar; and further saith not.

The mark of  PATRICK EARLE.

Sworn in Newport, 16th July, 1772. Before me—

CHARLES BARDIN,

Justice of the Peace.

The statement of the mulatto boy Aaron, taken on board the *Beaver*, seemed hardly sufficient to warrant the arrest of the respectable parties, which he had endeavored to implicate in the transaction, in question.

Governor Wanton, therefore, very properly desiring that he should be examined by the civil authority, conformably to law, addressed the following note to the captain of the *Beaver*.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Captain Linzee, of His Majesty's ship Beaver.*

Newport, July 16th, 1772.

Sir:—Having received information from the Honorable Admiral Montagu, that Aaron, a mulatto lad, on board His Majesty's ship, the *Beaver*, under your command, has confessed that he was concerned in destroying His Majesty's schooner, the *Gaspee*, as she lay aground on Namquit Point, in the county of Kent, within this colony; and as it is highly necessary that this lad should be examined by the civil authority, concerning what he knows of that affair, I have directed the sheriff to wait upon you, and request that you would deliver Aaron into his custody, in order to be brought on shore, that such proceedings may be had and done in this matter, as are agreeably to law.

The King's attorney general will attend the examination: and I should be glad if you, or any of your officers, would likewise attend.

If you are of opinion that it is most for His Majesty's service to return Aaron on board your ship after he has been examined, instead of committing him to jail, you may be assured it shall be done.

Mr. Brenton also waits on you, whose opinion on matters of law, may be of service to you in this important affair.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

To John Linzee, Esq., commanding His Majesty's ship, the *Beaver*.

*Warrant to the Sheriff of the County of Newport, for the Arrest of the Negro Aaron.*

Colony of Rhode Island.

GEORGE THE THIRD, by the grace of God, King of Great Britain,

{ L. S. }

France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To the sheriff of the county of Newport, or his lawful deputy, greeting:

Whereas, I have received information, that Aaron, a mulatto lad, otherwise called Aaron Bowler, alias Briggs, now on board His Majesty's ship, the *Beaver*, under the command of Captain John Linzee, in the harbor of Newport, aforesaid, with divers other malefactors, to me as yet unknown, did, in the night of the 9th of June last, unlawfully and riotously assemble and gather together to disturb the

peace of our said lord the King; and being so assembled and gathered together, with force and arms, an attack did make upon His Majesty's schooner, the Gaspee, under the command of Lieutenant William Dudingston, as she lay aground on a point of land, called Namquit, within the township of Warwick, in the county of Kent, in the colony aforesaid; and him, the said William Dudingston, then and there, being in the peace of our said lord the King, did dangerously wound, and the said schooner then and there did wickedly, wilfully and feloniously burn and destroy, against the peace of our said lord the King, his crown and dignity.

Therefore, in the name of our sovereign lord the King, I command and charge you, that immediately upon the receipt hereof, you repair on board His Majesty's ship Beaver, aforesaid, and make diligent search for the said Aaron; and if he be by you found, to bring him before me, or some other lawful authority within this colony, to be examined concerning the premises, that such other proceedings may be had and done, as to law and justice doth appertain.

Hereof fail you not, as you will answer the contrary at your peril; and make true return of this warrant with your doings thereon.

Given under my hand and seal, this 16th day of July, in the twelfth year of His Majesty's reign. Anno Domini 1772.

METCALFE BOWLER,

Just. of Assize.

Newport, July 17, 1772.

By virtue of the within warrant, I waited upon John Linzee, Esq., within mentioned, who refused to deliver up the within named Aaron, in presence of James Brenton, Esq.

ROBERT LILLIBRIDGE, JR.,

D. Sheriff.

This request of Governor Wanton, was treated by Capt. Linzee with great contempt, and utterly disregarded by him, as will appear by the Governor's letter to Admiral Montagu.

It appears, from the following letter from Lieutenant Dudingston, to Admiral Montagu, that his fears for his personal safety, were not wholly removed.

*Lieutenant Dudingston to Admiral Montagu.*

Brenton's Point, near }  
Newport, July 1772. }

Sir:—This day I received yours of the 8th inst., and am hardly able to give answer, from the painful situation I am in; nor is it possible, at present, for me to be of the least use in respect to the negro.

I have no doubt of his being in the boat with me, and it is what I expected, that the Governor would say he was an impostor; and I cannot help telling you, that, without I was able to retire to a ship, I should not exist one night on shore, if I was capable to make oath to any one of the people mentioned.

I beg this may be private, till I can be moved; as the copy of the former letter, being made public to the people by the Governor, puts me in great danger.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

W. DUDINGSTON.

To Admiral Montagu.

Governor Wanton next communicated to Admiral Montagu, the proceedings he had taken in relation to Aaron; expresses his firm conviction that he was not present at the burning of the Gaspee; and that, from his notoriously bad character, his word should not be believed. He also makes known to the Admiral his application to Capt. Linzee, for Aaron, and the contempt with which he treated his request, which request, it seems, was in accordance with the advice of one of the judges of the supreme court.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Admiral Montagu.*

Newport, July 22, 1772.

Sir:—Your favor of the 8th inst., I have received, together with the information given by one Aaron, a mulatto servant, relative to the destruction of the Gaspee; on receiving of which, I pursued every measure in my power to investigate and find out the truth of the various assertions comprised in his declaration.

For which end, I caused to be examined on oath, some of the family with whom this declarant lived as a servant; persons of credit and established character, who were separately examined, and whose testimony perfectly agreed in every circumstance, on such examination; by which, and from the general bad character of the declarant, I was fully convinced that no regard could be had to this information; that the declarant could not be present at the time when this offence was committed; as it is fully proved that he was at home, on an island, near seven miles from the place where the disaster happened.

However, being very solicitous that every inquiry should be made, that might reflect light on this unhappy affair, I had a conference with one of the judges of the superior court, before whom this matter must finally come to be adjudged, who gave it as his opinion, that it was absolutely necessary that this declarant should be delivered up to the civil authority, to be properly examined. He therefore issued his warrant to take Aaron into his custody.

At the same time, I wrote Capt. Linzee a letter, requesting him to deliver him to the sheriff, in order to his being examined; both which, were treated by Capt. Linzee with great contempt, and by him utterly disregarded.

What could be his motives or reasons for such his conduct, I am not able to account for. It certainly is a great contempt of the civil authority of this colony, who have the only power and jurisdiction to try all and every offence committed within the same, to refuse delivering up an offender, who, by his own confession, hath ac-

knowledgeed his guilt, and what is sufficient for his conviction, supposing what he hath declared, to be true; and, if otherwise, he ought to be proceeded against agreeably to law, and punished according to his offence.

I have transmitted to you the several depositions, by which, I apprehend you will agree with me in opinion, that no dependence can be had on the declaration given by the informant, but must wholly be disregarded. Villainy of this kind, is not new. We have a recent instance of this sort, at home. Britain and others, conspiring in the most horrid manner, to charge the officers of state with a crime that the whole world knew they could not possibly be guilty of.

The schooner, when she was destroyed, lay aground, in a narrow river, near thirty miles from the main sea; and as all ports and havens are *infra corpus comitatus*, I am of opinion, that, in this case, the admiral hath no jurisdiction. His Honor the Chief Justice, has favored me with his opinion on this matter, which herewith I enclose.

When Aaron is delivered into the hands of the civil authority, whatever is legal and necessary, will undoubtedly be done. I have advised with the King's attorney, whose opinion and advice coincides with what I have written on the subject of Aaron's declaration.

I am Your Honor's

Most obedient humble servant,

J. WANTON.

To the Honorable Admiral Montagu.

*Admiral Montagu in reply to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Boston, 1st September, 1772.

Sir:—I received your letter, dated 22d July, with three depositions enclosed. I deferred answering it, till I had seen and examined Aaron, the black indented servant, who says he was in one of the boats that boarded and burnt the Gaspee; and it is clear to me, from many corroborating circumstances, that he is no impostor.

Sorry I am, that no regard can be had to his information in your opinion. In my opinion, the depositions Your Excellency sent me, prove nothing that confutes any thing he has said.

However, it is not in my power to do more than I have, to bring the offenders to justice; the whole must rest with you, who are upon the spot. I find the master of Aaron, the black, has arrested Capt. Linzee, for the detention of his servant; therefore, as Capt. Linzee has done nothing but by my orders, I have bailed him, and will keep the fellow. I did intend sending him to you, had not his master taken this step.

I shall not trouble Your Excellency any more on the subject of the Gaspee, but leave the result of the whole conduct of His Majesty's good subjects at Rhode Island to him and his ministers; and am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

J. MONTAGU.

To Governor Wanton.

Here ended the proceedings of the colony, and the correspondence with the English admiral, in relation to this subject, previous to the action upon it by the British government.

From various references, it appears that under date of the 4th of September, 1772, Lord Dartmouth addressed a letter to Governor Wanton, transmitting the royal proclamation, commission, instructions, etc. ; which letter, unfortunately, is not found in the files of the secretary's office ; nor does it appear in the compilation of Judge Staples.\*

In writing to the Earl of Dartmouth, on the 20th February, 1773, Judge Horsmanden, one of the royal commissioners, says on his arrival in Rhode Island, on the 31st December, 1772, in pursuance of His Lordship's instructions, "he was surprised to find that the main object of our errand, was become public, which, in prudence, was to be kept secret ; nevertheless, Your Lordship's letter to Governor Wanton, was published in the Boston weekly paper, and spread industriously over all New England. However amazing to us, upon inquiry it came out, that the Governor had communicated it to his Assembly, who had got it printed. Upon expostulating with the Governor upon it, he said, he was, by law, obliged to communicate all dispatches from the ministry to his corporation, and sworn so to do," etc.†

\* Governor Wanton, in his letter to the Earl of Dartmouth, dated December 24, 1772, mentions this letter.

† In a subsequent letter to Governor Wanton, which will be found in the order of its date, the Earl of Dartmouth complains of the publication of his letter of the 4th of September, in the common newspaper, parts of which, were "secret and confidential, and addressed personally" to himself. His Lordship fears, too, that this act "cannot be considered as entirely corresponding with the assurances given, of paying the strictest attention and deference to such orders" as he may transmit to the Governor.

The following letters from Governor Hutchinson, of Massachusetts, to a gentleman in London, are from "The Remembrancer," for the year 1776, Vol. II., p. 59 :

*Governor Hutchinson to Secretary Pownall.*

"Boston, 29th August, 1772.

Dear Sir:—I troubled you with a long letter the 21st July. Give me leave now only to add one or two things, which I then intended, but to avoid being too tedious, omitted.

People in this province, both friends and enemies to government, are in great expectations from the late affair at Rhode Island, of the burning the King's schooner ; and they consider the manner in which the news of it will be received in England, and the measures to be taken, as decisive. If it is passed over without a full inquiry and due resentment, our liberty people will think they may with impunity commit any acts of violence, be they ever so atrocious, and the friends to government will despond and give up all hopes of being able to withstand the faction.



In the “*Massachusetts Spy, or Thomas’s Weekly Journal,*” published at Boston, on the 31st December, 1772, is the following, which is doubtless the chief portion of the missing letter referred to.

*Extract of a Letter from Lord Dartmouth to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

“The following may be depended upon, as a genuine extract of the letter from Lord Dartmouth, to the Governor of Rhode Island, dated Whitehall, September 4, 1772:

‘The particulars of that atrocious proceeding (referring to the burning the Gaspee schooner), have, by the King’s command, been examined and considered with the greatest attention; and although there are some circumstances attending it, in regard to the robbery and plunder of the vessel, which, separately considered, might bring it within the description of an act of piracy, yet, in the obvious view of the whole transaction, and taking all the circumstances together, the offence is, in the opinion of the law servants of the crown, who have been consulted upon that question, of a much deeper dye, and is considered in no other light, than as an act of high treason, viz. : levying war against the King.

And, in order that you may have all proper advice and assistance, in a matter of so great importance, His Majesty has thought fit, with the advice of his Privy Council, to issue his royal commission, under the great seal of Great Britain, nominating yourself and the chief justices of New York, New Jersey, and the Massachusetts Bay, together with the judge of the vice admiralty court established at Boston, to be His Majesty’s commissioners for inquiring into, and making report to His Majesty, of all the circumstances relative to the attacking, plundering and burning the Gaspee schooner.

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The persons who were the immediate actors, are men of estate, and property, in the colony. A prosecution is impossible. If ever the government of that colony is to be reformed, this seems to be the time; and it would have a happy effect in the colonies which adjoin to it. Several persons have been advised by letters from their friends, that as the ministry are united, and opposition at an end, there will certainly be an inquiry into the state of America, the next session of Parliament. The denial of the supremacy of Parliament, and the contempt with which its authority has been treated by the Lilliputian Assemblies of America, can never be justified or excused by any one member of either House of Parliament.”

*Governor Hutchinson to Samuel Hood, Esq.*

“Boston, 2d September, 1772.

Dear Sir:—Capt. Linzee can inform you of the state of Rhode Island colony better than I can do; so daring an insult, as burning the King’s schooner, by people who are as well known as any who were concerned in this last rebellion, and yet cannot be prosecuted, will certainly rouse the British lion, which has been asleep these four or five years.

Admiral Montagu says that Lord Sandwich will never leave pursuing the colony, until it is disfranchised. If it is passed over, the other colonies will follow the example.”

The King trusts that all persons in the colony, will pay a due respect to his royal commission, and that the business of it will be carried on without molestation; at the same time, the nature of this offence, and the great number of persons who appear to have been concerned in it, makes every precaution necessary. His Majesty, has, therefore, for their further support in the execution of this duty, thought fit to direct me to signify his pleasure to Lieutenant General Gage, that he do hold himself in readiness to send troops into Rhode Island, whenever he shall be called upon by the commissioners for that purpose, in order to aid and assist the civil magistrate in the suppression of any riot or disturbance, and in the preservation of the public peace. I have only to add, upon that head, that His Majesty depends on the vigilance of the civil magistrates of the colony, to take the proper measures for the arresting and committing to custody, in order to their being brought to justice, such persons, as shall, upon proper information made before them, or before His Majesty's commissioners, appear to have been concerned in the plundering and destroying the Gaspee schooner.

It is His Majesty's intention, in consequence of the advice of his Privy Council, that the persons concerned in the burning the Gaspee schooner, and in the other violences which attended that daring insult, *should be brought to England, to be tried*: and I am, therefore, to signify to you His Majesty's pleasure, that such of the said offenders as may have been, or shall be, arrested and committed within the colony of Rhode Island, be delivered to the care and custody of Rear Admiral Montagu, or the commander in chief of His Majesty's ships in North America, for the time being, or to such officers as he shall appoint to receive them; taking care that you do give notice to the persons accused, in order that they may procure such witnesses on their behalf, as they shall judge necessary; which witnesses, together with all such as may be proper, to support the charge against them, will be received and sent thither with the prisoners."

At the August session of the General Assembly, the subject of the destruction of the Gaspee, was introduced by the following communication from the Governor:

*Governor Wanton to the House of Deputies of Rhode Island.*

To the House of Deputies:

Gentlemen:—The measures which have been pursued for discovering the persons who were concerned in destroying the King's armed schooner, the Gaspee, as she lay aground on a point of land, called Namquit, in this colony, will appear from the several papers which I have delivered to Mr. Speaker, in order to be laid before you, for your information.

I have, in consequence of that unhappy transaction, addressed the Right Honorable the Earl of Hillsborough; a copy of which, and also what I wrote to the agent, upon the same occasion, I have delivered to Mr. Speaker.

I thought it my duty, during the recess of the Assembly, to acquaint the secretary of state with this affair, lest, by an entire silence, or from misinformation, any impressions might be made prejudicial to the colony.

I hope my proceedings will meet your approbation; and submit to your determination what is further necessary to be done, recommending the same to your serious and immediate consideration.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

Council Chamber,  
Newport, August 18th, 1772. }

J. WANTON.

At the same session, Deputy Governor Sessions presented an account for expenses incurred by him in collecting evidence relating to the destruction of the *Gaspee*; for subsisting her crew, while at Pawtuxet, and in sending them on board His Majesty's ship, the *Beaver*, which lay in the bay below.

Mr. Samuel Aborn, of Pawtuxet, also presented a bill for securing the stores, anchors, guns and other effects belonging to the burnt vessel; all of which bills, were ordered to be paid.

The following additional proceedings are from the records of the session:

*Proceedings of the General Assembly of Rhode Island, relative to the Gaspee.*

Whereas, His Honor the Governor, hath laid before this Assembly, a full and particular narrative of the measures he hath pursued, in consequence of the burning of His Majesty's schooner, the *Gaspee*; and of the steps he hath taken to discover the perpetrators of that atrocious piece of villainy; upon due consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the whole of His Honor's proceedings be approved; and that His Honor be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit a copy thereof, to the agent of the colony, in Great Britain;\* and to pursue such further measures respecting the said affair, during the recess of the General Assembly, as shall appear necessary.

And whereas, His Honor issued a proclamation, promising a reward of £100, sterling, to any person or persons who shall discover the persons guilty of the said crime;—

\* The letter to the agent, in London, is not preserved on the files in the secretary's office. It did not probably vary from the letter to the Earl of Hillsborough, before given.

It is therefore further voted and resolved, that this Assembly will make provision for paying the above mentioned reward, in case any person or persons shall be entitled thereto.

And it is further voted and resolved, that no copies of letters, or other proceedings, relating to the above mentioned affair, be delivered out by the secretary, to any person or persons, whomsoever.

It is voted and resolved, that the letter from His Honor the Governor, to the Right Honorable the Earl of Hillsborough, of the 20th of May last, containing a narrative of the proceedings respecting His Honor's calling Lieut. Dudingston before him, &c., be, and the same is hereby, approved.

Whereas, Joseph Rhodes of Cranston, cooper, hath in his hands the sum of \$79, belonging to Lieut. Dudingston, which he refuseth to deliver, —

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor and the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., be, and they are hereby, requested and empowered to make inquiry into that affair, and to settle all differences between the parties; and that, if the said Rhodes will not comply therewith, they advise the said Dudingston to take the proper method for obtaining his right.

*Proclamation of King George III., relative to the Destruction of  
the Gaspee.*



GEORGE R.

BY THE KING.

A PROCLAMATION:

For the discovering and apprehending the persons who plundered and burnt the Gaspee schooner, and barbarously wounded and ill-treated Lieutenant William Dudingston, commander of the said schooner.

Whereas, we have received information, that, upon the 10th day of June last, between the hours of twelve and one, in the morning, in the Providence or Narragansett River, in our colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, a great number of persons, armed with guns and other offensive weapons, and led by two persons, who were called the captain and head sheriff, in several armed boats, attacked and boarded our vessel called the Gaspee schooner, then lying at single anchor in the said river, commanded by our Lieutenant William Dudingston, under the orders of our Rear Admiral John Montagu; and having dangerously wounded and barbarously treated the said William Dudingston, took, plundered and burnt the said schooner.

We, to the intent that said outrageous and heinous offenders may be discovered, and brought to condign punishment, have thought fit, with the advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our royal proclamation.

And we are hereby graciously pleased to promise, that if any person or persons shall discover any person or persons concerned in the said daring and heinous offences above mentioned, so that he or they may be apprehended and brought to justice, such discoverer shall have and receive, as a reward, for such discovery, upon conviction of each of the said offenders, the sum of *five hundred pounds*.

And if any person or persons shall discover either of the said persons who acted as, or called themselves, or were called by their said accomplices, the head sheriff, or the captain, so that they, or either of them, may be apprehended and brought to punishment, such discoverer shall have and receive, as a reward for such discovery, upon conviction of either of the said persons, the further sum of *five hundred pounds*, over and above the sum of *five hundred pounds*, herein before promised, for the discovery and apprehending any of the other common offenders above mentioned.

And if any person or persons concerned therein, except the two persons who were called the head sheriff and captain, and the person or persons who wounded

said Lieutenant William Dudingston, shall discover any one or more of the said accomplices, so that he or they may be apprehended and brought to punishment, such discoverer shall have and receive the said reward or rewards of *five hundred pounds, or one thousand pounds*, as the case may be; and also our gracious pardon for his said offence; and the commissioners for executing the office of treasurer of our exchequer, are hereby required to make payment accordingly, of the said rewards.

And we do hereby strictly charge and command all our governors, deputy governors, magistrates officers and all other our loving subjects, that they do use their utmost diligence, in their several places and capacities, to find out, discover and apprehend the said offenders, in order to their being brought to justice.

And we do hereby command that this our proclamation be printed and published, in the usual form, and affixed in the principal places of our town of Newport, and other towns in our said colony, that none may pretend ignorance.

Given at our Court, at St. James, the twenty-sixth day of August, 1772, in the twelfth year of our reign.

God save the King.

*Royal Commission to the Commissioners of Inquiry, relative to the Destruction of the Gaspee.*

GEORGE THE THIRD, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c., to our trusty and well beloved Joseph Wanton, Esquire, Governor of our colony, called the English colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, in America; our trusty and well beloved Daniel Horsmanden, Esquire, our chief justice of our province of New York; our trusty and well beloved Frederick Smyth, Esquire, our chief justice of our province of New Jersey; our trusty and well beloved Peter Oliver, Esquire, our chief justice of our Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England; and our trusty and well beloved Robert Auchmuty, Esquire, our judge of our vice admiralty court, established at Boston, with jurisdiction in all causes arising within the limits of our colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Connecticut, greeting:

Whereas, our armed schooner, called the Gaspee schooner, commanded by Lieutenant William Dudingston, under the orders of Rear Admiral Montagu, was stationed in Providence or Narragansett River, in, or near to our colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, the said Lieutenant Dudingston, having proper commission and authority, to seize to our use, such prohibited and unaccustomed goods, as he should find carried in and on board any ship, bottom boat or other vessels, contrary to law, whereby the same is forfeited.

And, whereas, we have been informed that very many ill-disposed persons have dared, from time to time, in defiance of our laws and authority, to insult and otherwise hinder and obstruct the said Lieutenant William Dudingston, in the perform-

ance of his duty, and their boldness in that respect grew to so desperate an height, that on or about the 10th day of June last, great multitudes of people were assembled in our town of Newport,\* and places adjacent, in our said colony, by beat of drum, armed with guns and other offensive weapons, and led on by two persons, whom they called the head sheriff and the captain, and so proceeded in warlike manner, with armed boats, to attack our said schooner; and having dangerously wounded the said lieutenant, overpowered the crew, took, plundered and burnt our said vessel.

We, being desirous to be perfectly informed how so daring an attempt could be concerted, prepared and carried into execution in the chief town of our said colony, the residence of the Governor, and principal magistrates thereof, not only for the purpose of bringing the said offenders and their maintainers, aiders and abettors, to condign punishment, but also to the end, that fit and speedy order may be taken for securing the future peace, obedience, and well government of our said colony; and placing much confidence in your wisdom, diligence, loyalty and integrity, do, by these presents, appoint you, the said Joseph Wanton, Daniel Horsmanden, Frederick Smythe, Peter Oliver and Robert Auchmuty, our commissioners, to inquire into and report to us a full and true account of all the circumstances relative to the attacking, taking, plundering and burning our said schooner; and to the assembling, arming, training and leading the people concerned therein; and to the concerting and preparing the said attack, and of all other insults and obstructions which have been given to the said Lieutenant Dudingston, or to our service in general in our said colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and of the causes which have occasioned so daring a violation of our laws and authority; and also to inquire and report what measures have been taken or used by the magistrates of our said colony, and other our good subjects therein, respecting the same.

And for the better execution of our royal will and pleasure therein, we do hereby give unto you, the said Joseph Wanton, Daniel Horsmanden, Frederick Smythe, Peter Oliver, and Robert Auchmuty, or any three of you, full power and authority to receive all such informations and advertisements as shall be brought unto you, by or from any of our loving subjects or others, touching the premises; and also, to inquire, by the examination of witnesses on oath, which oath we do hereby give you or any of you, full power, warrant and authority to administer, or by such other ways and means as you, or any three of you, shall, in your discretion, think fit, into the premises, or any of them.

And we do further give you, or any three of you, full power and authority to send for such persons, papers, and records, as shall be useful to you, for the better carrying on the service hereby intended, willing and requiring you, the said Governor, the Deputy Governor, and all other our magistrates, officers, and loving subjects within the said colony, to be in all things helpful, aiding and assisting to you, and every of you, in the execution of this, our royal commission.

And we do further strictly charge and command you, and every of you, that, in the execution and performance of the powers and authorities to you hereby given,

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\* This is a mistake. It was not in Newport, but in Providence, where the party was organized.

you, and every of you, do carefully observe and conform yourselves to such instructions as shall be given and sent unto you, in writing, under our sign manual, and to report to us a full and true account of your proceedings herein.


In witness whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourself, at Westminster, the second day of September, in the twelfth year of our reign.

By the King himself.

YORKE.

*Royal Instructions to the Commission of Inquiry, relative to the Destruction of the Gaspee.*

G E O R G E R.

 Instructions to our trusty and well beloved Joseph Wanton, Daniel Horsmanden, Frederick Smythe, Peter Oliver and Robert Auchmuty, Esquires, our commissioners for inquiring into the circumstances relative to the attacking, plundering and burning our armed schooner, called the Gaspee schooner, within our colony of Rhode Island, in America, on the 10th day of June last, and into the causes thereof, and of the violences and insults offered upon that occasion, to our officers employed in our service.

Given at our court at St. James, the 4th day of September, 1772, in the twelfth year of our reign.

Article 1st. With these our instructions, you will receive our commission, under our great seal of Great Britain, constituting and appointing you our commissioners, for inquiring into and making report to us of all the circumstances relative to the attacking, plundering and burning the Gaspee schooner on the 10th of June last, in the Narragansett River, within our colony of Rhode Island; and to the assembling, arming, and leading on the persons who made the said attack, and to the concerting and preparing the same; together with all such other powers and authorities as are judged necessary for that purpose. You are therefore, to take upon you, the execution of the trust reposed in you, and so soon as three or more of you shall have been assembled at Newport, within our said colony of Rhode Island, you are to cause our said commission to be read and published in such manner and form, and with such solemnity as are due to the authority from which it proceeds, and the important occasion for which it is issued, using your own discretions as to all such other times and places of your meetings, according to what shall appear to you, or the major part of you, to be most fit and proper.

Art. 2d. You are to use your utmost care and diligence, pursuant to the authorities and directions contained in our said commission, in making a very full and particular inquiry into all the circumstances relative to the attacking, plundering



and destroying our armed schooner, the *Gaspee*, on the 10th of June last, in the Narragansett River, within our said colony of Rhode Island, and to the assembling, arming and leading on the persons who made the said attack, as also into the causes and occasions thereof; and into all the steps that have been taken by the civil magistrates in their respective stations, for the discovery and punishment of the perpetrators of those heinous offences. And to those ends, you are to summon before you, all such persons as you shall think may be able to give any information touching the said objects of inquiry; and likewise, to order all informations, depositions and examinations, which may have been taken and made in writing, touching those matters, or authentic copies thereof, to be laid before you, and to make a report to us, by one of our principal secretaries of state, of all your proceedings, and of what shall appear to you, respecting the conduct of the magistrates and people of Rhode Island, on that occasion.

Art. 3d. And whereas, the civil magistrates and officers within our said colony of Rhode Island, are entrusted with the power and authority to arrest and commit to custody such of the persons concerned in the plundering and destroying the *Gaspee* schooner, and in the inhuman treatment of our officer who commanded her, against whom any information shall be taken, in order to the said offenders being sent to England to be tried for that offence; it is therefore, our will and pleasure, that you do, from time to time, communicate to the said civil officers and magistrates, such information as you shall be able to collect, touching the persons concerned in that daring attack upon our authority and commission, to the end that they may be accordingly arrested and delivered to the custody of the commander in chief of our ships and vessels in North America, pursuant to such directions as we have thought fit to give for that purpose.

Art. 4th. And whereas, it is of importance with regard to the mode of proceeding against the said offenders, that they should be exactly informed of the place where the offence was committed, it will, therefore, be your duty to take care in all your proceedings upon this inquiry, as well as in your reports thereof to us, by one of our principal secretaries of state, to ascertain with the greatest precision, whether the offence was committed and done within the body of the colony; and if so, within what county or district thereof; and if not so, in what other place the said offence was committed and done.

Art. 5th. And whereas, there may be reason to apprehend, from the outrages which have been committed within our said colony of Rhode Island, by numbers of lawless persons, that insults may be offered to you, it is therefore our will and pleasure, that if any disturbance shall arise, with a view to obstruct you in the execution of your duty, and any violence should in consequence thereof, be offered to you, you do, in such case, give immediate notice thereof to the commander in chief of our forces in North America, and require of him to send such a military force into the colony, as you shall judge necessary for your protection, and for the aiding the civil magistrates in suppressing any tumults or riots, and preserving the public peace.

Lastly. It is our will and pleasure, that you do take an account, by way of journal, of all your acts and proceedings in the execution of the powers and directions given to you, and that the reports which you are to make to us, by one of our

principal secretaries of state, of those proceedings, be in writing, and signed by any three or more of you.\*

G. R.

\* Extract from the Providence Gazette, of Saturday, December 26, 1772:

“To be, or not to be, that’s the question; whether our unalienable rights and privileges are any longer worth contending for, is now to be determined. Permit me, my countrymen, to beseech you to attend to your alarming situation.

The stamp act you opposed with a spirit and resolution becoming those who were truly solicitous to transmit to posterity those blessings which our forefathers purchased for us in the wilds of America, at an immense expense of blood and treasure.

But behold, an evil infinitely worse, in its consequences, than all the revenue laws which have been passed from the reign of Charles the First, to this time, now threatens this distressed, *piratically plundered* country.

A court of inquisition, more horrid than that of Spain or Portugal, is established within this colony, to inquire into the circumstances of destroying the Gaspee schooner; and the persons who are the commissioners of this new-fangled court, are vested with most exorbitant and unconstitutional power. They are directed to summon witnesses, apprehend persons not only impeached, but even suspected! and them, and every of them, to deliver them to Admiral Montagu, who is ordered to have a ship in readiness to carry them to England, where they are to be tried.

Three of the commissioners are a quorum, who are directed to apply to General Gage, for troops to protect them in their offices, and preserve the colony from riots and disturbances. The royal commission for these gentlemen, together with their instructions, is transmitted to Admiral Montagu, who, upon being notified that they are convened in conformity to their appointment, is to attend them, and then deliver their commission and instructions, and to be aiding with his sage counsel and advice, whenever necessary.

So much has transpired, respecting this alarming star-chamber inquisition. And who among the natives of America, can hear it without emotion? Is there an American, in whose breast there glows the smallest spark of public virtue, but who must be fired with indignation and resentment, against a measure so replete with the ruin of our free constitution? To be tried by one’s peers, is the greatest privilege a subject can wish for; and so excellent is our constitution, that no subject shall be tried, but by his peers.

This establishment is the grand barrier of our lives, liberties and estates; and whoever attempts to alter or invade this fundamental principle, by which the liberties of the people have been secured from time immemorial, is a declared enemy to the welfare and happiness of the King and state. The tools of despotism and arbitrary power, have long wished that this important bulwark might be destroyed, and now have the impudence to triumph in our faces, because such of their fellow subjects in America, as are suspected of being guilty of a crime, are ordered to be transported to Great Britain for trial, in open violation of Magna Charta.

Thus are we robbed of our birth-rights, and treated with every mark of indignity, insult and contempt; and can we possibly be so supine, as not to feel ourselves firmly disposed to treat the advocates for such horrid measures with a detestation and scorn, proportionate to their perfidy and baseness?

Luxury and avarice, a more fatal and cruel scourge than war, will ere long ravage Britain and ultimately bring on the dissolution of that once happy kingdom. Ambition, and a thirst for arbitrary sway, have already banished integrity, probity and every other virtue, from those who are entrusted with the government of our mother country. Her colonies loudly complain of the violences and vexations they suffer by having their moneys taken from them, without their consent, by measures more unjustifiable than highway robbery; and applied to the basest purposes,—those of supporting *tyrants* and *debauchees*. No private house is inaccessible to the avarice of custom-house officers; no place so remote whither the injustice and extortion of these miscreant tools in power, have not penetrated.

Upon the whole, it is more than probable, it is an almost absolute certainty, that, according to the present appearances, the state of an American subject, instead of enjoying

These papers were transmitted to Admiral Montagu, and sent by him to Governor Wanton, by express.

*Admiral Montagu to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Boston, 11th December, 1772.

Sir:—Last night an express arrived, with dispatches from the Right Honorable My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, by which came under cover to me, the packet I send to you, herewith.

the privileges of an Englishman, will soon be infinitely worse than that of a subject of France, Spain, Portugal, or any other the most despotic power on earth; so that, my countrymen, it behoves you, it is your indispensable duty to stand forth in the glorious cause of freedom, the dearest of all your earthly enjoyments; and, with a truly Roman spirit of liberty, either prevent the fastening of the infernal chains now forging for you, and your posterity, or nobly perish in the attempt.

To live a life of rational beings, is to live free; to live a life of slaves, is to die by inches. Ten thousand deaths by the halter, or the axe, are infinitely preferable to a miserable life of slavery in chains, under a pack of worse than Egyptian tyrants, whose avarice nothing less than your whole substance and income, will satisfy; and who, if they can't extort that, will glory in making a sacrifice of you and your posterity, to gratify their master the devil, who is a tyrant, and the father of tyrants and of liars.

AMERICANUS.

*Extracts from the Providence Gazette, of Saturday,  
December 26, 1772.*

Newport, December 21, 1772.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Boston, to his friend in this town:

"I here enclose you an extract of a letter from a gentleman in England, to another in Boston. In confirmation of the truth of which, the admiral received a packet by an express which arrived in this town on Thursday evening last, ordering the ships to your harbor; in consequence of which order, the ships are now getting ready as fast as possible; they were kept to work all day yesterday, and commanded to be ready to sail on Tuesday afternoon, or Wednesday morning, at furthest.

The admiral is in very high spirits on the occasion, and cheerfully undertakes an expedition which promises to gratify his rancor against your colony. It is to be hoped, from his avowed disposition towards our Rhode Island brethren, that he will meet with a proper reception among them.

I have just received information which you may depend upon: the high commissioned court, specially appointed, with novel, unconstitutional and exorbitant powers, for the trial of the persons concerned in burning the schooner, are forthwith to repair to Rhode Island for that purpose; and are to be accompanied with His High Mightiness the Admiral.

The regiment at Castle William, a regiment from New York, and a third regiment, are immediately to march for Rhode Island; and unless you exhibit a *quantum sufficit* of passive obedience and non-resistance, the same tragedy may be acted in Newport and Providence, which makes the 5th of March so memorable at Boston."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman of character, in England, to his friend, in Boston:

"Our tyrants in the administration, are greatly exasperated with the late manœuvre of the brave Rhode Islanders; as a regard to the rights of the subject, and the principles of justice, never marked the measures of the present wretched conductors of the wheels of government, you will not be alarmed when I tell you that they have determined to vacate the

As it may be of great consequence, I have thought proper to charge Mr. Montagu, one of my lieutenants, with it.\*

In my despatches from their Lordships, I am directed to repair to Rhode Island, to assist you, and the rest of the gentlemen in the commission, which I shall do as

charter of that colony. To effect this purpose, which in their own apprehension, will be attended with some difficulty, Admiral Montagu is ordered, with the small craft which are with him, to line the harbor of Rhode Island, with positive orders to apprehend the persons concerned in the enterprize above mentioned.

Awed by the formidable appearance of this hectoring commander and his gallant squadron, these bitter pills are to be crammed down their throats; but the friends of true British freedom, are not without hopes that the stomachs of that heroic colony will reject the dose prepared for them.

Be united, our dear suffering brethren; be steady, and success awaits you; freedom, glories freedom, will be the purchase. We believe that the ancient British spirit of independence, which once blest this island, has improved by transplantation, and preserves its vigor in the breasts of Americans; cherish it, my dear friends! and by relieving yourselves, save the small remnant of the virtuous in Britain."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Boston, to his friend, in this town, dated December 14, 1772:

"I would have you inform your townsmen, that the admiral has hoisted his flag on board one of the frigates, and will sail for Newport, in a day or two; and is determined to lay your town and Providence, in ashes; he swore by God (some time ago), that he would burn the town of Providence to ashes. Mr. P——, of this town, will attest to it; hope you will try him for treason.

It is surmised, that they are going to deprive you of your charter; hope you will give it up peaceably, like true *friends* to government, and not contend with your superiors, but be subject to the higher powers; for the powers that be, are ordained (I believe), of the devil."

\* The following is from the Providence Gazette, of December 19, 1772:

"By the Cruizer sloop-of-war, Capt. Howe, arrived at New York, from England, His Honor the Governor, has received dispatches from the Earl of Dartmouth, secretary of state for the American department, relative to the Gaspee armed schooner, destroyed some time since, and the very extraordinary measures adopted by government for inquiring into the matter, and punishing the offenders.

For this purpose, we are told that commissioners are to sit at Newport, and *examine* such persons as Admiral Montagu shall direct to be apprehended. These devoted persons, it is further said, are to be transported to England, where they are to be tried for high treason. The admiral, with a number of ships and tenders, is to be at Newport; and the commissioners are directed to apply to General Gage for troops, if they shall think them necessary.

In this situation of affairs, every friend to our violated constitution, cannot but be greatly alarmed. The idea of seizing a number of persons, under the points of bayonets, and transporting them three thousand miles for trial, where, whether guilty or innocent, they must unavoidably fall victims alike to revenge or prejudice, is shocking to humanity, repugnant to every dictate of reason, liberty and justice; and in which, Americans and freemen ought never to acquiesce."

Extract from the proceedings of a town meeting held at Dorchester, in the Massachusetts Bay, January 4, 1773:

"Resolved, that at a time when open attacks upon our happy constitution are multiplied, it is incumbent upon the people to be watchful; and especially at this time, when we are alarmed with a new and unheard of grievance, in a late act passed by the British Parliament, whereby the crown is empowered, so that persons supposed to be guilty of certain

soon as you inform me that you are ready, with the commissioners, to proceed to business, and deliver the commission, and the King's instructions to you.

In the meantime, Captain Keeler, in His Majesty's ship Mercury, has my orders to assist you, and receive any prisoners or persons you may send him. Permit me to say, I should think it advisable to have the persons apprehended that I sent you an account of some months ago, which the indentured mulatto informed of, and has sworn against. The mulatto remains on board with the captain, and shall be ready to attend the commission, whenever he is called for.

As I find Capt. Keeler is often made a prisoner, from frequent arrests he meets with, as well as insults when he comes on shore, I am to desire, in case the commission should at any time want him, you will direct his person to be secured from insults or arrests.

Whenever you will favor me with your commands, you will find me ready to cooperate with you in every thing for the King's service.

I have the honor to be, sir, &c., &c.,

J. MONTAGU.

To Governor Wanton.

P. S. I must beg leave to recommend to you, as first in the commission, to appoint a time for the first meeting, and to give notice to the other gentlemen named in the commission and me; and that you will make the time as short as you can, consistent with proper notice, for particular reasons.

This led to the following correspondence before the opening of the session of the commissioners :

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Admiral Montagu.*

Newport, December 14, 1772.

Sir:—I am favored with yours, by Mr. Montagu, together with dispatches from the Right Honorable the Earl of Dartmouth, respecting the destruction of the Gaspee.

I shall appoint a time for meeting the commissioners authorized to inquire into

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crimes, may be hurried away from any county in North America, where such crime may be supposed to have been committed, to be tried in any county in England, where His Majesty or his successors shall judge proper; which appears to us to come little short of any court of inquisition, and appears plainly to us destructive of the main pillar of the British constitution."

Extract from the proceedings of a town meeting, held at Ipswich, in the Massachusetts Bay, December 17, 1772:

"Resolved, that we have been of late greatly alarmed at the appointment of commissioners, in consequence of a late act of Parliament, entitled 'An act for the better preserving His Majesty's dockyards, magazines, ships, ammunition and stores, and to inquire after the persons concerned in burning His Majesty's schooner, the Gaspee, at Providence;' which, though a very unjustifiable act, yet we apprehend this method of proceeding, an infringement upon the liberty of the subject, and of the most dangerous consequence, as the constitution has already provided a method for the trial of those, and all other offenders."

the circumstances of that transaction, as soon as may be, and give you the earliest intelligence thereof, in conformity to His Majesty's orders. His Majesty's proclamation I shall cause to be printed without delay, and sent into the several towns within the colony.

I am, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

To the Honorable J. Montagu.

*The Governor of Rhode Island, to Peter Oliver, Esq., Chief Justice of Massachusetts.*

Newport, December 14, 1772.

Sir:—By express from Admiral Montagu, I have this moment received a letter from the Earl of Dartmouth, advising of your being one of the commissioners for inquiring into the circumstances of burning the schooner Gaspee. I have thought proper to give you this information, and that I shall fix upon a time for meeting the commissioners, and give you and the other gentlemen named in the commission, notice thereof, without delay.

I am, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

To the Honorable Peter Oliver, Esq.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Robert Auchmuty, Esq., Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court, Boston.*

Roxbury, December 11, 1772.

Sir:—I embrace this opportunity of acquainting you, that I have received His Majesty's orders to attend you and the other gentlemen, commissioners for examining into the business and plundering the schooner Gaspee. In obedience to which, I shall, on notice, with all convenient dispatch, attend you on that affair. I shall be glad to know when you think the gentlemen can be got together; and am,

Your Honor's most obedient servant,

ROBERT AUCHMUTY.

To Governor Wanton.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Judge Auchmuty.*

Newport, December 14, 1772.

Sir:—I have received your favor by Mr. Montagu. I shall fix upon a time for meeting the commissioners, appointed to inquire into the circumstances of destroying the Gaspee schooner, and give you and the other gentlemen, mentioned in the commission, the earliest intelligence thereof.

I am, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

To the Hon. Robert Auchmuty.

*Circular of the Governor of Rhode Island to Judges Oliver and Auchmuty.*

Newport, December 24, 1772.

Sir:—When I received the Earl of Dartmouth's letter of the 4th of September, and in consequence thereof, wrote you on the 14th inst., I was preparing to set out for the Assembly, who were adjourned to meet that day at Providence, and therefore I had not then time to attend so maturely to His Lordship's letter as its importance required.

The letter I received from Admiral Montagu, by the same express which brought me the dispatches from Lord Dartmouth, induced me to suppose I was authorized to appoint a time for the first meeting of the commissioners; but as Lord Dartmouth has signified to me, that my associates in the commission, are directed to repair to Newport, and by a vessel this day from New York, I am informed that the chief justice of that province, and the chief justice of New Jersey have engaged their passages, and will be here some time next week.

I thought it proper to give you this information, and that I am ready to meet you, agreeably to the royal instructions, whenever it may suit your convenience to attend. As soon as a quorum can be got together, I shall, without loss of time, notify Admiral Montagu, in obedience to the King's command.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

Circular to the Judges Oliver and Auchmuty.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to the Sheriffs of the several Counties.*

Newport, December 22, 1772.

Sir:—In obedience to the King's command, signified to me, by the Right Honorable the Earl of Dartmouth, one of his principal secretaries of state, I have caused to be printed His Majesty's proclamation for discovering and apprehending the persons who plundered and burnt the Gaspee schooner; copies of which, I send you by express, which you are forthwith to affix in the most public places of the several towns within your colony.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

Circular to the sheriffs of the several counties.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Admiral Montagu.*

Newport, December 24, 1772.

Sir:—By a vessel this day from New York, I am informed that the Judges Horsmanden and Smythe, have engaged their passages in the sloop Lydia, John Freebody, master, and will probably be here in about a week. I give you this information, for your government.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

To Admiral Montagu.

*Admiral Montagu to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Boston, 28th December, 1772.

Sir:—I am favored with your letter, informing me that the Judges Horsmanden and Smythe are expected at Rhode Island in the course of the week. If you will be pleased to inform me when you are ready to receive His Majesty's commission, I will take care to have it delivered agreeably to my instructions.

I shall be glad to know whether you intend to proceed to business, or adjourn to any particular time, that I may conduct myself relative to His Majesty's service here, accordingly.

I am, sir, &amp;c., &amp;c.,

J. MONTAGU.

To His Honor Governor Wanton.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Admiral Montagu.*

Newport, January 1, 1773.

Sir:—The Judges Horsmanden and Smythe arrived here last evening, from New York, and are ready to proceed immediately upon business. A number sufficient to constitute a quorum, are now assembled at Newport, waiting to receive from you the royal commission and instructions, of which I have thought it proper to give you this information, by express.

I shall be glad to wait upon you, at Newport; and am, sir, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

To Admiral Montagu.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Judge Auchmuty.*

Newport, January 1, 1773.

Sir:—The Judges Horsmanden and Smythe arrived last evening from New York. This will be delivered you by express I send to the Admiral; and hope I shall have the pleasure of waiting on you this week, if your health will permit.

My letter to Judge Oliver, you have, without doubt, sent him. I am, therefore, in expectation of seeing him, every hour. I have only to add the compliments of the season; and am, sir, &c., &c.,

J. WANTON.

To Judge Auchmuty.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Capt. Robert Keeler, of His Majesty's Ship Mercury.*

Newport, January 4, 1773.

Sir:—The commissioners meet at twelve o'clock this day, at the colony house; at which time, I expect the return of the express, when it is probable it will be determined whether it is proper to defer opening the commission until the admiral arrives. Your attendance will be necessary.

I am yours, &amp;c., &amp;c.,

J. WANTON.

To Captain Robert Keeler.



*Admiral Montagu to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Boston, 2d January, 1773, }  
 at 3 o'clock, afternoon. }

Sir:—I am this moment favored with your letter, by express, acquainting me that the Judges Horsmanden and Smythe are arrived at Newport, and ready to proceed immediately upon business, and are therefore ready to receive His Majesty's royal commission, which, by my instructions, I am to cause to be delivered to them.

I beg leave to inform you, that my captain left this place yesterday morning, charged with the commission to be given to Captain Keeler, the senior officer of His Majesty's ships at Rhode Island, who has my orders to wait on you, and know your pleasure, when he shall wait upon the commissioners with it.

He is also directed to give the commissioners all the assistance in his power, and to receive such persons, either prisoners or witnesses, as they shall send to him.

He has likewise my directions to inform the commissioners that he has some people on board that can give information relative to the burning the Gaspee, as well as of the persons concerned in that affair; and he is directed to send them to the commissioners whenever they are pleased to demand them.

As the season of the year does not admit of my coming to Rhode Island with my flag, and such ships as shall be necessary to assist the commissioners, agreeably to my instructions; yet, if the commissioners shall think it right, and for the good of the service they are upon, that my presence is necessary, I shall be ready to set out the moment I receive such notice from them. But I flatter myself they will be able to do so, without me, as I have nothing to do but to receive such persons as may be sent from them.

I am, &c., &c.,

J. MONTAGU.

To Governor Wanton.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION, FOR  
INQUIRING INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES RELATIVE  
TO THE TAKING AND BURNING OF HIS  
MAJESTY'S SCHOONER GASPEE.

The commissioners met at the state house, in Newport, on the 5th day of January, 1773.

Present—the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Daniel Horsmanden, Esquire, Frederick Smythe, Esquire, Peter Oliver, Esquire, and Robert Auchmuty, Esquire.

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS :

Proceedings had and taken by virtue of a royal commission, under the seal of Great Britain, directed to the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq., Governor of the English colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, in America ; Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., chief justice of the Province of New York ; Frederick Smythe, Esq., chief justice of the Province of New Jersey ; Peter Oliver, Esq., chief justice of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England ; Robert Auchmuty, Esq., judge of the vice admiralty court, established at Boston, with jurisdiction in all causes arising within the limits of the colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Connecticut, commissioners appointed for inquiring into and reporting to His Majesty a full and true account of all the circumstances relative to the attacking, taking, plundering and burning His Majesty's armed schooner, called the Gaspee, commanded by Lieutenant William Dudingston, within the colony of Rhode Island, in America, on the 10th day of June, A. D. 1772 ; and for other purposes therein mentioned, at the colony house, at Newport, in Rhode Island, Tuesday, the 5th day of January, A. D. 1773, the above commissioners being present.

His Majesty's said royal commission, with instructions to said commissioners, under His Majesty's signet and sign manual, were delivered to the said commissioners, by Robert Keeler, Esq., commander of His Majesty's ship Mercury, which said commission was publicly read and proclaimed.

On the perusal of said instructions, the commissioners conceived that the presence of Rear Admiral Montagu, commander in chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels employed in North America, was necessary, for the furtherance of the present service.

The following letter was thereupon written, and delivered by James Clarke, one of the secretaries to the commissioners, to Captain Symonds, to be by him immediately conveyed to Admiral Montagu :

*The Commissioners of Inquiry, &c., to Admiral Montagu.*

Newport, January 5, 1773.

Sir:—We, His Majesty's commissioners, for inquiring into the attacking, burning and plundering His Majesty's schooner, the Gaspee, &c., being met at this place, in order to prevent the delay of business, thought proper to receive the royal commission and instructions, from Capt. Keeler, which, until yours of the 2d inst., we concluded would have been delivered by you.

This day the commission was opened and published, and the instructions carefully perused; in one, of which, we find the following words: "To the end that they may be accordingly arrested, and delivered to the custody of the commander in chief of our ships and vessels in North America, pursuant to such directions as we have thought fit to give for that purpose."

By virtue of these words, we conceive, that in case any person or persons should be arrested for the above mentioned crime, you are the only person to whom such prisoners can regularly be delivered for safe custody; therefore, we think your attendance at Newport, is absolutely necessary. We are sorry to give you this trouble; but our duty, as we apprehend, obliges us to do it.

We are, sir, with great respect,

Your most humble and obedient servants,

JOSEPH WANTON,

FREDERICK SMYTHIE,

DANIEL HORSMANDEX,

PETER OLIVER,

ROBERT AUCHMUTY,

Commissioners.

To Admiral Montagu.

The commissioners then proceeded to take the usual state oaths, which were administered first by Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., to Joseph Wanton, Esq., and afterwards by him, to the other commissioners.

The commissioners then appointed James Brenton and James Clarke, Esqs., joint secretaries, who were accordingly sworn truly and faithfully to execute the duties of their office.

The following is the form of the oath taken by the commissioners :

*The form of the Oath taken by the Commissioners.*

We do solemnly and sincerely, in the presence of God, profess, testify and declare, that we do believe, that in the sacrament of the Lord's supper, there is not any transubstantiation of the elements of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, at or after the consecration thereof, by any person, whatsoever; and that the invocation or adoration of the Virgin Mary, or any other saint, and the sacrifice of the mass, as they are now used in the Church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous. And we do solemnly, in the presence of God, profess, testify and declare, that we do make this declaration and every part thereof, in the plain and ordinary sense of the words read unto us, as they are commonly understood by English Protestants, without any evasion, equivocation or mental reservation, whatsoever; and without any dispensation already granted us for this purpose by the Pope, or any other authority or person, whatsoever; or without any hope of any such dispensation from any person or authority, whatsoever; or without thinking that we are, or can be acquitted before God or man, or absolved of this declaration, or any part thereof, although the Pope, or any other person or persons, or power, whatsoever, shall dispense with, or annul the same, or declare that it was null and void, from the beginning.

J. WANTON,

FRED. SMYTHE.

DAN. HORSMANDEN,

PETER OLIVER.

ROBT. AUCHMUTY,

We do truly and sincerely acknowledge, profess, testify and declare, in our consciences, before God and the world, that our sovereign lord, George the Third, is the lawful and rightful King of this realm, and all other His Majesty's dominions thereunto belonging. And we do solemnly and sincerely declare, that we do believe, in our consciences, that not any of the descendants of the person who pretended to be Prince of Wales during the life of the late King James the Second, and since his decease pretended to be, and took upon himself the style and title of King of England, by the name of James the Third; or of Scotland, by the name of James the Eighth; or the style and title of King of Great Britain, hath any right or title, whatsoever, to the crown of this realm, or any other the dominions thereunto belonging. And we do renounce, refuse, and abjure any allegiance or obedi-

ence to any of them. And we do swear, that we will be a faithful and true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Third, and him whosoever shall succeed to the utmost of our power, against all traitorous conspiracies and attempts, whatsoever, which shall be made against his person, crown or dignity. And we will do our utmost endeavor to disclose and make known to His Majesty, and his successors, all treason and traitorous conspiracies which we shall know to be against him or any of them. And we do faithfully promise to the utmost of our power, to support, maintain and defend the succession of the crown against the descendants of the said James, and against all other persons, whatsoever; which succession, by an act entitled "An act for the further limitation of the crown, and better securing the rights and liberties of the subject," is, and stands limited to the princess Sophia, electress and duchess dowager of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being Protestants. And all these things we do plainly and sincerely acknowledge and swear, according to these express words by us spoken, and according to the plain and common sense and understanding of the same words, without any equivocation, mental evasion, or secret reservation, whatsoever. And we do make this recognition, acknowledgment, abjuration, renunciation and promise heartily, willingly and truly, upon the true faith of a Christian. So help us God.

J. WANTON,  
DAN. HORSMANDEX,  
ROBT. AUCHMUTY.

FRED. SMYTHE,  
PETER OLIVER.

We do swear, that we do, from our hearts, abhor, detest and abjure, as impious and heretical, that damnable doctrine and position, that princes excommunicated or deprived by the Pope or any authority of the See of Rome, may be deposed or murdered by their subjects, or any other, whatsoever. And we do declare, that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state, or potentate, hath, or ought to have, any jurisdiction, power, superiority, pre-eminence or authority, ecclesiastical or spiritual, within this realm. So help us God.

Wanton  
Dan. Hormanden  
Fr. Smyth.  
Peter Oliver  
Robt Auchmuty

The proceedings of the said commission were then adjourned till to-morrow, at 11 o'clock, then to meet at the colony house, aforesaid.

*Wednesday, January 6, 1773.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

The commissioners determined that it was necessary that an advertisement be published in the next Newport Mercury, giving notice that the said commissioners had assembled, and were now daily sitting at the colony house, in Newport, for the purpose of proceeding upon, and duly executing the said commission; and that they are ready to receive information relative to the attacking, taking, plundering and burning the Gaspee schooner, on the 10th of June last past; in consequence of which resolutions, the following advertisement was ordered to be published:

*Advertisement in the Newport Mercury, of the meetings of the Commissioners.*

“COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS:

The public are hereby informed, that the honorable the commissioners, appointed under the seal of Great Britain, for inquiring into the circumstances of attacking, plundering and burning His Majesty's schooner Gaspee, under the command of Lieutenant William Dudingston, on the 10th of June last, are now convened, and continue to sit every day, Sundays excepted, at the colony house, in Newport, in conformity to His Majesty's instructions.

Wherefore, all persons who can give any information to the said commissioners, relative to the assembling, arming and leading on the persons who made the said attack, and the directing and preparing the same, are requested forthwith to give information thereof, to said commissioners at the above mentioned place.

By order of the commissioners,—

JOSEPH BRENTON,

JAMES CLARKE,

Secretaries.”

The proceedings on said commission, were then adjourned till to-morrow, at 10 o'clock; then to meet at the colony house, aforesaid.

*Thursday, January 7, 1773.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq., Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

Governor Wanton laid before the commissioners four letters, which had passed between him, Admiral Montagu and Lieutenant Dudingston ; also, one other letter, signed by Governor Wanton, and transmitted by him, by order of the General Assembly, of the colony, aforesaid, to Rear Admiral Montagu ; which letters, are prior in date, to the attacking and burning His Majesty's schooner Gaspee, which were read, and ordered to be put on file.

Sundry papers, letters and depositions, to the number of twenty, containing the proceedings of the Governor and Deputy Governor of the colony, aforesaid, relative to the burning the schooner, were delivered by Governor Wanton to the commissioners, which were also read, and ordered on file.

Governor Wanton informed the commissioners, that Mr. Sessions, Deputy Governor of the colony, was in Newport, and ready to attend the commissioners, to give them an account of the steps he had taken, in order to discover the persons who destroyed His Majesty's schooner Gaspee.

A message was sent to Mr. Sessions, requesting his attendance ; who accordingly came before the commissioners, and was by them requested to give in writing, upon oath, a full and particular account of the measures he had taken, in order to the discovery of the persons who perpetrated the aforesaid crime ; which he assured the commissioners he would do, without loss of time.

Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Chief Justice of said colony, also appeared before the commissioners, and assured them he was ready and willing to aid and assist the commissioners in the exercise of the power and authority with which they are invested, for discovering the persons who destroyed the Gaspee schooner, &c.

The commissioners then requested Mr. Hopkins to give them, in writing, a full and particular account of all the proceedings had and done by him, for discovering and bringing to justice the persons who committed the aforesaid offence ; and also what knowledge or information he had obtained of the assem-

bling, arming and leading on the persons who perpetrated the same; which he also promised to do, without loss of time.

The proceedings on the commission were then adjourned till to-morrow, at 10 o'clock before noon; then to meet at the colony house, aforesaid.

*Friday, January 8, 1773.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq., Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

Mr. Brenton, one of the secretaries under the present commission, was examined by the commissioners, touching the obstruction to the execution of a warrant issued by Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., on the 17th of July last, in order to apprehend the negro Aaron, then on board His Majesty's ship, the *Beaver*; which examination, was reduced to writing, sworn to before the commissioners, and ordered to be filed.

*Deposition of James Brenton.*

James Brenton, now residing in Newport, in the colony of Rhode Island, in North America, Esq., being of full age, duly sworn upon the holy evangelists, deposes and saith:

That, upon the 17th day of July last, he was requested by the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq., Governor of the colony of Rhode Island, aforesaid, to attend Robert Lillibridge, one of the deputy sheriffs in the county of Newport, in said colony, who was ordered with a warrant from Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., one of the justices of assize, in said colony, to repair on board His Majesty's ship, the *Beaver*, and to make diligent search for one Aaron, a mulatto lad, charged with being concerned (with others unknown), in attacking and burning His Majesty's schooner, the *Gaspee*, on the 10th of June last; and upon finding the said Aaron, to take him before the said Metcalfe Bowler, or some other lawful authority, in order that the said Aaron might be examined relative to the said transaction, and be proceeded against, according to law.

That this deponent, about 1 o'clock, in the afternoon, of the said 17th day of July, went with the said deputy sheriff, from said Newport, in order to go on board His Majesty's ship, the *Beaver*, then lying in the harbor of Newport; that, when the boat in which this deponent and the said deputy sheriff were, came near the said ship, they were forbidden by the sentinel, upon the ship's gangway, from going on board.

This deponent then acquainted a person, who appeared to be the commanding officer, upon the deck of the said ship, that he, this deponent, with your said deputy



sheriff, were then come to demand that Aaron, a mulatto lad, who was charged with being concerned in the attacking and burning the schooner Gaspee, and who, they were informed, was then on board said ship, might be delivered to the deputy sheriff, in pursuance of a warrant for that purpose.

That the said officer then on deck, answered this deponent, that Captain Linzee, the commander of the said ship, was not on board; and that he, the said officer, could do nothing without orders. The said officer further acquainted them, that Capt. Linzee was then on shore, at Brenton's Point.

That, this deponent then, together with the said deputy sheriff, went on shore, at the farm of Jahleel Brenton; where, at the said Jahleel Brenton's house, this deponent saw the said Capt. Linzee, and acquainted him that he came to attend the deputy sheriff with a warrant, in order to demand of him, the said Capt. Linzee, that he would deliver up to the civil magistrate a mulatto boy, called Aaron (who, they were informed, was on board the Beaver man-of-war, under his command), in order for his examination and commitment; and at the same time, this deponent showed to the said Capt. Linzee, the said warrant, and he was then and there requested to deliver up said mulatto, in consequence thereof.

To which, the said Capt. Linzee then answered, that it was true that he had the said mulatto then on board His Majesty's said ship, the Beaver; but that he would not deliver him to any civil authority, whatever, in the said colony.

This deponent then told Capt. Linzee, that he, this deponent, came to wait upon the said Capt. Linzee, at the particular request of Governor Wanton, the chief magistrate of said colony, in order to explain to him, if necessary, the nature of the warrant, and the impropriety of Capt. Linzee's conduct, in withholding a man charged with a capital crime, from the civil power.

To which, Capt. Linzee replied, that he knew no civil authority, in said colony; that, in regard to the Governor, he was a damned rascal, and that Admiral Montagu's power was the only power he knew in America, and without his orders he should not deliver the said mulatto.

The deponent then asked him, the said Capt. Linzee, if he had any doubt about the legality of the warrant, which this deponent held in his hand?

To which, Capt. Linzee, looking carelessly upon it, said, it might be good for what he knew; but that he did not regard it any more than if it was a piece of blank paper.

This deponent further saith, that the deputy sheriff (who was with this deponent, at Jahleel Brenton's farm,) did not go into the house where Capt. Linzee was, but waited without doors, as Capt. Linzee (being at that time suspicious of being arrested by civil process, on account of some seizures which had been made by him,) would not consent that the deputy sheriff should see him. And further this deponent saith not.

J. BRENTON.

Newport, January 8, 1773.

Sworn to, before the commissioners.—

J. WANTON,  
DAN. HORSMANDEN,  
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,

FRED. SMYTHIE,  
PETER OLIVER.

The commissioners thought it advisable to defer the examination of any of the witnesses respecting the burning of the *Gaspee*, &c., until the arrival of Admiral Montagu, at Newport; or they receive an answer from him, to their letter written the 5th inst., and transmitted by Capt. Symonds.

The proceedings on the commission then adjourned till tomorrow, at 10 o'clock, in the forenoon, then to meet at the colony house, aforesaid.

*Saturday, January 9, 1773.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq. and Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

Darius Sessions, Esq., Deputy Governor of the colony of Rhode Island, attended the commissioners, with a declaration in writing, containing a full and particular account of the measures he had taken, in order to make a discovery of the persons concerned in the attacking and burning the *Gaspee* schooner; which was read, sworn to, and ordered to be filed.

*Deposition of Deputy Governor Darius Sessions.*

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND, &c.:

Be it remembered, that at Newport, in said colony, on the 9th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1773, before the commissioners appointed by a commission under the great seal of Great Britain, for inquiring into and reporting unto His Majesty, all the circumstances of burning His Majesty's schooner *Gaspee*, &c., on the 10th of June last, in his proper person, came and appeared the Hon. Darius Sessions, Esq., of Providence, and Deputy Governor of the colony, aforesaid; who being duly sworn upon the holy evangelists of Almighty God, testifieth and saith:

That in the 9th of June last, at about 9 o'clock, he heard a drum beat in the street, opposite to his house. Soon after he went to his window and looked out, and saw the drum surrounded by a number of boys, at some distance from the house, going up street; in a short time afterwards, he heard the drum returning; whereupon, he went back to his window, where he remained until it passed his house; and, as the moon shone very bright, he could plainly discover they were only a company of boys, not exceeding ten or twelve in number; two or three of which, appeared to be about thirteen or fourteen years of age; the others about ten or twelve; and concluding they were gathered together for no other design than to divert themselves with the drum, he retired from his window, without saying any-

thing to the boys; soon after which, the noise of the drum ceased; the remaining part of that night, he heard not the least noise or disturbance in the streets, or in any other part of the town, nor received any the least hint, suggestion, intimation or information of any riot, outrage or tumultuous assembling of the people, nor intention thereof; neither did he then know there was an armed vessel in the river, nearer than the town of Newport, which is thirty miles from Providence: had he known, or even suspected any riot, his utmost endeavors would have been exerted in surprising it.

The next morning, one of his neighbors came and told him the *Gaspee* was burnt, and the captain wounded; and that an express had arrived in town for a surgeon, to dress the wounds of the officer, who lay then at Pawtuxet, about five miles from Providence.

Immediately upon hearing this disagreeable news, he set out with a design to examine into the affair; and when he reached Pawtuxet, he saw the schooner on fire, lying on a point of land, called and known by the name of *Namquit Point*, about two miles from Pawtuxet, in the town of Warwick, in the county of Kent, and colony, aforesaid.

He made inquiry if any of the offenders were known, but could get no information; he then went to a small house by the shore, where he heard Lieutenant Dudingston was lodged, and there found him in dangerous circumstances.

He told Lieutenant Dudingston if he wanted money, surgeons, or better lodgings, or any kind of assistance, he should have every relief in his power.

Mr. Dudingston replied, that he had saved his money, which was about one hundred dollars, and therefore wanted no favors for himself; but desired that some care might be taken of his people, that they might be collected together, and sent to the admiral, at Boston, or on board the *Beaver*, at Newport, which the deponent promised he would do.

He then told Mr. Dudingston the design of his visit at that time, was not only to afford him any assistance he might need, but also to procure such a declaration from his own mouth, respecting the attack that had been made on his person, and the vessel he commanded, that the offenders might be brought to justice.

Mr. Dudingston answered, that he would give him no account of the matter. First, because of his indisposition of body; and second, because it was his duty to forbear any thing of that nature, until he had done it unto a court martial, unto which, if he lived, he would be called by his commanding officer.

The deponent then asked him, if he was willing he should examine his officers and people; which, after some refusal, he consented to; and they all agreeing nearly to every thing material relative to the destruction of the schooner, he forthwith transmitted copies of their examinations to the Governor.

The deponent then gave orders that the seamen should be collected together, and provided with victuals and lodgings, and that a boat should be got ready by the next morning, to carry them on board the *Beaver*; all which, was executed with care and expedition.

The deponent also gave orders that the stores and remains should be collected and lodged in a warehouse, which was done, and soon after delivered to Capt. Linzee, of the *Beaver*.

He also desired a gentleman, who lived near Mr. Dudingston, to supply said Dudingston with any thing he wanted; and also that he would lodge and entertain any surgeons or others, who might come to visit him; and which the deponent verily be-

lieves he verily complied with. These expenses were recommended by the deponent, to the General Assembly, who ordered payment out of the public treasury.

The deponent consulted with the Chief Justice, and most of the civil authority in that part of the colony where he resides, who highly disapproved of the riot; and universally declared they were ignorant of any of the proceedings, and gave it as their opinion that measures ought to be pursued for discovering and bringing to justice the perpetrators.

A proclamation was soon after issued by the Governor, which was posted up in all the towns near where the offence was committed; but as yet, the deponent has not received any information of any of the persons concerned in that offence; neither has he ever heard that information has been made to any of the civil authority within the colony. And further this deponent saith not.

DARIUS SESSIONS.

N. B. The words, "nor intention thereof," on the fifth line of the second page; "and colony, aforesaid," on the eighteenth line of the same page; "which, after some refusal, he consented to, and they," in the nineteenth line of the third page; "relative to the destruction of the schooner," in the twentieth line of the same page, were interlined before the above deposition was signed and sworn to.

Sworn to, at Newport, this 9th day of January, before us,—

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHE,
DAN. HORSMANDEX,	PETER OLIVER.
ROBT. AUCHMUTY.	

A letter was delivered to the commissioners, about two o'clock, P. M., then sitting at the colony house, by express, in answer to their letter of the 5th instant, and forwarded by Capt. Symonds, which was read, and ordered to be filed.

*Admiral Montagu to the Commissioners, &c.*

Boston, 8th January, 1773, }  
1 o'clock, P. M. }

Gentlemen:—I was last night favored with your letter, by Capt. Symonds; and as you are so desirous of having me at Rhode Island, I shall, without you alter your opinions, set out on Monday next.

At the same time, give me leave to observe to you, that my coming at the time, is attended with a great delay to His Majesty's service here, and at Halifax, and can answer no purpose, as I have fully and properly directed the commanding officer at that place in what manner he is to act, relative to his assisting the commissioners and receiving the prisoners.

You say, by your instructions, you are directed to deliver to the custody of the commander in chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels in North America, all such prisoners as may be apprehended; and therefore, you are of opinion, that in that case, if any

person or persons should be arrested for the crime set forth in your commission, I am the only person to whom such prisoners can regularly be delivered, for safe custody.

In answer to which, I beg leave to refer you to the sixth paragraph of My Lord Dartmouth's letter, to Governor Wanton, where you will see, "The prisoners are to be delivered to the care and custody of Rear Admiral Montagu, or the commander in chief in North America, for the time being, or to such officer as he shall appoint to receive them."

By my instructions from the lords of the admiralty, I am directed to repair to Rhode Island, as soon as conveniently may be, with such of His Majesty's ships and vessels under my command, as I shall judge proper, and give all the aid and assistance in my power, for discovering and bringing to justice the offenders.

The winter season is so far advanced, as prevents my complying with that part of my orders, as it is very improper to move so large a ship as the *Captain*, at this time of the year; and without her, it is impossible for me to carry on the service.

I flatter myself, there has been no delay of business, owing to my not coming with the commission; for had I been there, I should have tendered it in the same manner I have done, as by my instructions, I am directed, when the commissioners are ready to receive it, to cause it to be delivered to them.

I shall certainly set out on Monday next, if I can complete my business here, and be ready to give you every assistance in my power.

I am, with respect, gentlemen,

Your most obedient, and most humble servant,

J. MONTAGU.

To His Majesty's commissioners, at Rhode Island.

The commissioners immediately agreed to an answer; which was written accordingly, and sent off about three o'clock, by the same express.

*Monday, January 11, 1773.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq., and Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

The commissioners received a letter from Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., one of the justices of assize, in the colony of Rhode Island, tendering his services in aid of the commission, which was read ordered to be filed.

*Justice Metcalfe Bowler to the Commissioners, &c.*

Newport, January 11, 1773.

Gentlemen:—In obedience to His Majesty's command, signified by Lord Dartmouth, to His Honor the Governor, dated Whitehall, September 4th, 1772, which was laid before the General Assembly, wherein His Lordship expressed His Majesty's dependence upon the care and vigilance of the civil magistrates of the colony, to take the proper measures for arresting and committing to custody, in order to their being brought to justice, such persons as shall, upon proper information before them, or before His Majesty's commissioners, appear to have been concerned in the plundering and destroying His Majesty's schooner *Gaspee*, and dangerously wounding and ill-treating His Majesty's officer who commanded her, &c.

As a civil magistrate, and one of His Majesty's justices of assize, in and throughout the colony, impressed with a regard for the dignity of the crown, and the welfare of the colony, I now tender my assistance, whenever it shall be necessary; and when called upon by the commissioners, or otherwise, will exert every authority which the colony has invested me with, towards the apprehending any persons against whom information may be lodged, of being concerned in the destruction of His Majesty's schooner, the *Gaspee*, or may appear to have been any ways aiding or assisting in that most daring insult offered against His Majesty's crown and dignity, within the colony, on the 10th of June last.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient humble servant,

METCALFE BOWLER.

To the Honorable His Majesty's Commissioners.

The commissioners issued a summons for bringing before them Stephen Gulley, a witness, relative to the taking and burning of the *Gaspee* schooner, in order to be examined before them, at 11 o'clock, to-morrow morning.

*Tuesday, January 12.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq., and Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

Stephen Gulley, who was summoned to give evidence to the commissioners, of what he knew concerning the attacking and burning the *Gaspee*, &c., appeared before them, and was examined upon oath; which examination was reduced to writing, signed by the deponent, and ordered to be filed.

*The Deposition of Stephen Gulley.*

The examination on oath, of Stephen Gulley, before the honorable commissioners, this 12th day of January, A. D. 1773.

Question—What is your name and occupation?

Answer—Stephen Gulley, is my name, and a husbandman, my occupation.

Q.—What age are you?

A.—Aged forty-one years.

Q.—Where is your place of abode?

A.—At Smithfield, in the county of Providence, in the colony of Rhode Island.

Q.—Have you lately been on board any of His Majesty's ships? What ship? How long have you been on board?

A.—That he has been on board His Majesty's ship, the Lizard, ever since Tuesday last; and that he went voluntarily on board for his own personal safety.

Q.—What reason had you to suppose you was unsafe?

A.—On Monday night, the 5th inst., he went into the public house, at the ferry, on Rhode Island side, where he sat down and called for some drink, which they gave him; he then called for supper, and had it; afterwards, he rose from the table and sat down near the fire-place, by the master of the house, when a man, unknown to him, came and sat down by his side.

I asked where he was bound; he said to Newport. The man told him he would not get there; he asked him for what reason he thought so; he replied, there were about twenty armed men in the road, one of them, with two brass pistols; who, he said, were come to take him alive or dead, to carry him back to Providence; that he, said man, went out into the other room.

The landlord then spoke to the deponent, and told him he would give him a word of advice; he said there were about twenty armed men, that said they would have him, the deponent; and that he did not know but they would tear his house down, if he stayed there.

He then called his children, and, he believes, his wife, into the room, and gave them a strict charge to tell the men, if they inquired after this deponent, that he was gone out with the landlord, to talk together; and that this happened about eight o'clock, in the evening.

The landlord then told him he would show him a way where he might escape their hands, that they might know nothing where he was gone. The landlord then went with him about a quarter of a mile, he thinks from said house, in sight of a pond, and they then parted, the landlord first directing him to the road to Newport.

Q.—What do you know relative to the attacking and burning the Gaspee schooner, on the said 10th of June last?

A.—As to my own knowledge, I know nothing about it; but that some time about the last of December last, he was told by Capt. William Thayer, of Mendon, in the Province of Massachusetts, that Saul Ramsdale, late of Mendon, who was a shoemaker, at work at Providence, at the time the Gaspee was burnt, told him and one of his sons, he knew who the persons were, who were concerned in that affair; and that he, the said Ramsdale, was in company with them, before they went off from Providence, but did not go himself; upon which, this deponent went immediately to Ramsdale, who was then at Mendon.

He found a young fellow with him; but upon this deponent telling Ramsdale that he wanted a private conversation with him, the young man went away; this deponent then asked him about the burning of said Gaspee schooner, and whether he had any knowledge of that matter.

Ramsdale then asked him who told him that he, Ramsdale, knew any thing of that matter.

He told him he did not choose to say who gave him that intelligence; he, said deponent, then told him, if he would give this deponent any intelligence about the burning the Gaspee schooner, he would be a good friend to him.

Ramsdale then told him he did know something about the thing; that he knew the heads of the gang that went down the river with that intention; that he saw two men with guns under their arms; and one of them swore with a very high oath, that he would be revenged upon the affair he was going upon, before he returned; and that he, the said Ramsdale, was picked for one of the gang to go with them; but being faint-hearted and discouraged, he did not go.

This deponent then asked him whether some of the Browns were not concerned.

Ramsdale answered yes; but does not remember that he mentioned his Christian name.

He, this deponent, then asked him how many in number there were; if there were two hundred.

He said more.

He then asked him, if there were four hundred.

He said not so many.

He then asked him, if there were three hundred.

He said yes.

He then asked him, if there were any more.

He said yes; something upwards.

He then parted with said Ramsdale, and this deponent then went to Boston. This deponent further saith, that he had been acquainted with said Ramsdale many years; that he told said Ramsdale that he would be sent for, and Ramsdale begged he would not discover him.

STEPHEN GULLEY.

Newport, 12th January, 1773.

Sworn to, before us,—

J. WANTON,

DAN. HORSMANDEN,

ROBT. AUCHMUTY,

FRED. SMYTHE,

PETER OLIVER.

The commissioners were of opinion, that it was necessary to issue a summons to Saul Ramsdale, William Thayer and Joseph Borden.

A summons was accordingly issued, and delivered to Samuel Clarke, who was sent off express, at 2 o'clock.



*Wednesday, January 13, 1773.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver Esq., and Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

Joseph Borden, of Portsmouth, inn-holder, pursuant to summons, appeared before the commissioners, and was examined upon oath; which examination, was taken in writing, and ordered to be filed.

*The Deposition of Joseph Borden.*

Newport, ss.

Colony of Rhode Island, )

January 13th, 1773. }

Joseph Borden, of Portsmouth, in the county of Newport, in the colony of Rhode Island, &c., landholder, of lawful age, appeared before the honorable commissioners for inquiring into the circumstances of burning the Gaspee, &c.; and being sworn upon the holy evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith:

That some time in the beginning of last week, a man came to his house, in Portsmouth, who called himself Stephen Gulley; he appeared to be in liquor, and requested that he might have supper and lodgings, which the deponent told him he might have.

Before supper, he went from the deponent's house, in company with one Thomas Aylesbury; and as they had both been noisy and used very bad language, the deponent fastened the doors of his house, in order to keep them out.

After some time, this Stephen Gulley returned, and knocked at the door; upon which, he let him in, and told him his supper was ready in the back room; and while he was eating his supper, Aylesbury returned, and said to Gulley, "My friend, I believe you are upon some bad design, as I understood, by your talk, you are going to Newport to give information about the burning the Gaspee."

To which, Gulley replied, that "It was nobody's business but his own."

Then Aylesbury told him, he would not get to Newport, as there were a number of Indians, with brass pistols, in the road, who would take care of him.

But this deponent in fact sayeth, that he did not know, neither has he any reason to believe, there were any Indians in the road leading to Newport; and the deponent supposed that Aylesbury told his story to Gulley, with no other design but to frighten him.

After Aylesbury left the room, Gulley asked the deponent what he should do; and as he recollected Aylesbury was in liquor, and did not know but there might be some disturbance between him and Gulley, he, the deponent, told Gulley there was a lower road that he might go in, by which he might avoid that which Aylesbury had told him the Indians were in; and if he would pay his reckoning, he would go and direct him to that road.

On which, he asked the deponent if he would not take a weapon with him.

Whereupon, he replied, that he should not take a weapon with him, as he did not

believe any body would hurt him, the deponent, or the said Gulley; and then immediately proceeded to show him the road, by going with him, as far as his barn, which is about twenty rods from the deponent's house; and showed him a pond, near to which, was a road; and directed him to take that road, and steer southward, till he came into the main road, which he would soon do. The deponent then left Gulley, and returned to his dwelling house, where he saw nobody but his own family, either in the house or about it, and every thing remained quiet.

And this deponent further saith, that while he was in the kitchen, soon after Gulley came to his house, and before Aylesbury had told Gulley he believed he was upon some bad design, he heard a person reading the King's proclamation for discovering the persons who burnt the Gaspee schooner; upon which, Gulley said it was a fine reward, and he intended to have it; and the deponent believes that Aylesbury was then in the room; and further, this deponent saith not.

JOSEPH BORDEN.

Sworn to, at Newport, the day and year before written, before us,—

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHE,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	PETER OLIVER.
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,	

*Thursday, January 14, 1773.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq. and Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

Aaron, the mulatto, appeared before the commisssioners, and was examined upon oath, relative to the burning the Gaspee, which was taken in writing, and filed.

*Deposition of the Negro Aaron Briggs.*

The examination of Aaron, a mulatto, upon oath, taken this 14th day of January, A. D. 1773.

Aaron Briggs, aged eighteen years, or thereabout, declares, that at the age of five years, he was bound by the town of Portsmouth, an apprentice to Capt. Samuel Tompkins, of Prudence Island, until he should arrive at the age of twenty-four years; from which time, until he went on board the man-of-war, he was constantly in the service of the said Capt. Tompkins, as a laborer, on his farm.

That his master kept a two-mast boat, in which to transport his farm produce to market; which was the only sail-boat within five miles of his master's farm, at the time the Gaspee was burnt.

That, at that time, one Remington, who lived about one mile from where the deponent lived, had a row-boat, large enough for six hands to row; also, one Ephraim Peirce, at about a mile and a half distance, had a two-mast boat; and that the sails of his master's boat, had been taken off some time before the night on which the Gaspee was burnt; and she leaked in such a manner, that she could not sail.

That a little after sunset, on the night on which the Gaspee was burnt, he left the

island of Prudence, but does not know the day of the week, or the day of the month; that he went off the island in a little fishing-boat, of two oars, which boat lay just before the house; that before sunrise, and about an hour after day-break, he returned to his master's house, from the shore where they landed the people belonging to the Gaspee; which shore, was about a mile above said Gaspee; and the Gaspee about six miles from his master's house; and that it was about four or five miles from his master's, to the place where they landed the Gaspee people; that he found the oars in the boat, that he went off said island in.

That the reason he went off the island, was to carry the boat round to the east side of said island, to carry a man named Samuel Faulkner, a hired man, to Bristol the next night; and that this young man told the deponent, that he would ask his master's leave, for that purpose.

That going round said island, at about half a mile from said shore of said island, he met a boat and one Potter, whose Christian name he does not know, and whom he, in company with Faulkner, abovenamed, had once seen on a wharf, at Bristol, and there heard him called by the name of Potter.

And further says, that said Faulkner told him, that that was the person who owned the rope-walk at Bristol, which they had been in; that when he met said Potter, as above mentioned, he was in a boat which was rowed with eight oars; that the time he met the said Potter, was about half an hour after he, this deponent left the island, and he, said Potter, was about five miles from Bristol; that there were eleven men in said boat; said Potter was in the stern sheets; that the weather was cloudy; that when Potter hailed him, they were about fifteen rods distant.

The first words Potter spoke, was by asking who was in that boat.

The deponent answered, he was in there.

Potter told him to come that way, he wanted to speak to him.

Upon which, he went to him; and Potter told him he wanted this deponent to go up with him, about a mile, and that he would be back in an hour.

This deponent said he could not; he was in a hurry to go home.

To which, Potter replied, he must go with him.

The deponent answered, he could not; he must go home, or his master would punish him; and this deponent then began to row away.

Potter told him he wanted this deponent to go with him, to fetch something down, which this deponent had forgotten; and that he would pay him for so doing.

This deponent said he had rather go home, for if his master should miss him, he would say he was out all night, and flog him.

Upon which, Potter said, there is no can't in the matter; you must go along with me; we shall be back in an hour; and further said, give me your painter, you need not row, we will carry you up there.

Upon which, this deponent gave them the painter; that he, this deponent, being in his own boat, was rowed up by Potter's boat, till they came within half a mile of the schooner.

Potter then said to this deponent, get into my boat; that he got into the boat; Potter then told him, they were going to burn the man-of-war schooner, and that he, this deponent, must go with him.

To which he replied, that it was hard for him to be brought there, where he might lose his life.

Potter then said, they were all upon their lives.

This deponent still repeated, it was hard for him to go.

But Potter said he must go, now he was there; that they would give him a weapon, and he must do as they did, knock them down, and not let them kill him, if he could help it, and gave him a handspike; the rest were armed some with cutlasses, some with muskets; this happened at about 10 o'clock, at night.

Potter further told this deponent, that they expected sixteen or seventeen more boats from Providence.

In about an hour afterwards, they met eight boats, about half a mile from the schooner, which appeared to be pretty full of people.

Upon their meeting, Potter and two men, called Brown by the people, whom this deponent did not know, talked about how they should board the schooner. One of these persons, called Brown, got into Potter's boat, on which they were hailed from the Gaspee, and told to stand off; upon which, Brown said row up.

Immediately after, he, this deponent, saw the captain of the schooner come upon deck, in his breeches, and fired a pistol into one of the boats, and wounded one of the men in the thigh; that he saw a man who was in the boat with Potter, and who was called Brown, fire a musket, which wounded the captain; after which, there was no more firing; but they instantly boarded the schooner; that the captain of the schooner, when he was wounded, he thinks, stood by the foreshrouds, upon the left hand side.

When they got on board, there were about four of the schooner's men on deck, and the rest were coming up out of the hold; and somebody said, "Knock 'em down and kill them; no matter what you do with them."

That this deponent did not know the Browns, nor hear them called by their Christian names; and further declares, that it was John Brown, who shot the captain; and that he hath never seen either of the Browns since.

That after they got possession of the vessel, they took the hands belonging to the schooner, and threw them down the hold; and this happened about 3 o'clock, in the morning.

Then the people searched the vessel, took the captain's papers, which he desired they would give him; but they refused, tore them, and threw them overboard. Then they took the Gaspee's people, tied their hands, and put them into the boat, and carried them ashore, this deponent going with them.

By the time they got half way ashore, the schooner was on fire; that before they went ashore, a doctor, whom they called Weeks, from one of the boats, dressed the captain's wounds; that when they had landed the people, they untied their hands, and let them go, and the captain of the schooner they carried up to a house.

After they had landed the men, they put off to return, and Potter told them he would give him two dollars for what he had done, which he accordingly did; upon which, this deponent set off in his own boat, and rowed home; that it was about four o'clock, when they had landed the schooner's people; that it was a moonlight night, but sometimes cloudy; that soon after the people had boarded the schooner, they hoisted the top-sails, her head laying up towards Providence; and he saw nothing further done to her, or her sails; that the schooner, when they boarded her, was aground; that the person who acted as surgeon, he thinks he has seen at his master's house; but is not sure it was the same person.

This deponent further says, that the person to whom he first gave an account of the above affair of burning the Gaspee, was Capt. Linzee, of the Beaver.

Some time after the burning of the schooner, he went on board the Beaver, in his master's said boat; that immediately upon his going on board, they put him in irons,

because they imagined he intended to run away from his master; it was about 10 o'clock, at night, when the deponent was put in irons, and was released about 10 o'clock, the next day, and then they were going to flog him.

After he was tied up to the mast, one of the Gaspee's men, called Paddy Alis, jumped up, and told the captain, that he thought he, this deponent, was one that was aboard the schooner Gaspee.

About this time, the deponent had said nothing about the burning of the schooner, nor had made no discovery relating to what he knew.

The captain asked the man if he was sure of it.

He said yes.

The captain asked what clothes he had on.

The man said two frocks.

Then the captain told the man to examine what clothes he had, which they found were two frocks.

There was no mention made of any other clothes. The next day, Paddy Alis, and the deponent, were called up before the captain, who asked Paddy if he was sure that this deponent was one concerned in the attack on the schooner.

He said yes.

He further asked him, if he could swear to it.

He answered yes.

That the captain then administered an oath to the said Paddy, upon the Bible, who swore that this deponent was there.

The captain then said to this deponent, "My lad, you see this man has declared you was there; and if you don't tell who was there with you, I will hang you at the yard arm, immediately; and if you do, you shall not be hurt."

Upon which, this deponent told the captain all the heads that were there; the captain saying he did not want to know any thing about the poor people, but only the heads.

This deponent further says, that he never spoke to any of the Beaver's crew till he got on board; that his master's boat, in which this deponent went on board the ship, his master went on board and received again; that this deponent went on board said man-of-war with an intention not to return again to his master; that he, this deponent, never was christened, and that he should have told Capt. Linzee all he knew relating to the Gaspee, immediately upon his going on board, if they had not put him in irons.

The deponent further says, that the morning after the burning of the schooner, when he returned to his master's, he went to bed with two black servants, with whom he usually slept; he lay there a little while, and upon his master's knocking, he got up, and went to fetch the cows.

That when he first returned to his master's house, he got in at a lower window, on the south-west part of the house, which opens into the middle room; that during the whole transaction on said night the schooner was burnt, no man called this deponent by his name, or knew him.

his  
AARON X BRIGGS.  
mark.

Sworn to, this 14th day of January, A. D. 1773, at the council chamber, in Newport, before us—

J. WANTON,  
DAN. HORSMANDEN,  
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,

FRED. SMYTHE,  
PETER OLIVER.

The commissioners issued a summons for Patrick Earle, to appear before them, on Friday, the 15th inst., to give evidence of what he knows respecting the burning of the Gaspee, &c.

The commisssioners received a letter from Admiral Montagu, acquainting them of his arrival at Newport.

*Admiral Montagu to the Commissioners, &c.*

Newport, Rhode Island, }  
14th January, 1773. }

Gentlemen:—At your request (although at a very unseasonable time of the year, and not in the manner I am directed by my instructions from my lords commissioners of the admiralty), I am come to this place, and have hoisted my flag on board the Lizard.

I shall be glad, therefore, that you will inform me what service I can render to you, in the execution of your commission.

I flattered myself I had given Captain Keeler (the senior officer of His Majesty's ships here,) such orders as would not have required my attendance, until I was able to have come in a proper manner, with the ships under my command, and at a proper season of the year. I doubt not but that he would have faithfully put his orders in force, and have given you the same assistance I can possibly do, now I am come.

I have ordered Aaron, the negro, to be brought to the wharf, agreeably to your summons, who will be delivered to your officer; and I am to desire, when you have done with him, the civil officers may be directed to see him safe to the boat again.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

J. MONTAGU.

To His Majesty's commissioners, at Newport.

The commissioners received from Admiral Montagu, the deposition of Patrick Earle, taken the 16th of July last, before a justice of the peace, in the town of Newport.

The commissioners adjourned till to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock.

*Friday, January 15.*

The weather being extremely cold and violently stormy, the commissioners did not meet.

*Saturday, January 16.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq. and Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

Patrick Earle, a mariner, on board His Majesty's ship, the *Lizard*, pursuant to summons, appeared before the commissioners, and was examined upon oath; which examination was taken in writing, and ordered to be filed.

*Deposition of Patrick Earle.*

The examination of Patrick Earle, taken on oath, this 16th of January, 1773 :

Patrick Earle, of full age, a mariner, on board His Majesty's ship the *Lizard*, commanded by Capt. Inglis, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :

That he was a sailor on board the *Gaspee* schooner; on the 10th of June last, when she was run aground on a spit of land, that between 1 and 2 clock, the captain called all hands on deck; and this deponent coming up with the rest of the seamen, when he saw a number of armed men, with two or three muskets and clubs; that he saw those persons break open the arm-chest, and furnish themselves with entlasses.

Soon after this, this deponent was knocked down with a club, and pitched into the hold; and in about a quarter of an hour, was called upon deck, where his arms were tied behind him, and shoved into a boat, which, with about six others, was laying alongside the schooner; that as soon as the deck was cleared of all the officers and sailors belonging to the *Gaspee*, and put into the boats, they were rowed to a small village, towards Providence, about three miles distant from the schooner, where they were landed.

This deponent further saith, that Lieutenant Dudingston was placed in the stern of the same boat, in which he, the deponent, came on shore; and that he, in their passage to the shore, contrived to unloose his arms, and took an oar from a negro man, at the bow of the boat, whom he verily believes to be the negro Aaron, now on board the *Lizard*, and helped him to row the boat; and that, to the best of his belief, it was about 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, when he, with the captain and the others, were landed.

This deponent also saith, that he well remembers, that while the persons were attacking the sailors on board the schooner, he heard the name of Potter mentioned.

That one of the people said, "Potter, it is the best way to set the men on shore; for that it was not their fault, but the officers."

To which, a person, then standing on the quarter-deck, to whom the above expression was directed, who was a tall, slim man, with a long, sharp nose, in light colored long clothes, his hair tied behind, who looked more like a shoreman, than a seaman, answered, "Let it be so."

He also saith, that after he was landed, he saw the boats return towards the

schooner; and in about half an hour after, he saw the schooner on fire, and the guns blowing off; that it was cloudy and calm weather.

And this deponent further saith, that on the morning after the negro Aaron came on board the Beaver, at 8 o'clock, he saw him in irons, in the galley, and immediately recollected him as the same person whom he assisted to row the boat as above mentioned; but did not speak to him, but directly told one John Johnson, the boatswain of the schooner, that he well knew the negro was one of the persons who rowed the boat on shore with him.

That on the next day, Capt. Linzee, commander of the Beaver, gave directions to his boatswain to get some spun-yarn, to tie up the negro, and give him two or three dozen, to find out what he came on board for, or if he knew any thing concerning the burning the schooner; that he was stripped in order to be punished; upon which, the boatswain of the Gaspee then called out, "One of the men knew him to be one of the persons who rowed the captain on shore, and was concerned in burning the schooner."

Upon which, the captain asked which of the men knew him; that he called out to this deponent, and asked him if he knew any thing of the negro, and cautioned him to be careful in his answers.

That the negro was then ordered in irons again, and the deponent called into the cabin and ordered by the captain to describe the negro's dress when on board the boat, which he did, to wit:

A spotted or checked handkerchief round his head, a frock, a pair of long trowsers, no shoes, and his hair tied behind not longer than an inch, or an inch and a half.

Soon after, the captain sent for a justice from the town; which justice swore him, and he confirmed the above account he had given under oath, relative to the negro.

The deponent first saw the schooner on fire about breakfast time, which was about 6 o'clock, when he was ashore, when he heard the guns of the schooner blow off, but did not see her from the time he first left her, till he saw her on fire.

He sat alongside of the negro in the boat, from the time the boat put off from the schooner, until she struck the shore where he landed; and that while rowing ashore he was cold, and asked the negro to let him row to warm himself, which he did; and as they sat together, asked him, the negro, for a chew of tobacco, which he gave him.

And this deponent further saith, that he never saw the said negro, before he saw him in the boat.

his  
PATRICK X EARLE.  
mark.

Sworn to, at Newport, on the 16th day of January, A. D. 1773, before—

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHE,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	PETER OLIVER.
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,	



A letter was delivered to the commissioners, by the admiral's clerk, at about half past 11 o'clock, from Admiral Montagu, which was ordered to be filed.

*Admiral Montagu to the Commissioners, &c.*

His Majesty's ship Lizard, Newport, harbor, }  
16th January, 1773. }

Gentlemen:—As I am informed there is a ship bound to England, I shall embrace the opportunity of writing to my lords commissioners of the admiralty, acquainting them of my proceedings; as also of the improbability of my remaining here, to assist the commissioners, until I can come in a proper manner, and at a proper season of the year.

I shall be glad if you will inform me, whether you think the presence of Captain Dudingston is necessary, that I may apply to their lordships for his being sent out as soon as convenient.

As the business of the naval department is totally at a stand, and cannot be carried on, without I have my ships here, I propose returning to Boston on Wednesday next, and shall, at a convenient time of the year repair to this place again, agreeably to my instructions from their lordships.

In the meantime, I shall take care to leave such orders with the senior officer of His Majesty's ships, as will answer every purpose of my staying.

I shall, before I go, lay before you, the names of some persons who can give you information, relative to the assembling of the people concerned in burning the King's schooner.

I must beg your answer, as I cannot close my letter to the admiralty until I receive it.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. MONTAGU.

To His Majesty's commissioners, assembled at Newport.

John Andrew, Esq., judge of the court of vice admiralty, within the colony of Rhode Island; Mr. Arthur Fenner, clerk in the supreme court, in the county of Providence; Messrs. John Cole, George Brown and Daniel Hitchcock, attorneys at law, in the town of Providence; James Sabin, vintner, in the town of Providence.

It is the desire of Admiral Montagu, that the above named persons may be summoned, and examined before the commissioners, relative to the assembling of people in the town of Providence, in the evening of the 9th of June last, as a measure necessary, towards the discovery of the persons concerned in the burning of His Majesty's schooner, the Gaspee.

J. MONTAGU.

The commissioners immediately agreed to an answer, as well to this letter, as to the letter received from the admiral, on the 14th inst., in the following words :

*The Commissioners, &c., to Admiral Montagu.*

Council Chamber, Newport, }  
January 16, 1773. }

Sir:—Yours, of the 14th instant, we should have answered yesterday, but the weather was so extremely bad, as to prevent the commissioners from meeting.

You remark to us your coming here at a very unseasonable time, and not in the manner as you are directed by your instructions; to which, you are sensible we are not utter strangers, nor was it our intention in writing to you, to infringe in the least, upon the same.

As we have already informed you how our instructions are worded, we omit a repetition of the same; but beg leave to refer you to the last paragraph in the commission, by which you will perceive that we are expressly charged to conduct ourselves by such instructions as we should receive under the signet and sign manual, and agreeably to which, we have acted.

We have no doubt but that Capt. Keeler would have punctually obeyed your orders. The difficulty did not arise on that head, but from a conviction of the irregularity of departing from our instructions.

We shall be much obliged to you, when convenient, if you would attend us as a board, having some questions to ask you, relative to the information Lieutenant Dudington gave you, concerning the burning and destroying the Gaspee.

We are, sir, with great respect,

Your most humble and obedient servants,

J. WANTON, FRED. SMYTHE,  
DAN. HORSMAN DEN, PETER OLIVER.  
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,

Commissioners.

To the Honorable Admiral Montagu, commander in chief  
of His Majesty's ships, &c., in North America.

*The Commissioners, &c., to Admiral Montagu.*

Council Chamber, Newport, }  
January 16, 1773. }

Sir:—After repeatedly informing you of our instructions; and also in our last, of a certain paragraph in our commission, copies of both which you have, and our sense of the same, we submit the construction of your orders from the lords commissioners of the admiralty, entirely to you.

In our last, and before we received yours of this day, we had desired your attendance, in order to give us an account of what Lieutenant Dudington had related to you, concerning the burning and destroying the Gaspee.

We shall be always ready to receive any information from you, relative to the business we are met on; and are, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servants.

J. WANTON,                                FRED. SMYTHE,  
DAN. HORSMANDEN,                    PETER OLIVER.  
ROBT. AUCMUTY,

Commissioners.

To the Honorable Admiral Montagu, commander in chief  
of His Majesty's ships in North America.

Which letters were delivered to J. Brenton, Esq., one of the secretaries, who attended the admiral with them, and delivered them to the admiral's secretary, the admiral being abroad; with the following message from the commissioners, that they were now sitting, and would be glad to see the admiral at the board at any time this day before 2 o'clock, in the afternoon; or on Monday or Tuesday next, if convenient to him.

At 2 o'clock, a message was received by the commissioners, from Admiral Montagu, acquainting them he would wait on them on Monday morning next.

[While the commissioners were in session, other officers of the colony were, by force of circumstances, impelled to take certain evidence, and hold certain correspondence, which, as the papers containing them, were before the commissioners, are here inserted.]

### *Deposition of Rufus Greene, Jr.*

I, Rufus Greene, Jr., of East Greenwich, in the colony of Rhode Island, mariner, depose and say:

That some time in February last, I was on board of, and commanded the sloop *Fortune*, lying at anchor in the Narragansett Bay, off North Kingstown; having a quantity of rum on board, belonging to Nathaniel Greene & Co., when one Dundas, an officer of the schooner *Gaspee*, under the command of Lieutenant Dudingston, came on board, and asked this deponent if he would take any freight on board.

To which, this deponent answered no.

He then ordered this deponent to unlay the hatches; and this deponent telling the said Dundas that said hatches were unlayed, he then ordered him into the cabin.

And being demanded by what authority he thus did, replied:

"If you do not go into the cabin, I'll let you know," drawing his sword. He then caught this deponent by the collar, and pushed him into the cabin.

This deponent then came out of said cabin, and went forward, to prevent the anchor's being weighed.

He then clenched upon this deponent again, thrust him into the cabin, jammed the companion leaf upon his head, knocked him down upon a chest in said cabin, and confined him there for a considerable time.

After this, the deponent entreating the said Dundas to let him free, he did so and made a seizure of said vessel and cargo (as he said), and put the letter "B" upon her hatches; then towed said sloop to said schooner (it being calm), with three boats.

This deponent being commanded aboard the schooner, aforesaid, obeyed; went before said Lieutenant Dudingston, and after some conversation, was ordered from his presence, and confined in the gangway.

This deponent asked said Dudingston, if he had a commission to seize, &c.

To which, said Dudingston answered, that he had a good commission from His Majesty; but showed none.

The next day, this deponent was put on board another vessel; and further saith not.

RUFUS GREENE, JR.

Kent, ss.

East Greenwich, January 14, 1773.

Personally appeared the above deponent, Rufus Greene, Jr.; and being cautioned to speak the truth, made solemn oath upon the evangelists of Almighty God, that the before going narrative is true in all its parts.

Coram,

HOPKINS COOKE,

Justice Peace.

I do hereby certify, that the above deponent is of a respectable family, sober life, and ought to be credited.

H. COOKE.

Justice Peace.

*Deputy Governor Sessions to Governor Wanton, relative to  
Capt. William Thayer, and Saul Ramsdale.*

Providence, January 15, 1773.

Sir:—This forenoon came to my house, Capt. William Thayer, of Mendon, and informed me that he had been cited by the honorable commissioners at Newport, to appear before them this day, and declare what he knew relative to the destruction of the Gaspee.

He tells me he is near seventy years of age, grievously afflicted with the rheumatism, attended with many symptoms of a paralysis; and that riding yesterday in the cold, stormy weather, has revived and so much increased his disorder, that he was unable to proceed to Newport, but must endeavor to return home as soon as possible; besides, he declared he knew nothing of the affair for which he was summoned and solicited me very much to take his examination, and transmit it to the commissioners.

I at last yielded to his request, and have enclosed to Your Honors his deposition, which, if you think proper, may be laid before the commissioners.

I have known Mr. Thayer for many years past, and have always understood that he was a man of good character. He says, if the gentlemen who cited him, had any idea of the villainy of the fellows who informed them, neither he, nor any one else, he believes, had been troubled by them.

And this evening, another person (one Ramsdale) came to me, who said he also was summoned to Newport, upon some occasion, and that he knew nothing respecting the matter for which he was cited; and urged me very much to take his deposition to that purpose, that he might be dismissed; but as he appeared to be a young, healthy man, and lest the commissioners might conceive I was too officious, in previously examining their witnesses, I advised him to deliver what he had to say, to the commissioners.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect,

Your Honor's most obedient and humble servant,

DARIUS SESSIONS.

To Governor Wanton.

P. S. Since I wrote the above, I received a deposition from Greenwich, which I have also enclosed to Your Honors.

*Deposition of Capt. William Thayer, of Mendon.*

COLONY OF RHODE ISLAND, &c. :

The examination of Capt. William Thayer, of Mendon, in the county of Worcester, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, innholder, taken in Providence, in the colony aforesaid, this 15th day of January, in the thirteenth year of His Majesty's reign, Anno Domini 1773, by Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor of said colony.

Question—Do you know any circumstances relative to the attacking, taking, plundering and burning His Majesty's schooner, called the Gaspee, and to the assembling, arming, training, and leading on the people concerned therein; and to the concerting and preparing said attack?

Answer—No.

Q.—Where was you, when said schooner was destroyed, which was on the 10th day of June last?

A.—At home, in Mendon.

Q.—How far is that from Providence?

A.—About twenty-two miles.

Q.—How long a time after the schooner was destroyed, before you was in Providence?

A.—I was not there until the latter end of June, or the beginning of July.

Q.—Did you hear any person say, when you was in Providence, or at any other time or place, that they knew any of those persons that were concerned in that affair?

A.—No.

Q.—Did you ever hear the names of any persons suspected to be concerned in that matter?

A.—I heard the names of one Potter and Brown or Browns, but did not know them, nor where they lived. I don't recollect any other.

Q.—Do you remember who mentioned those names?

A.—No; it being only some rumor which I heard among the people in my house, it being a public one.

WILLIAM THAYER.

On the day and year abovesaid, William Thayer, the subscriber to the above examination, made solemn oath to the truth of the several answers annexed to the foregoing interrogations, before—

DARIUS SESSIONS,  
Deputy Governor.

*Deposition of Daniel Vaughan.*

I, Daniel Vaughan, of Newport, in the colony of Rhode Island, being of lawful age, do depose and say :

That some time in the summer last past, being in a sloop, taking out some old iron from the wreck of the Gaspee, and afterwards going down to Newport, in said sloop, in company with Capt. Linzee, in His Majesty's ship, the Beaver, one morning, not far from the island of Prudence, I saw a small boat alongside the Beaver, and immediately told the people on board the sloop, that somebody had gone on board the Beaver that night.

A few days afterwards, as the Beaver lay at Newport, near the fort, I was ordered to haul the sloop I was in, alongside the schooner, which then lay alongside the Beaver, in order to take out some sugar; and going on board the Beaver, I saw a mulatto fellow under the fore-castle, in irons.

I said unto him, "So you are one of the rogues that have been burning the Gaspee."

He replied, "He never saw her, nor knew any thing about her."

I then asked him what he came there for.

He answered, "His master had used him badly, and he was determined to leave him."

Two or three days afterwards, being on board said schooner, I heard Capt. Linzee order said mulatto to be carried out of the Beaver, on board said schooner, and then to be tied up to the mast and whipped; and after he was laid hold on, and they were about to tie him up to the mast, he began to declare he knew some of the people that burnt the Gaspee; and that Simeon Potter, John Brown and others (whose names I have forgotten), were concerned therein.

Upon this confession, he was released from a whipping, sent on board the Beaver, where I afterwards saw him in irons, on the quarter deck.

DANIEL VAUGHAN.

Providence se.

Providence, January 16, 1773.

Daniel Vaughan appeared in person, and made solemn oath to the truth of the foregoing declaration, unto which he has subscribed, before—

DARIUS SESSIONS,  
Deputy Governor.

The commissioners then adjourned the business of the commission to Monday morning, at 10 o'clock.

*Monday, January 18.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq., and Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

The Hon. Admiral Montagu waited upon the commissioners, agreeably to his message of Saturday last.

The admiral laid before the commissioners, letters which he had received from Lieutenant Dudingston, during his residence at Pawtuxet and Newport, after the destroying of the schooner Gaspee.

The admiral also delivered to the commissioners, a list of persons who reside in Providence, as material witnesses, relative to the assembling of the people, prior to the attacking the Gaspee; in consequence of which, they ordered a summons to be issued for John Andrews, Esq., John Cole, Esq., Daniel Hitchcock, Esq. and George Brown, attorneys at law, and Arthur Fenner and James Sabin, to attend on Wednesday next, at 11 o'clock, which was issued accordingly.

The summonses were delivered to Samuel Clarke, who was sent as express, by the commissioners, at twenty minutes after 3 o'clock.

*Deputy Governor Sessions to Governor Wanton, relative to Barzillai Richmond, Joseph Brown, John Brown and Daniel Vaughan.*

Providence, January 18, 1773.

Sir:—In consequence of an application made unto me, in writing, signed by Barzillai Richmond, Joseph Brown and John Brown, I summoned Daniel Vaughan, and took his deposition relative to what he knew respecting the treatment of the mulatto Aaron, on board the Beaver, and I herewith enclose it to Your Honor.

I had not done it, but our river is fast shut up, and it is very uncertain when Mr. Vaughan will reach Newport.

I choose Mr. Vaughan should give his deposition before the commissioners, if he arrives in season for that purpose; but if he doth not, and you think proper to make use of what I now send, you have liberty to improve it in any way you think it may promote truth and justice.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

DARIUS SESSIONS.

To Governor Wanton.

*Deputy Governor Sessions to Governor Wanton, relative to the  
Deposition of the Negro Aaron Briggs, &c.*

Providence, January 18th, 1773.

Sir:—Having been informed by a person, who came from Newport last Saturday, that the mulatto had been examined, and that a report prevailed, that his evidence carried many marks of truth with it; and as it is impossible (as I think.) that there can be a word of truth in it, and as I look upon it as my duty to protect the innocent, as well as punish the guilty. I thought it my duty to let Your Honor know of some circumstances that may throw some light on this affair.

I took notice in the mulatto's declaration of his having a red and white handkerchief about his head at the time he was on board the *Gaspee*, and when he rowed the boat ashore.

I suppose he was told to relate this circumstance, that some of the *Gaspee's* people might, with the greater appearance of truth, swear to his being on board the schooner that night.

The day after the *Gaspee* was destroyed, I examined several of her people, viz.: Bartholomew Cheever, John Johnson, William J. Caple, Joseph Bowman, Patrick Whaler, Patrick Earle and Patrick Reynolds; who, although the questions and answers were not set down in writing, yet I can depose that they were put verbally. The answers given by some of them (the rest agreeing thereto), are as follows, viz.:

Question—Was the moon down?

Answer—Yes.

Q.—Was it dark?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was there any light on board of the schooner, when she was boarded by the boats?

A.—Yes; but it was immediately put out before we got on deck.

Q.—Was there no other light afterwards struck up?

A.—Not that they saw; though they believe there was one lighted up in the cabin, to dress the lieutenant's wounds.

Q.—Were the people who came on board unmasked, or in disguise?

A.—Some of them were either blacked or negroes; but it was so dark, we could not tell which.

The above questions put to any of the *Gaspee's* people, who pretend to establish the negro's evidence, by swearing to the identity of him, I think, must convince any one, that their testimony is absolutely false.

The midshipman at Boston, swore that it was a very dark night; and how is it possible that the features and dress of a negro could be sworn to, a month afterwards?

I am requested by some persons in this town, to inform Your Honor, that one David James, a young man, who served his time in this town, and is properly an inhabitant thereof, was last week impressed out of a sloop belonging here, Joseph Tillichast, master, and carried on board the schooner *Halifax*.

The young man was born in ———, in Virginia, where he had left him, by his father, some estate in land; which, by several letters of a late date from his brother, and his guardian, appears to be sold, and that the money thereof, will be sent to him



very soon, by a schooner, that is now gone there. I have seen the letters myself, this day, and make no doubt but they are genuine.

If Your Honor will interpose so far as to use your endeavors to get him discharged, you will do a singular favor to the young man, and to his acquaintances here. If he remains in confinement, there will be nobody to take care of his money or goods that may be sent him from his patrimony, which will be his total ruin.

I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

DARIUS SESSIONS.

To Governor Wanton.

The commissioners adjourned till to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

*Tuesday, January 19.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq., and Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

Peter May attended the commissioners, pursuant to summons, and was examined upon oath; which examination was reduced to writing, and ordered to be filed.

*Deposition of Peter May.*

The examination of Peter May, taken upon oath, this 19th day of January, A. D. 1773:

Peter May, of lawful age, being duly sworn, deposed and saith:

That he was late a mariner on board His Majesty's schooner *Gaspee*; and that some time last summer, as they were going in said schooner, towards Providence, about 2 or 3 o'clock, in the afternoon, they struck aground, upon a point of land, about a musket shot from the land; that she lay so dry, that they walked around her, and scraped her bottom, the water being about one foot on one side, and about two feet on the other.

That they got an anchor out, and endeavored to get her off; but after striving till sunset, they desisted from any further attempts; all but the watch, which consisted of three, were ordered by Lieutenant Dudingston, to go to sleep.

That between 12 and 1 o'clock, the schooner was attacked by a number of boats with people on board, armed some with clubs, some with other weapons.

That this deponent was below at the time the people boarded the schooner; and when he came upon deck, he saw Lieutenant Dudingston discharge a pistol; but whether it wounded anybody, he cannot tell; immediately after, he saw a man in the bow of one of the boats fire a musket, and wound the lieutenant; upon which, the lieutenant cried out, "Lord, have mercy upon me; I am done for!"

That immediately after this, the deponent was knocked down the hatchway, and

recovering himself, went into the steerage, in order to get some clothes, and from thence stepped into the cabin, and there heard the lieutenant desire the people not to haul and pull him about, as they did, but to assist him; on which, they said they had no doctors, but would send him, as soon as they could, to a place where they could get one.

He soon after, when the lieutenant was on deck, heard several people ask him whether he would make amends for the rum which he had seized out of the sloop; and if he would, they would return him the schooner; one of which people, was named Greene, whom he saw in the cabin of the Gaspee, the day after they had seized a sloop, of which he appeared to be the owner, and out of which, he took some rakes.

This deponent saith, that the said Greene is a tall, slender man; wearing his own hair, of a brown color.

This deponent further saith, that after they had taken possession of the Gaspee, the hands belonging to the Gaspee, were put into a boat, and rowed ashore at a place about a mile distant, between 3 and 4 o'clock, in the morning, and that he saw the schooner on fire when they were about half way to the shore, and the fire began upon the quarter deck. And further this deponent saith not.

his  
PETER  $\bowtie$  MAY.  
mark.

Sworn to, at Newport, on the 19th day of January, A. D. 1773, at the council chamber, Newport, before—

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHE,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	PETER OLIVER,
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,	

Robert Masters, who was also summoned, appeared, and upon examination on oath, there appearing nothing material in his testimony, he was discharged, without making any deposition.

The commissioners received a letter from Admiral Montagu, which was read, and ordered to be filed.

An answer was immediately ordered; which was accordingly written in the following words, and delivered to the admiral, by ———.

*Admiral Montagu to the Commissioners, &c.*

Newport, 19th January, 1773.

Gentlemen:—As an opportunity offers, for sending to England, I am willing to embrace it, to inform my lords commissioners of the admiralty of my arrival and proceedings at this place.

As you were pleased to signify to me your intention of writing upon the subject

of adjourning your court, I shall be glad to receive it as soon as possible, that I may close my public letters, as I propose leaving this place to-morrow morning.

I am, with respect, gentlemen,

Your most obedient, and most humble servant,

J. MONTAGU.

To His Majesty's commissioners, &c., at Newport.

*The Commissioners, &c., to Admiral Montagu.*

Council Chamber, Newport, }  
January 19th, 1773. }

Sir:—In our last conversation with you, you were pleased to inform us that by report, Capt. Dudingston had made such declarations at Boston, relative to his recollection of the persons concerned in the destruction of the *Gaspee*, that his testimony would be very material in our present inquiry; and from the language of Mr. Dudingston's letter to you, which you laid before us, we must be of the same opinion, as it is our determined resolution to do all in our power faithfully to execute the commission His Majesty has thought fit to honor us with. We must request of you to take such measures as you think proper, to get Capt. Dudingston to America, in order that he may be examined.

In the same conversation, you also informed us, that at this inclement season of the year, it was impossible for you properly to execute your orders relative to the affair we are now met on, and that the other duties of your department must suffer if you did not very soon return to Boston; and and therefore it was your determination to go thither to-morrow, or next day, if possible.

Your absence from us, you are sensible, as we construe our instructions, and as we yesterday informed you, must make an adjournment of this board necessary. Indeed, without this difficulty, it is highly probable we should soon find ourselves under a necessity of adopting the same measure, for the want of Capt. Dudingston, and from the extreme rigor of the season, which renders it almost impossible to get witnesses who are at any distance from us.

We are, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient humble servants,

J. WANTON,

FRED. SMYTHE,

DAN. HORSMANDEN,

PETER OLIVER,

ROBT. AUCHMUTY,

Commissioners.

To the Honorable Admiral Montagu, commander in chief  
of His Majesty's ships, &c., in North America.

P. S. Though the time to which the commissioners will adjourn, is not absolutely fixed, yet it seems to be their opinion, that it must be on or about the 26th of May next; which, they hope, will be agreeable to you.

The commissioners also received another letter from the admiral, enclosing the deposition of Aaron Briggs, taken the — day of —, which was ordered to be filed.

[According to the preceding journal of the commissioners, two or three letters, which passed between them and the admiral, are wanting, to complete the file of their correspondence. During their session, they examined several witnesses, and held correspondence with several others.]

*Arthur Fenner to Governor Wanton, relative to the Gaspee.*

Providence, January 19, 1773.

Honorable Sir:—I received a citation, signed by you, and a number of other gentlemen, commanding my attendance at the colony house, in Newport, on the 20th day of January instant, to give in evidence to what I know relative to the attacking, taking and plundering His Majesty's schooner, called the Gaspee, &c.

In consequence of which, I now inform you, that I am a man of seventy-four years of age, and very infirm; and at the time said schooner was taken and plundered, I was in my bed, and I knew nothing of it until the next day; and as for my not attending, as commanded, I must plead my age and infirmity in excuse.

From your most obedient friend and humble servant,

ARTHUR FENNER.

To the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq.

*James Sabin to the Commissioners, &c.*

Providence, January 19th, 1773.

To the honorable the commissioners appointed to inquire into the circumstances relative to the destroying the schooner Gaspee.

Gentlemen:—I now address you, on account of a summons I received from you, requiring my attendance at the council chamber, in Newport, on Wednesday, 20th instant.

Now, gentlemen, I beg leave to acquaint you, what renders me incapable of attending. In the first place, I am an insolvent debtor; and therefore, my person would be subject to an arrest by some one or other of my creditors; and my health has been on decline these two months past, and it would be dangerous should I leave my house.

And further, were I to attend, I could give no information relative to the assembling, arming, training and leading on the people concerned in destroying the schooner Gaspee.

On the 9th day of June last, at night, I was employed at my house, attending company; who were John Andrew, Esq., judge of the court of vice admiralty, John Cole, Esq., Mr. Hitchcock and George Brown, who supped at my house and stayed

there until two of the clock, in the morning following; and I have not any knowledge relative to the matter on which I am summoned; which I am ready to make oath to, before any justice of the peace.

I am, gentlemen, most respectfully,

Your most humble servant,

JAMES SABIN.

To the Honorable Commissioners.

The commissioners adjourned till to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

*Wednesday, January 20.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq., Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

The commissioners directed copies of the several letters which have passed between them and Admiral Montagu, to be made out, in order to be transmitted to the Earl of Dartmouth.

*George Brown, to the Commissioners, &c.*

East Greenwich, January 20th, 1773.

May it please Your Honors:—Late last night, I received a summons from Providence, to appear at the council chamber, in Newport, before Your Honors, there to give evidence of what I know concerning the burning of the schooner Gaspee; and I should have waited on Your Honors, accordingly; but, as the court of common pleas was then sitting in the county of Kent, and being concerned in several cases then pending in said court, I could not possibly attend according to summons; therefore, I hope you will excuse my not attending.

It has long been a custom for the attorneys, upon the concluding evening of filing pleas to the court, to meet together, to spend the evening.

That night, the said schooner was burnt, happened to be the concluding evening of filing pleas; accordingly, the gentlemen of the bar, together with myself, met at the house of James Sabin, in Providence, that being a public house of entertainment.

Some time after, I being there, heard a drum beat; I asked the reason of said drum beating; I was answered by some one of the company, that there was a number of boys met together, they supposed, to divert themselves.

I knowing it to be no uncommon thing, thought no more about it; and do solemnly declare, that I have no knowledge, directly or indirectly, of any plot being

laid, or person concerned in perpetrating so vile a crime, and shall be ready at all times, when in my power, to appear and answer any question relating to said affair, if required. I am, gentlemen,

Your Honors' most obedient and humble servant,

G. BROWN.

To the Honorable Commissioners.

*John Andrews, to the Commissioners, &c.*

Providence, January 20, 1773.

Gentlemen:—I this day received a summons at 12 o'clock, requesting my attendance at 11 o'clock, this day, at the court house, in Newport, in order to give evidence before Your Honors to that knowledge I have, relating to the burning and destroying His Majesty's schooner, called the Gaspee; and to the assembling, arming, training and leading the people concerned therein.

I should have cheerfully obeyed said summons, had my health permitted; but I have been confined for a week past, with a swelling in my hand, which hath rendered me unable to stir out of doors.

But as soon as I am able, I shall wait upon Your Honors, and inform you of all I know, relating to that matter, which Your Honors will judge just nothing at all to the purpose.

I am, with great regard,

Your Honors' most obedient and most humble servant,

JOHN ANDREWS.

To the Honorable Commissioners.

P. S. I have judged proper to inform Your Honors of all particulars of knowledge I have, relating to the burning His Majesty's schooner, called the Gaspee, in the Narragansett River.

I was in Providence town the evening before the mischief was done, and in company with a number of gentlemen; I heard a disturbance in the street, and inquired into the cause, and was answered that it had been a training day, and they were breaking up their frolic; and I heard nothing further that evening, relative thereto, but went to bed; and next morning, was surprised with the news of the said schooner's being burned and destroyed.

I then waited upon the Deputy Governor immediately; and he, with me, repaired to the spot, where we found Mr. Dudingston badly wounded, and the said schooner appeared at a distance to be on fire, and burned down to the water.

And the Deputy Governor inquired of Mr. Dudingston if he had any knowledge of any of the trespassers.

And he made answer, that he should give no account about the matter, before he was brought before the court martial, where he expected his trial; but was willing that his people should declare all they knew of the matter; and were sworn before the Deputy Governor, accordingly.

I — — — Mr. Dudingston afterwards, and desired him, if he had any knowledge of any of the persons who did the mischief, he would inform me thereof,

that they may be brought to condign punishment; but always declined saying anything at all.

And this is the substance of the knowledge I have of the matter; which I am ready to swear to.

JOHN ANDREWS.

To the Honorable Commissioners.

*Daniel Hitchcock to the Commissioners, &c.*

East Greenwich, January 20, 1773.

May it please Your Honors:—Late last night, I had a citation from Providence, to appear before you, this day, at 11 o'clock, in the forenoon, to give evidence with regard to the burning the schooner Gaspee.

And as I detest all such open violations of the law, should have been willing to have waited upon Your Honors, to let you know every thing within the compass of my knowledge relative to that matter, had not my engagements at Kent court, in this place, absolutely forbid my attendance; and therefore, hope Your Honors will pardon me, on that account; but every thing I know, touching that matter, I am ready to relate.

It has been, may it please Your Honors, a long custom in this colony, for the attorneys at the concluding of filing of pleas for court, to meet some where together, and spend the evening; that night the schooner was burnt, happened to be the concluding evening.

We met at Mr. Sabins's, by ourselves; and about 8 o'clock, I went to the door, or, finally, kitchen, and saw a number of people in the street, but paid no attention to them, as that place was a place of public resort.

Some time after 9 o'clock, I heard a drum beat, and was asked by somebody in the room, what was the occasion of the beating of that drum; and it was answered by somebody, that it was beat by some boys, which quieted all further inquiry by me; neither did I imagine that anything of that nature was about being perpetrated, till after it was in fact done.

This, may it please Your Honors, is every thing that I know, or has come to my knowledge, relative to that transaction, and which I am willing, on solemn oath, to state before any of the civil authority in Providence; to which place, I shall in a day or two, return.

I am Your Honors's most obedient, humble servant,

D. HITCHCOCK.

To the Honorable Commissioners.

*John Cole to the Commissioners, &c.*

East Greenwich, January 20th, 1773.

May it please Your Honors:—Late last evening, I received by the way of Providence, a citation to appear before Your Honors, at 11 o'clock, this forenoon, to give evidence of what I know relative to the burning and destroying the schooner Gaspee.

As the court of common pleas is now sitting here, and a number of clients depending upon my assistance in their several cases, I hope Your Honors will dispense with

my attendance at the council chamber at the time appointed. I am disposed to give Your Honors all the information that has come to my knowledge concerning the affair, which is extremely small.

The evening preceding the burning of the Gaspee, I spent at Mr. James Sabins's tavern, in company with several gentlemen; about 7 or 8 o'clock, hearing a noise in the street, I pulled back the shutters of one of the windows next the street, and saw several people collected together, but did not know any of them; upon which, I made inquiry of the gentlemen in the room if they knew the occasion.

And was answered by some of the company, but by whom I cannot particularly recollect, that he hoped they were not designed for mischief.

To which, I replied, I believed not; if they were, they would not be so public.

Some time afterward, a drum was beating along the street; upon which, I again opened the shutter, and saw three or four boys with a drum, and no other persons.

And this, may it please Your Honors, is all I know, relative to this affair; and which I am ready to make oath to, before any of the civil authority in Providence, to which place I shall return to-morrow or next day.

I am, with all deference,

Your Honors's most obedient and most humble servant,

JOHN COLE.

To the Honorable Commissioners.

The commissioners adjourned till to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

*Thursday, January 21.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Frederick Smythe, Esq., Peter Oliver, Esq. and Robert Auchmuty, Esq.

Samuel Clarke, who was charged with the delivery of the several summonses issued by the commissioners, on the 18th inst., made return upon oath of his service thereof, which was ordered to be filed.

Samuel Clarke exhibited his account to the commissioners, for performing two journeys for them; one to Mendon, and the other to Providence; which amounted to ———, and was paid by the commissioners.

The commissioners agreed to address the Earl of Dartmouth; whereupon, a letter was drafted in the following words:



*The Commissioners, &c., to the Earl of Dartmouth.*

Newport, Rhode Island, }  
 January 21, 1773. }

My Lord:—In obedience to His Majesty's commands, signified to us, by Your Lordship's letter of the 14th of September last, we, with the utmost dispatch in our power, repaired to Newport, where, on the 5th day of January inst., His Majesty's commission, under the great seal of Great Britain, was delivered to us in the council chamber, at Newport, by Capt. Keeler, commander of His Majesty's ship, the Mercury, and the commanding officer in the naval department at this place; upon which, we immediately ordered the same to be publicly read and proclaimed; which was accordingly done, before a great concourse of people, who, on the occasion, behaved with great decency.

This being done, we proceeded, with all the dispatch in our power, to business; and found in the last clause in our commission, that in the execution and performance of the power and authority thereby given us, we are strictly charged and commanded carefully to observe and conform ourselves to such instructions as we should receive in writing, under the King's sign manual.

Whereupon, we applied ourselves to the careful examination of those instructions; in one of which, are the words, "To the end that they may accordingly be arrested and delivered to the custody of the commander in chief of our ships and vessels in North America, pursuant to such directions as we have thought fit to give for that purpose."

Being convinced that the above charge given us by His Majesty, in our commission, referring to the instructions under the sign manual, could not be dispensed with, we wrote to Rear Admiral Montagu, that we were fully of opinion that his attendance at Newport was necessary, in order if there should appear evidence against any person sufficient to arrest him upon, he must be delivered to the admiral, according to our instructions, from which we could not depart, notwithstanding Your Lordship's letter of the 4th of September last, to Governor Wanton, wherein you inform him that "such offenders as may have been, or shall be arrested and committed within the colony of Rhode Island, be delivered to the care and custody of Rear Admiral Montagu, or the commander in chief of His Majesty's ships in North America, for the time being, or to such officer as he shall appoint to receive them."

We here beg leave to assure Your Lordship, that we had not the least inclination to deviate from Your Lordship's letter, had we not been fully convinced that the express words of our commission, obliged us to do it.

Several letters passed between us and the admiral, on this subject; wherein we explained to him the necessity, according to our commission and instructions, of his being here in person.

Though we did not agree on this head, he thinking that, according to his instructions and Your Lordship's last mentioned letter, his presence was not at all necessary; yet he was polite enough to come to Newport on the 14th day of the month; and meeting us at the council chamber on the 18th inst., he informed us that he believed from the information he had received from others, Capt. Dudingston would be able to make such declaration relative to the business we are on, as would prove very material; and at this inclement season of the year, it was impossible for him

properly to execute his orders from the lords commissioners of the admiralty, relative to the business we are now upon; also, that the other duties of his department, at this time, absolutely required his attendance at Boston, and therefore, in a very day he must return.

Taking all these matters into consideration, and the extreme rigor of the season, which renders it almost impossible to procure witnesses who are at any distance from us, without waiting a very unreasonable time for them, we thought an adjournment to May next, necessary for His Majesty's service; and accordingly notified Admiral Montagu that we should adjourn to on or about the 26th of that month, when he will undoubtedly be here.

Copies of the letters passing between the admiral and us, on these subjects, are herewith transmitted to Your Lordship.

We have proceeded to examine such witnesses as we could obtain; and also carefully to look into all papers which Governor Wanton has laid before us, relative to the conduct of the magistrates of this government, in the business we are upon; but find it totally impossible at present to make a report, not having all the evidence we have reason to expect. We therefore hope, for these reasons, that our omitting it, will not be disagreeable.

In short, we have hitherto, My Lord, exerted ourselves to our utmost abilities in the execution of our trust, His Majesty has been pleased to honor us with; and Your Lordship may rely on our future endeavors to discharge ourselves with that fidelity which the nature of so important a commission demands.

We are, with the utmost respect, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servants,

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHIE,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	PETER OLIVER.
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,	

To the Earl of Dartmouth.

Joseph Wanton, Esq., Governor of the colony, made oath of what he knew respecting the Gaspee, &c.

*Deposition of Joseph Wanton, Esq., Governor of Rhode Island.*

Joseph Wanton, Esq., Governor of the English colony of Rhode Island, on oath declares and says:

That at an interview he had with Lieutenant Dudingston, late of the schooner Gaspee, he asked him whether he had any authority from the commissioners at Boston, or from Admiral Montagu.

To which, he replied, he had not; but received his authority from the lords of the admiralty; and that he was come into the colony of Rhode Island by virtue of that power, and no other, whatever.

The deponent then asked how long it was probable he should continue in the colony.

To which, he answered, at present he was in the colony; but how long he should continue, was uncertain.

And this deponent saith, that he does not remember that he hath since that time, seen the said Lieutenant Dudingston.

On, or about the 20th of March last, a complaint was transmitted to the deponent, by the Deputy Governor of the colony, signed by sundry persons, residing in and near the town of Providence, that an armed schooner was cruising in the Narragansett Bay, interrupting their legal commerce, by searching and unnecessarily detaining the freight boats, &c. ; and therefore, requested the deponent to make such inquiry as was necessary, for obtaining information, whether the persons belonging to said schooner, were duly authorized to exercise that power, within the body of the colony.

Upon receiving the complaint, the deponent conceived it was his duty, in order to satisfy the complainants, and at the same time to give the persons complained of, an opportunity of exculpating themselves from the several charges and accusations which were exhibited against them, to pursue such measures as were prudent and legal ; and thereupon, wrote a letter to the commanding officer of said schooner, advising him of the information the deponent had received, respecting his conduct, and proceedings, since his arrival within this colony, and requesting that he would produce his commission and authority.

This letter was answered by Lieutenant Dudingston ; which, not being satisfactory, the deponent wrote him another letter, on the 23d of March.

In consequence whereof, Lieutenant Dudingston sent to the deponent, by one of his officers, whose name was Dundas, an order from the lords of the admiralty, for his commanding the schooner Gaspee ; also, their letter to the commissioners at Boston, requiring them to give a deputation from the commissioners at Boston, directed to the said Dundas ; all which, the deponent, after he had read and examined, returned to the said Dundas, who had the charge of them, without the least delay or interruption, whatever.

The deponent took this opportunity to remonstrate to the officer against the impropriety of Mr. Dudingston's proceedings, in sending a quantity of rum, he had seized in the county of Kent, within this colony, for illegal importation, to Boston, for trial ; it being, in the deponent's opinion, repugnant to an act of Parliament, made and passed in the eighth year of His Majesty's reign, as there was a court of vice admiralty established within this colony ; and that if he persevered in such measures, he must expect that a process would be issued against him.

A short time after this, another complaint was brought against Mr. Dudingston, by one Faulkner, of Portsmouth, in this colony, and proprietor of a certain island, called Gould Island, within the said colony, who alleged that the people belonging to said schooner Gaspee, had been upon said island, and committed a trespass and waste thereon, by cutting down thirty or more trees, and carrying the same from off said island.

The deponent recommended to the complainant to make application to said Dudingston, and demand such satisfaction as was adequate to the damage he had sustained, and if possible, to avoid a law suit, which, he said, he had been urged to commence.

After which, he was informed by said Faulkner, that Lieutenant Dudingston had paid him about fifteen dollars on account of the above named trespass and waste ; with which he appeared satisfied.

On the 11th of June, the deponent received from Darius Sessions, Esq., of Providence, and Deputy Governor of the colony, an account of the destruction of His Majesty's schooner, the Gaspee ; upon which, he immediately called together such of His Majesty's Council and members of the General Assembly as could be seasona-

bly notified, and communicated to them the disagreeable intelligence, who unanimously recommended a proclamation, with a proper reward, for discovering the offenders; which was thereupon issued, and sent into the several towns, within the colony.

Admiral Montagu, on the 8th of July, transmitted to the deponent the declaration of a mulatto lad, called Aaron, impeaching several persons therein named, with being concerned in burning the aforesaid schooner.

As this declaration was not made before any of the civil authority, either in this or any other colony, the deponent was of opinion, that it was highly necessary that Aaron should be taken into custody; and therefore directed one of the judges of the Superior Court, to issue his warrant for Aaron, that he might be legally examined; and as he was then in the care of Capt. Linzee, wrote him a letter, dated the 16th of July (which letter accompanied the warrant), requesting that he would deliver the said Aaron to the sheriff, that he might be examined respecting what he knew of attacking and burning the Gaspee.

But Capt. Linzee refused to deliver up the witness, and treated the letter and warrant with the highest contempt, as the deponent was informed by James Brenton, Esq., who waited upon Capt. Linzee, with the letter, at the deponent's request. If Aaron had any knowledge of burning the said schooner, it was out of the power of the deponent to obtain it, through the unjustifiable conduct of the said Capt. Linzee.

The deponent communicated to Admiral Montagu, in a letter, dated the 23d of July, the steps he had taken for obtaining Aaron's declaration, in full expectation that he would have given positive orders for the delivery of Aaron into the custody of the civil authority; especially, as the deponent had assured Capt. Linzee that after his examination, he should be returned on board the King's ship.

The deponent cited Mr. Samuel Thurston and Mr. Samuel Tompkins, of the island of Prudence, the gentlemen with whom Aaron had lived as an indented servant, to give evidence of what they knew of the destruction of the Gaspee, &c.; and also two servants, who lived in the same house with Aaron, at the time the said schooner was burnt, who agreed in their several testimonies, that Aaron was a runaway, and could not, for the reasons given in their depositions, have any knowledge of that transaction; copies of which testimonies, the deponent transmitted to Admiral Montagu.

This deponent further declares, that the several letters and papers he has delivered to the commissioners, contain a full and particular account of all the knowledge he hath of the destruction of the said schooner Gaspee, and the measures which have been pursued for discovering the offenders.

J. WANTON.

To His Majesty's commissioners, at Rhode Island.

Sworn to, at Newport, on the 25th day of January, 1773, before us,—

FRED. SMYTHIE,  
PETER OLIVER,  
ROBT. AUCHMUTY.

An adjournment being determined upon, Mr. Auchmuty and Mr. Oliver signified their intention of returning home, and took leave of the other commissioners, accordingly.

*Friday, January 22.*

The commissioners met, according to adjournment.

Present—Joseph Wanton, Esq., Daniel Horsmanden, Esq. and Frederick Smythe, Esq.

Samuel Clarke, who was charged with the service of summons on the 12th inst., for two persons at Mendon, made return upon oath of his service thereof, which was ordered to be filed.

The commissioners received a letter from Arthur Fenner, at Providence, excusing his attendance in obedience to a summons of the 18th.\*

Also, a letter from James Sabin, excusing his attendance in obedience to a summons of the same date; which were ordered to be filed.

The commissioners adjourn all further proceedings, until the 26th day of May next, then to meet at Newport.

The commissioners accordingly adjourned to meet on the 26th day of May, 1773, at Newport. The journal of their proceedings, if any was kept, is not among the papers.

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\* See page 154. The letters of Arthur Fenner, James Sabin and others, addressed to the commissioners, excusing their non-attendance, not referred to in the journal of the proceedings of the commission, are inserted in their chronological order elsewhere in this volume.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF  
INQUIRY, &c., CONTINUED.

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To remove the difficulties between Admiral Montagu and the commissioners, relative to his personal attendance at Newport, the board of admiralty in England, dispatched him special orders, as follows :

*The Lords of the Admiralty to Admiral Montagu, relative to his personal attendance upon the Commissioners, &c., at Newport.*

By the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain and Ireland, &c.

Whereas, you represented to us, by your letter of the 19th of January last, from Rhode Island, as the season of the year was so far advanced as to render it hazardous for you to proceed thither with the ships under your command, agreeably to our instructions of the 7th of September last, you had given Capt. Keeler, of the Mercury, the senior officer of the King's ships at that island, to whom, you had before dispatched His Majesty's commission for inquiring into the circumstances relative to the burning of the Gaspee schooner, orders to aid and assist the commissioners therein named, in the same manner as you should have done, had you been there ; but, as the said commission expressly directs the prisoners to be delivered to you, the commissioners did not choose to proceed to business until your arrival.

That, in consequence of receiving such information, you had proceeded thither by land, and had hoisted your flag on board the Lizzard ; and that the commissioners had examined some few persons.

And whereas, you further represented to us, by your said letter, that if you are obliged to attend the commissioners at Rhode Island, the naval business at Halifax and Boston will be greatly retarded, as it will be impossible for you to attend to those and your other duties ; and have therefore desired, the senior officer of His Majesty's ships at Rhode Island, who will, in your opinion, in every respect, answer the purposes there, as well as yourself, that you may receive our directions to remain at Boston, with your flag, unless there appears to be an absolute necessity for your being at Rhode Island.

And whereas, the Earl of Dartmouth, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, to whom we sent an extract of so much of your letter, as related to this business, for His Majesty's information, hath, by his letter of the 20th instant, acquainted us that His Majesty is pleased to approve that the execution of His Maj-

esty's orders respecting the service at Rhode Island, should be entrusted to the senior captain of such of his ships of war as may, from time to time be stationed at that colony.

You are therefore, hereby required and directed to entrust the execution of His Majesty's said orders to such senior captain, accordingly.

Given under our hands, the 26th day of March, 1773.

SANDWICH,  
J. BULLER,  
LISBURNE.

By command of their lordships :

CHAS. STEPHENS.

To John Montagu, Esq., Rear Admiral of the Blue, and  
commander in chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels  
in North America, at Boston.

Previous to the reception of these orders, the following letters passed between the commissioners and the officers of the navy, stationed in New England :

*Admiral Montagu to the Commissioners, &c.*

Boston, 24th May, 1773.

Gentlemen :—As I understood you are soon to meet to proceed on business, I am to inform you, I have ordered to Capt. Keeler, of His Majesty's ship *Mercury*, William Dickinson, late midshipman of the *Gaspee*, and Bartholomew Cheever, one of her seamen, two evidences sent out of England, by the right honorable the lords commissioners of the admiralty.

As they were on board, when Captain Dudingston was wounded, these people (if the men called the head sheriff and captain can be found), can swear to their persons. You will be the best judges what use to make of them, when they appear before you.

I expect the Captain man-of-war will return from Halifax in ten days, when I shall lose no time in repairing to Rhode Island ; but if, in the meantime, you should think my presence absolutely necessary, I will set out by land, although it will be attended with great inconvenience to me.

Capt. Keeler has my orders to give you every assistance in his power ; and I doubt not but that he will faithfully execute them.

I am, gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. MONTAGU.

To His Majesty's Commissioners, at Newport.

*Capt. Robert Keeler to the Commissioners, &c.*

His Majesty's ship Mercury, Rhode Island Harbor, }  
 May 27, 1773. }

Sir:—Admiral Montagu finding the King's commissioners meeting at Newport, he has sent me an officer and one seaman, lately belonging to the Gaspee, and just arrived from England, to give information of the persons that were concerned in the burning of said schooner.

Likewise a letter, directed to His Majesty's commissioners at Rhode Island, with directions to me, to deliver to you, when sitting.

But, as I am detained on board, on account of a writ being issued out against me, I am to desire you will give me notice in writing, when you meet, that the letter may be sent by a proper officer; and of the time you choose to have the evidences on shore, to be examined.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

R. KEELER.

To Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq., president of His Majesty's  
 commission, at Newport.

*The Commissioners, &c., to Capt. Keeler.*

Newport, May 27, 1773.

Sir:—Though there are three commissioners met at Newport, yet, as the other two gentlemen are daily expected, it is thought most conducive to His Majesty's service, not to proceed on business till they join us; at which time we shall acquaint you, when the witnesses you mention to us, may be examined, and Admiral Montagu's letter delivered, and in the interim, are,

Your most obedient, humble servants,

J. WANTON,

PETER OLIVER,

ROBT. AUCHMUTY,

Commissioners.

To Capt. Robert Keeler.

*The Commissioners, &c., to Capt. Keeler.*

Newport, May 31, 1773.

Sir:—The gentlemen commissioners are now arrived from the southward; in consequence whereof we are ready to receive Admiral Montagu's letter, mentioned in yours of the 27th inst.; and to-morrow morning shall also be ready to take the depositions of those witnesses you inform us are arrived from England.

The commissioners will attend such examination to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock; and are,

Your most obedient and humble servants,

J. WANTON,

PETER OLIVER,

ROBT. AUCHMUTY,

Commissioners.

To Capt. Robert Keeler.



*The Commissioners, &c., to Admiral Montagu.*

Newport, June 2, 1773.

Sir:—Three of the commissioners met at this place on the 26th ult. ; but as the gentlemen from the southward were not arrived, and daily expected, it was thought by those present, most conducive to His Majesty's service, to delay entering on business till they were joined by their brethren. Your not receiving an answer sooner, to your favor of the 24th of last month, was owing to that reason.

The gentlemen being now on the spot, beg leave to observe to you, that the witnesses you mention, have been examined; and that it will be very agreeable to them to have the pleasure of your company at Newport, whenever it will comport with His Majesty's service in general; but at present, see no immediate occasion for your coming without your ships; and are, with the greatest respect, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servants,

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHIE,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	PETER OLIVER,
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,	

Commissioners.

To John Montagu, Esq.

*Admiral Montagu to the Commissioners, &c.*

Boston, 14th June, 1773.

Gentlemen:—In answer to your letter of the 2d. which I received the 12th, I beg leave to inform you, that as the service will not admit of my being at Rhode Island, this summer, I have sent orders to Capt. Keeler, of His Majesty's ship *Mercure*, to render you every service in his power, in the execution of your commission, agreeably to His Majesty's directions, signified to me, by my lords commissioners of the admiralty, by their order of the 26th of March, 1773, a duplicate of which, I herewith enclose to you; and am, with respect, gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

J. MONTAGU.

To His Majesty's Commissioners, at Rhode Island.

The following evidence was submitted to the commissioners, at this session :

*Deposition of William Dickinson.*

The examination of William Dickinson, late midshipman of His Majesty's schooner, taken on oath, at Newport, in the colony of Rhode Island, this 1st day of June, A. D. 1773, who saith :

That on the 10th day of June, in the year 1772, between the hours of 12 and 1, in the morning, the said schooner, then working in her dock, on Namquit Point, about two miles below Pawtuxet, and not able to get off; the watch being on

deck, as he supposed, gave the alarm that a number of boats were coming down the river.

Upon which, Lieutenant Dudingston went on deck, and hailed the boats, and ordered them to keep off, or he would fire into them; but, as they refused to keep off, we fired at them, and they returned the fire, whereby Lieutenant Dudingston was wounded in the left arm, and in the groin.

They then boarded us, and used us very ill, by beating and knocking down the people; and afterwards by tying them, and throwing them into their boats, the captain of the gang swearing he would give no quarters.

The captain of the gang ordered Lieutenant Dudingston on his knees, and to beg his life.

He said he could not, he was wounded.

Whereupon, the said captain answered, "D—n your blood, you are shot by your own people."

Then they took him into the cabin, where two men dressed his wounds; who, by their behavior, appeared to have some skill in surgery.

And this examine further saith: that while Lieutenant Dudingston's wounds were dressing, those two persons who assumed to be the head sheriff and the captain, demanded the papers belonging to the vessel, which he delivered by Lieutenant Dudingston's order to them; consisting of the lieutenant's commission from the lords of the admiralty; Admiral Montagu's instructions, letters, and other papers; and upon his particularizing those papers as he delivered them, they damned him, and told him they did not come there to receive any instructions from him, but would examine the papers at their leisure, which they put into their pockets, and then carried Lieutenant Dudingston on shore, about two miles from the schooner.

The examine after this continued on board said schooner about three quarters of an hour; and was told by the captain of the gang, that unless he quitted the schooner, he would throw him overboard; during this time, they continued plundering the schooner.

The examine was landed in one of their boats on the shore opposite to the schooner, where he remained some time; and that within an hour after he was landed, he saw the said schooner on fire; and it being then daylight, he saw three of their boats put off from the schooner, full of men; one of which, landed the people at Pawtuxet, and the other two, rowed towards Providence.

This examine further saith: that the schooner when she was burnt, lay about eight or ten miles, to the best of his judgment, from the north end of the island of Prudence; and that several negroes were on board the said schooner; and also rowed the boats which boarded the schooner; but he does not know their names; and he cannot recollect that he saw any of those negroes enter the cabin.

And he also saith, that he does not know the names of any of the persons who boarded and destroyed said schooner, or wounded Lieutenant Dudingston; but that the captain, who was called the captain of the gang, was a well set man, of a swarthy complexion, full face, hoarse voice, and wore a white cap, was well dressed, and appeared rather above the common rank of mankind; and that the greater part of those he saw on board the schooner, and in the cabin, were persons well dressed; many of them with ruffled shirts, and appeared as store-keepers, merchants or masters of vessels.

The person who was called the head sheriff, was a tall, genteel man, dressed in blue clothes, his hair tied behind, and had on a ruffled shirt.

One of the persons who acted as surgeon in dressing Lieutenant Dudingston's wounds, appeared to be about eighteen years of age, very much marked with the small pox; light brown hair, tied behind; about five feet, five or six inches high.

The other, was a very genteel man; appeared to be about twenty-two years of age; his hair tied behind, a thin person, and about five feet, eight or nine inches high.

This examinee further saith: that after he returned from Boston to Providence, a few days after the schooner was destroyed, the first described surgeon met him in one of the streets in Providence, and asked him whether he knew how Lieutenant Dudingston did; but the examinee did not know his name; and further saith not.

W. DICKINSON.

Sworn to, at Newport, on the day and year abovesaid, before—

J. WANTON,

FRED. SMYTHE,

DAN. HORSMANDEN,

PETER OLIVER,

Commissioners.

### *Deposition of Bartholomew Cheever.*

The examination of Bartholomew Cheever, mariner, and late a seamen on board His Majesty's schooner, the Gaspee, taken on oath, at Newport, in the colony of Rhode Island, on the 1st day of June, 1773, who saith:

That on the 9th day of June last, the schooner Gaspee run aground, on her passage to Providence, on a point of land about two or three miles below a small town, and about five miles from the town of Providence.

That about three-quarters after 12 o'clock, the next morning, being the 10th of June, he was standing upon the quarter deck of said schooner, as a sentry; every other person belonging to said schooner, being below, he saw a number of boats coming towards said schooner, which he hailed, but no answer was returned; he then immediately gave notice to Lieutenant Dudingston and the midshipman, who instantly came upon deck.

The boats were again hailed, and the answer returned by some of the people in said boats was, "D—n your blood, we have you now!"

The captain ordered them to keep off; and told them if they did not, he would fire into them.

They answered, they did not care; they would be aboard directly.

The captain then ordered all hands on deck; but the people who were in the boats, boarded the schooner; and as they were entering said schooner, they shot the captain; and afterwards tied the people belonging to said schooner, and carried them on shore, nearly opposite to the schooner; they then broke open the arm-chest, and took possession of the small arms.

And after they had landed all the Gaspee's people, he saw the said schooner on fire; but he knoweth not the names of any of the persons who were concerned in destroying said schooner; and that those who acted as principals, were called the head sheriff and the captain; and one of them was called constable.

And this examinee further saith: that while he was attending upon Lieutenant

Dudingston at a town called Pawtuxet, he saw two of the persons who were concerned in destroying said schooner; but did not know their names. his

BARTHOLOMEW X CHEEVER.  
mark.

Sworn to, at Newport, on the day and year, abovesaid, before—

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHE,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	PETER OLIVER,
	Commissioners.

### *Deposition of John Cole.*

The examination of John Cole, of Providence, in the colony of Rhode Island, Esq., taken on oath in Newport, in said colony, this 3d day of June, A. D. 1773, who saith :

That the evening preceding the burning the Gaspee, I spent at Mr. James Sabin's tavern, in Providence, abovesaid, in company with several gentlemen.

About 7 or 8 o'clock, hearing a noise in the street of said town, I pulled back the shutter of one of the windows next the street, and saw several men, about twelve, as I apprehend, but did know one of them, collected together. Upon which, I made inquiry of the gentlemen in the room, if they knew the occasion; and was answered by one of the company, but whom, I cannot particularly recollect, that he hoped they were not upon any design of mischief.

To which, I replied, "I believed not; if they were on such a design, they would not be so public."

Some short time after, I heard a drum beat in the street; upon which, I again opened the shutter, saw three or four boys passing along with the drum, and no other persons.

Between 11 and 12 o'clock, in the same evening, I left the said tavern; at which time, I found the street clear and still; I then observed, that I believed if any mischief was intended, they had thought better of it, and gone home.

Early in that evening, and before I first opened the shutter, I heard, but whether after I joined the company or in the street going to said tavern, I cannot recollect, that the Gaspee was then run on shore; neither do I remember the person giving me that information; I never heard any intimation of an intention to burn the Gaspee; nor do I know any person or persons concerned in that transaction, or ever heard who they were.

The place where the said Gaspee was burnt, was in the township of Warwick, in the county of Kent, in the colony of Rhode Island.

From the cove near Mr. Samuel Tompkins's house, to the place where the Gaspee schooner was burnt, is, according to the best judgment I can form, near, if not quite, four leagues; and further, this deponent saith not. JOHN COLE.

Taken, and sworn to, at Newport, on the day and year before written, before—

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHE,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	PETER OLIVER,
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,	

Commissioners.

*Deposition of John Andrews.*

The examination of John Andrews, Esq., of Cranston, in the colony of Rhode Island, taken on oath, at Newport, in said colony, on the 5th day of June, 1773, who declares and says :

That he was in the town of Providence the night that the schooner Gaspee was destroyed, at a tavern, where he spent the evening with a number of gentlemen ; and after supper, he heard a drum beat in the street, and inquired into the cause thereof ; and received for answer, that it had been training day, and the people were breaking up their frolic ; about 12 o'clock, he repaired to his lodgings, it being very dark, and went to bed.

The next morning, the sun about half an hour high, was surprised with hearing some persons say to each other, that the said schooner was burnt ; upon which, he opened the window, and saw on the other side of the street, two black fellows and one white man, talking together.

I inquired what was the matter ; and received for an answer from the white man, that some people in the night had burned the man-of-war schooner.

Upon which, he immediately dressed himself, and waited upon the Deputy Governor ; and he informed him he had heard the news, and sent for his horse, in order to repair to the spot, and inquire of Capt. Dudingston and his people, and find, if possible, the persons that had done the mischief.

We procured a horse, as soon as possible, and went to Pawtuxet, where we found Mr. Dudingston badly wounded ; and we saw the said schooner on shore, about a mile and a half distant, which appeared by the smoke, to be on fire, and burnt down almost to the water's edge.

The Deputy Governor, in his hearing, inquired of Mr. Dudingston, if he had any knowledge of the persons that committed this trespass.

He made answer, that he should render no account about the matter, until he appeared before a court martial, where he expected to be tried, if he survived his wounds, and such account might be made use of, to his advantage ; but was willing that his people should be sworn ; and had them called in, and cautioned them to swear to the truth.

He then, as His Majesty's commissary for the colony, conferred with Mr. Dudingston, concerning saving such guns and stores as could be saved, and agreed to save all that was possible to be saved, and procured a man to undertake the business.

And he likewise requested that his people might be taken care of, and sent on board His Majesty's sloop, called the Beaver, then at Newport, and procured a small vessel, to carry them on purpose.

He visited Mr. Dudingston, several times, and requested of him, if he had any knowledge of such persons as had done the mischief, that he would inform him thereof, that the persons might be brought to condign punishment ; but he always declined saying anything in the affair.

And further, that early in the morning, after the said schooner was destroyed, he met with Daniel Jenekes, Esq., chief justice of the court of common pleas, in the county of Providence, who said that he had informed the Deputy Governor of what had happened the preceding night, respecting the Gaspee ; and then urged that the

Deputy Governor and this examine, would repair immediately to Pawtuxet, and examine such of the Gaspee's men as could be found, while it was fresh in their memories, that the villains might be discovered, and not the whole colony blamed.

JOHN ANDREWS.

The foregoing examination was taken and sworn to, at Newport, on the day and year aforewritten, before—

J. WANTON,	PETER OLIVER,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	ROBT. AUCHMUTY,
	Commissioners.

### *Deposition of Justice Helme.*

The examination of James Helme, Esq., of South Kingstown, in the county of Kings county, and colony of Rhode Island, &c., taken on oath, at Newport, in said colony, this 5th day of June, A. D. 1773, who saith :

That in October following the burning the schooner Gaspee, the superior court of judicature, &c., for said colony, sat at East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, at which court I presided, being the eldest justice of the same, present.

Before the sitting of said court, I had heard of the said schooner's being burnt, and of Lieutenant Dudingston's being wounded. I did not give any charge to the grand jury at that court; nor is it usual in this colony to give either general or special charges to grand juries.

But before the meeting of said court, I informed my brethren, that if I presided at said court, I fully intended to give the affair of burning the said schooner and wounding the lieutenant, in charge to the jury; but having been nearly two months on the circuit, it entirely went out of my mind, when the grand jury was empannelled; and there being no business laid before said jury, they were soon dismissed. Immediately after, I recollected the omission of what I intended; and then mentioned to some of the other judges of the court, that I had entirely forgotten to give the business of destroying the Gaspee and wounding Lieutenant Dudingston, in charge to the grand jury, which I had designated; and further, this deponent saith not.

JAMES HELME.

Taken, and sworn to, at Newport, on the day and year first within written, before—

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHE,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	PETER OLIVER,
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,	

Commissioners.

### *Deposition of George Brown.*

The examination of George Brown, of Providence, in the colony of Rhode Island, Esq., taken on oath, at Newport, in said colony, this 5th day of June, A. D. 1773, who saith :

That the evening preceeding the burning of the schooner Gaspee, he, with several other gentlemen, met at the house of Mr. James Sabin, in Providence, aforesaid, it

being a public house, to spend the evening together. About 10 o'clock, as I suppose, I heard a drum beat in the street; I asked the reason of said drum beating; on which, some one of the company, but whom, I do not recollect, answered, that there were some boys beating the drum, which was common for two or three years past, in summer evenings, in said town; it is also usual for the young people to assemble, to learn to beat a drum, and other military exercises.

Before sunset, that evening, I had heard that the said schooner was aground; but had not then the least suspicion that any mischief was intended to be done to said schooner, or any body on board of her; not having heard any intimation to that purpose.

And I further declare, that I have not any knowledge, directly or indirectly, of any plans being laid, to burn or otherwise destroy said schooner, or of any person concerned in so vile a crime, or wounding Lieutenant Dudingston.

Some time after I heard the drum, I had occasion to go to the door, when I plainly saw about ten or a dozen boys, with a drum; and am confident there was not at that time one man among them; nor had I, during that evening, any conception of any mischief intended.

The place where said schooner was burnt, is in the township of Warwick, in the county of Kent, in the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. From the dwelling house of Mr. Samuel Tompkins to the place where said schooner was burnt, is, according to my judgment, about nine miles; and further, this deponent saith not.

G. BROWN.

Taken, and sworn to, at Newport, on the day and year above written, before—

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHIE,
DAN. HORSMANDEX,	PETER OLIVER,
ROBT. AUCIMUTY,	

Commissioners.

### *Deposition of Samuel Faulkner, relative to the Negro Aaron Briggs.*

The examination of Samuel Faulkner, of Bristol, in the colony of Rhode Island, and laborer, taken upon oath, at Newport, the 11th day of June, 1773, who saith:

That he lived with Mr. Samuel Tompkins, of the island of Prudence, in said colony, from the 1st of April, 1772, to the last of July, following, and knoweth a negro fellow named Aaron, who lived with said Tompkins part of said time; and, as he understood, was an indented servant to said Tompkins.

That several persons came over from Bristol, to said island, and said that the Gaspee schooner was burnt two or three days before, which was the first time he heard of it.

That he never requested the said Aaron to go with him from Prudence to Bristol, in any part of the aforementioned time of his living with the said Samuel Tompkins, having then no occasion to go to Bristol.

That when the people of Bristol gave an account of the burning of said schooner, Aaron was present; and did not either at that time, or at any other time afterwards, discover that he had any knowledge of the destroying of said schooner.

That when the people from Bristol gave said account, they mentioned the par-

ticular night on which said schooner was burnt; and to the best of his recollection, Aaron milked the cows after sunset that night, and was at home early the next morning; and therefore concluded that Aaron was at his master's house the whole of that night.

That he does not remember his telling the said Aaron he would ask his master to let him go with him to Bristol, in any part of the above mentioned time of his living with said Tompkins; but well remembers that the summer before, when he also lived with the said Tompkins, that he asked him once or twice to let Aaron go with him to Bristol.

That he never was in company with Aaron, when Mr. Potter, of Bristol, was present; but has been in Mr. Potter's rope-walk in Bristol, in company with Aaron; neither was he ever on a wharf in Bristol, with Aaron, nor at any time pointed out Mr. Potter to said Aaron; and he does not recollect that when he was in Mr. Potter's rope-walk, as aforesaid, that he told said Aaron whose it was; and that when they went to Bristol together the summer before the Gaspee was burnt, they landed on the shore.

That when Aaron ran away from his said master, he stole his small boat, which lay on the shore, and went away in her; and that when the people from Bristol brought the said news of the Gaspee's being burnt, she was then lying on the shore, with her seams much opened; that some time after this, and before Aaron stole her, she was repaired.

That he does not remember that the people from Bristol mentioned any persons's names of being concerned in destroying said schooner; and he does not know any of the persons who burnt said schooner.

And this examine further saith: that the said Aaron was looked upon by the people where he worked, as a person much addicted to lying.

SAMUEL FAULKNER.

Taken, and sworn to, at Newport, on the day and year, above mentioned, before—

J. WANTON,  
FRED. SMYTHE,  
ROBT. AUCIMUTY,  
Commissioners.

### *Deposition of Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.*

Darius Sessions, Esq., of Providence, on oath declares and says:

That, in the month of March, A. D. 1772, or thereabouts, sundry of the principal inhabitants of the town of Providence, made application to the deponent, in writing, representing that there was, and had been for some time past, a schooner cruising in the Narragansett River, that disturbed all the vessels and boats that were passing therein, by chasing, firing at and searching them; and often treating the people aboard of them, with the most abusive language; and that the commander showed no commission, to support such proceedings.

They therefore, requested me to inform the Governor thereof, that if he knew not who he was, or if he had not been acquainted with his commission and authority, he would be pleased to make inquiry therein.

Soon after I received said writing, hearing that the Chief Justice was in the



court house, near by, I wrote a line on the back of said paper, and sent it to him, desiring his opinion in the affair; it was soon returned, with something written under mine, to this purpose, viz: that it was his opinion, that for any person, whatever, to come into the colony, and in the body thereof, to exercise any authority by force of arms, or otherwise, without showing his commission to the Governor; and (if a custom house officer,) without being sworn into his office, was guilty of a trespass, if not piracy; all which proceedings, to the best of my remembrance, I afterwards sent to the Governor.

And to the best of his remembrance, the aforesaid complaint was signed by the following persons: JOHN BROWN, AMBROSE PAGE,  
NATHAN ANGELL, DARIUS SESSIONS,  
JOSEPH NIGHTINGALE, JAMES LOVETT,  
JOB SMITH, NICHOLAS BROWN.  
THOMAS GREENE,

Newport, June 12th, 1772.

Sworn to, before—

J. WANTON, Governor.

On the 7th of June, the commissioners requested the personal attendance of the justices of the Superior Court, of the colony.

The design of the commissioners, will appear in the following papers:

*The Justices of the Superior Court of the Colony of Rhode Island, to the Commissioners, &c.*

The honorable the commissioners, appointed by royal commission, for examining into the attacking and destroying His Majesty's armed schooner, the Gaspee, commanded by Lieutenant Dudingston, and wounding the said lieutenant, having laid before us, justices of the Superior Court of Judicature, court of assize, &c., within and throughout the colony of Rhode Island, two examinations of Aaron Briggs, two examinations of Patrick Earle, the examination of Peter May, the examination of William Dickinson, the deposition of Samuel Tompkins, Samuel Thurston; and of Somerset and Jack, indented servants, for our advisement thereon:

It appeareth to us, from our consideration had thereupon, that no particular person or persons are made mention of, as being concerned in that atrocious crime, except in the examination of Aaron Briggs, a negro; and of Peter May, one of the Gaspee's people.

The confession of the said Aaron, upon his first examination, was made in consequence of illegal threats from Capt. Linzee, of hanging him (the said Aaron) at the yard arm, if he would not discover who the persons were, that destroyed the Gaspee; and besides, most of the circumstances and facts related in both of his examinations, are contradictions repugnant to each other; and many of them, impossible in their nature.

It is evident from the depositions of Tompkins, Thurston and Aaron's two fellow servants, that he was at home the whole of that night on which the Gaspee was attacked; especially, as there was no boat on that part of the island, in which he could possibly pass the bay, in the manner by him described.

In short, another circumstance which renders the said Aaron's testimony extremely suspicious, is Capt. Linzee's absolutely refusing to deliver him up to be examined by one of the justices of the Superior Court, when legally demanded.

Peter May, in his deposition, mentions one person only by the name of Greene; whom, he says, he saw before, on board the Gaspee; but the family of Greene being very numerous in this colony, and the said Peter not giving the Christian name, or describing him in such a manner as he could be found out, it is impossible for us to know, at present, the person referred to.

Upon the whole, we are all of opinion, that the several matters and things contained in said depositions, do not induce a probable suspicion, that the persons mentioned therein, or either or any of them, are guilty of the crime, aforesaid.

It is, however, the fixed determination of the Superior Court to exert every legal effort in detecting and bringing to condign punishment, the persons concerned in destroying the schooner Gaspee.

And if the honorable commissioners are of a different sentiment, we should be glad to receive their opinion, for our better information. S. HOPKINS,

Chief Justice.

J. HELME,	} Assistant	
M. BOWLER,		} Justices.
J. C. BENNETT,		

To the Honorable His Majesty's Commissioners.  
Rhode Island, June 11, 1773.

*The Commissioners, &c., to the Justices of the Superior Court  
of Rhode Island.*

Newport, June 12, 1773.

Gentlemen:—We, the commissioners, appointed by His Majesty for inquiring into the attacking, plundering and burning His Majesty's schooner, called the Gaspee, and wounding the lieutenant, late commandant of said schooner, received your report on the examinations by us laid before you.

In the conclusion of the same report, you are pleased to say, if we differ from you in sentiment, you should be glad to receive our opinion, for your better information.

As by our instructions, we are required to lay before the civil magistrates all such informations as we shall receive; and as it is your proper office to judge and act thereupon, in such manner as you conceive most likely to answer the ends of public justice, therefore, we decline giving any sentiment or opinion in the matter; and are, with much respect, gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servants,

J. WANTON,	FRED. SMYTHE,
DAN. HORSMANDEN,	PETER OLIVER,
ROBT. AUCHMUTY,	

Commissioners.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., and the three assistant justices.

The following request of Chief Justice Smythe, was thought worthy of preservation :

*Chief Justice Smythe to the Commissioners, &c.*

Newport, June 23d, 1773.

Gentlemen:—I desire the enclosed, may be inserted in the journal of our proceedings. I am sorry it is not in my power to meet you, this morning. As this minute contains only the plain facts, I hope there will be no objection to the request of—

Gentlemen, yours, most heartily,

FRED. SMYTHE.

To the commissioners, Gov. Wanton, Mr. Horsmanden and Mr. Auchmuty.

“ June 21.—Chief Justice Smythe requested the board that some particulars of an attack of an armed schooner, called the *St. John*, by the gunner of Fort George, in this colony, in consequence of an order signed by two magistrates, dated July, 1764, had been imparted to him on Saturday last; and conceiving that great irregularity, violence and disorder, accompanied that transaction, and might be considered as a leading cause to the destruction of the *Gaspee*, requested the board to take the affair into consideration, and receive such information as might be procured on the subject.

Whereupon, Gov. Wanton acquainted the board that his son was Deputy Governor of the colony at the time of the above transaction, and could fully explain the affair; that the said gunner of the fort was in town, and might be called upon; then the board agreed to take the matter into consideration to-morrow morning.

June 22.—The board being reminded by Mr. Smythe of his motion yesterday, produced the original order, signed by the magistrates; and inquiring if the Governor's son, or the gunner, had been applied to, for information on the subject.

Mr. Auchmuty proposed that the sense of the board should first be taken whether the affair should be at all inquired into, or not.

Whereupon, Gov. Wanton and Chief Justice Horsmanden were of opinion, that no notice whatever of the attack of the schooner *St. John*, ought to be taken by this board.

Mr. Smythe, on the contrary, was of opinion, that a strict inquiry ought to be made on the subject, and inserted in the report. Mr. Auchmuty doubted.”

The commissioners probably closed their labors on the 23d of June; on which the following letter, enclosing the report of their proceedings, was sent home :

*The Commissioners &c., to Lord Dartmouth.*

Newport, June 22, 1773.

My Lord:—So much time being necessarily spent in the business of His Majesty's royal commission, renders our return to our several colonies highly expedient,

and having executed the same to the utmost of our abilities, we beg leave to enclose to Your Lordship, a report thereon.

Your Lordship is very sensible that for the execution of the trust His Majesty hath been graciously pleased to honor us with, it was strictly necessary to have the assistance of secretaries, messengers to summon witnesses, or go express on the business, some constant attendants and stationery. No particular mode having yet been pointed out to us, for defraying these expenses by government, we have discharged the same, except the secretaries, Mr. Brenton and Clarke; but at this, our second meeting, we found one of those gentlemen sufficient for the same.

Mr. Oliver would have joined us in the report to His Majesty, if the duty of his office had not indispensably required him to take his leave of us a few days since.

My Lord, as we have used the utmost assiduity, and made the strongest possible efforts to the thorough accomplishment of the end and design of the commission; though not attended with that success most ardently wished for by all, yet we humbly hope His Majesty will be graciously pleased to accept of our services and endeavors therein, which will reflect the greatest honor on—

Your Lordship's most respectful, and most obedient humble servants,

J. WANTON,

FRED. SMYUTHE,

DAN. HORSMANDEN,

ROBT. AUCHMUTY,

Commissioners.

To the Earl of Dartmouth.

*The Report of the Commissioners, &c., to the King.*

“ To the King's Most Excellent Majesty :

May it please Your Majesty :—In obedience to your royal commission and instructions, and from a due sense of the duty therein enjoined on us, we have used our utmost care and diligence for the purpose of inquiring into, and reporting to Your Majesty, all the circumstances relative to the attacking, plundering and burning the schooner Gaspee, wounding Lieutenant Dudingston, and all other matters in the same commission and instructions contained.

We now beg leave, most humbly, to report to Your Majesty, that on the earliest intelligence of Your Majesty's commands, we, with the utmost dispatch in our power, repaired to Newport, where, on the 5th of January last, Your Majesty's royal commission was published in the presence of a large number of people; who, on the occasion, behaved with great propriety.

We next proceeded to give public notice of the subject matter of the commission, and our being assembled for the execution thereof; requesting all persons who could give us any information relative to such matters, forthwith so to do.

We beg leave to observe to Your Majesty, that the place where the Gaspee was destroyed, is, at least, twenty-three miles from Newport, and the accident of her running aground but a few hours before the attack, takes away all possibility of the inhabitants of the town being instrumental in, or privy to, the destruction of her; nor have we any evidence, even of the slightest kind, to induce suspicion to the contrary.

We further beg leave humbly to represent to Your Majesty, that in the part of our duty contained under the inquiry into the assembling, arming and leading on the people to attack the Gaspee; also, the concerting and preparing the same, we have been particularly attentive.

But after our utmost efforts, we are not able to discover any evidence of either; and therefore, are humbly of opinion, both from the unforeseen event of the Gaspee's running on shore, the suddenness of the undertaking and its accomplishment, and total want of evidence of even an intention to destroy her, though many witnesses of credit, as well inhabitants of Providence as other places, were strictly examined on this head, that the whole was conducted suddenly and secretly.

On the 10th of June last, about 1 in the morning, a number of armed people, many of whom, by their dress, appeared much above the rank of common people, and were accompanied by several negroes and others, boarded the schooner Gaspee, then on shore, on a point of land, called Namquit, which is within the township of Warwick, and county of Kent, in this colony, and about six miles from the town of Providence: and after wounding the lieutenant, and using the crew with great barbarity, first plundered and then burnt the schooner, taking the lieutenant and his people on shore, to a place called Pawtuxet, about two miles distant.

With respect to the conduct of the magistrates, on the morning of the 11th of June. The Deputy Governor, being informed of the destruction of the Gaspee, the lieutenant being wounded on shore, at Pawtuxet, first inquired if any of the offenders were known; and receiving no information of such, immediately repaired to the place, and finding the lieutenant in a dangerous condition, offered him every proper assistance; to which the lieutenant replied, he wanted no favors for himself, but desired his people might be taken care of, and sent on board the Beaver; which was accordingly done.

The Deputy Governor then told the lieutenant the design of his visit, was not only to afford him any assistance, but to procure such a declaration from his own mouth, respecting the transaction, that the offenders might be brought to justice.

To which, the lieutenant answered, he would not give him any account of the matter. First, because of his indisposition; and, secondly, it was his duty to forbear any thing of that nature, until he had done it unto a court martial.

The Deputy Governor then asked the lieutenant if he was willing that his officers and men should be examined; to which, after some refusal, he consented. They were accordingly examined on oath, but were not able to give information against any person in particular.

Mr. Andrews, judge of the court of vice admiralty, in this colony, attended the Deputy Governor, and behaved very properly on the occasion.

The same day, the Deputy Governor, by letter, informed the Governor of what had happened, and of every step he had taken as a magistrate, and sent him all the depositions. In another letter, of the 12th of June, he further informed the Governor, it was the unanimous opinion of a great number of the most respectable inhabitants of Providence, that a proclamation, with a proper reward, should, by the Governor be issued, for the apprehending and bringing to justice the persons concerned; which was accordingly done.

In July, following, a warrant was granted, for apprehending one Aaron Briggs, a negro, then on board Your Majesty's ship, the Beaver, commanded by Capt. Linzee, for being concerned in burning the Gaspee, and wounding the lieutenant. The same was delivered to a sheriff; who, after making his business known, was refused admittance into said ship; but the captain was not then on board. Very soon after such refusal, the captain was informed of said warrant, and requested to deliver up the negro, whom he acknowledged was on board; but treated the civil authority in a most contemptuous and unjustifiable manner.

Here the civil magistrates ceased their endeavors to discover the offenders; for, though there was a superior court, held in and for the county of Kent, in October following the burning the *Gaspee*, at which the second justice presided, the chief justice being absent, not any charge was given to the grand jury, to inquire into that atrocious breach of law, nor any information thereof, by the then acting attorney general; nor was any thing done thereon, that we can discover.

Having now laid before Your Majesty, the substance of the proofs relative to the destruction of the *Gaspee*, the barbarity and insolence exercised upon the commander and seamen belonging to her, with other necessary matters, we proceed, in obedience to Your Majesty's directions, to assign some probable causes, which we conceive, might lead to so bold a violation of Your Majesty's laws and authority.

The great impatience of some people, in this colony, under any restraint of trade, however illicit; the check which Your Majesty's navy officers have put to such trade, by the necessary aid and assistance which they have afforded the revenue officers; the plundering and burning a sloop, called the *Liberty*, in this harbor, in July, 1769, then employed in Your Majesty's revenue service, and commanded by William Reid, liberating a vessel and cargo, then under seizure by said commander, and in a violent and outrageous manner assaulting and detaining him in this town, in duress, till the accomplishment of the above facts; the same night, dragging two boats, belonging to said sloop, through the streets, and burning them; and the perpetrators of the above outrage, escaped with impunity; not one person being so much as apprehended on this occasion.

It must be further, with humble submission to Your Majesty, remarked, that it does not appear to us, that any complaint or information was given to any peace officer or other magistrate, against any person, whatever, as concerned in the above transaction, excepting four depositions, taken before a single magistrate; and which do not appear to have been laid before the Governor and Council, or to have had any effect.

Certain persons, principal inhabitants of the town of Providence, in March, preceding the burning of the *Gaspee*, complained to the Deputy Governor, also an inhabitant of that place, against the conduct of Lieutenant Dudingston, for disturbing and obstructing their vessels and boats, firing at and searching them, without showing any commission for so doing; and requested the Deputy Governor to inform the Governor thereof, that he might inquire into the said lieutenant's authority; on which, the Deputy Governor laid the same before the Chief Justice, also an inhabitant of the town of Providence, for his opinion, how to conduct in the affair; to which, he soon returned an answer, to the following purpose: it was his opinion, "that for any person, whatever, to come into this colony, and in the body thereof, to exercise any authority by force of arms, or otherwise, without showing his commission to the Governor, and if a custom house officer, without being sworn into his office, was guilty of a trespass, if not piracy."

But what effect such opinion might have on the minds of the perpetrators of the crime, we must most humbly submit. If Lieutenant Dudingston, on his first arrival in the harbor of Newport, had waited on the Governor, acquainting him with his power and authority, and thereby early made his duty a matter of notoriety, he would, at least, have acted a prudent part; but whether his duty obliged him so to do, we do not presume to determine.

There is also too much reason to believe, that in some instances Lieutenant Dudingston, from an intemperate, if not a reprehensible zeal to aid the revenue service, exceeded the bounds of his duty.

After exerting ourselves to the utmost of our abilities, to collect evidence against the persons concerned in burning the *Gaspee*, and wounding the lieutenant, and judging that we had got all there was any probability of obtaining, we laid such before the Deputy Governor, the Chief Justice of the colony, and three of his associates; among which testimonies, was Aaron's, the negro; wherein, some persons are expressly named and charged as guilty; and Mr. Dickinson's, late midshipman of the *Gaspee*, and on board at the time she was destroyed, very particularly described others.

The justices were then informed, that the same witness was now present, and might be by them re-examined.

Soon afterwards, at the request of the judges, we also delivered them other depositions, which had been laid before us by the Governor, and which tended to discredit the testimony of said Aaron. The day following, we received their report in the words following:

"The honorable the commissioners, appointed by royal commission, for examining into the attacking and destroying His Majesty's armed schooner, the *Gaspee*, commanded by Lieutenant Dudingston, and wounding the said lieutenant, having laid before us, justices of the Superior Court of Judicature, court of assize, &c., within and throughout the colony of Rhode Island, two examinations of Aaron Briggs, two examinations of Patrick Earle, the examination of Peter May, the examination of William Dickinson, the depositions of Samuel Tompkins, Samuel Thurston, and of Somerset and Jack, indented servants, for our advisement thereon:

It appeareth unto us, from due consideration had thereupon, that no particular person or persons are made mention of as being concerned in that atrocious crime, except in the examination of Aaron Briggs, a negro, and of Peter May, one of the *Gaspee's* people.

The confession of the said Aaron, upon his first examination, was made in consequence of illegal threats from Capt. Linzee, of hanging him (the said Aaron) at the yard arm, if he would not discover who the persons were, that destroyed the *Gaspee*; and besides, most of the circumstances and facts related in both of his examinations, are contradictions repugnant to each other, and many of them impossible in their nature.

It is evident from the depositions of Tompkins, Thurston, and Aaron's two fellow servants, that he was at home the whole of that night on which the *Gaspee* was attacked; especially, as there was no boat on that part of the island, in which he could pass the bay in the manner by him described.

In short, another circumstance which renders the said Aaron's testimony extremely suspicious, is Capt. Linzee's absolutely refusing to deliver him up to be examined by one of the justices of the said Superior Court, when legally demanded.

Peter May, in his deposition, mentions one person only, by the name of Greene, whom, he says, he saw before on board the *Gaspee*; but the family of Greene being very numerous in this colony, and the said Peter not giving the Christian name, or describing him in such a manner as he could be found out, it is impossible for us to know at present, the person referred to.

Upon the whole, we are all of opinion, that the several matters and things contained in said depositions, do not induce a probable suspicion, that the persons mentioned therein, or either or any of them, are guilty of the crime, aforesaid.

It is, however, the fixed determination of the Superior Court, to exert every legal effort in detecting and bringing to condign punishment, the persons concerned in destroying the schooner *Gaspee*.

And if the honorable commissioners are of a different sentiment, we should be glad to receive their opinion, for our better information."

To the latter part of which, we answered:

"That, by our instructions, we were commanded to lay before the civil magistrates all such information as we should receive; and as it was their proper office to act thereupon, in such manner as they conceive most likely to answer the ends of public justice, we declined giving any sentiment or opinion in the matter."

Touching the depositions of Aaron, the negro, we humbly conceive it our duty to declare to Your Majesty, that the conduct of Capt. Linzee tended too strongly to extort from a weak or wicked mind, declarations not strictly true; that some parts of said depositions falsify others; that allowing the account he gave of the time he left the island called Prudence, the place of his residence, on the night the Gaspee was burnt, and his return thither, to be true, or even near the truth, must render his being at the taking and destroying her, totally impossible; the distance being so great between Namquit Point and said island.

In addition to all which, there is full and satisfactory evidence, to prove him, the whole of that night, to have been at home; and the request which he deposed was made him, to carry a person off said island that night, and which he declared was the occasion of his going from home, proved, on the examination of the very person, to be an absolute falsehood; and therefore, we are most humbly of opinion, no credit is due to said Aaron's testimony.

May it please Your Majesty, the civil magistrates being entrusted with the power of apprehending and committing; and having determined against both, upon the evidence before them, and there being no probability of our procuring any further light on the subject, determines our inquiry.

All which, is submitted to Your Majesty's royal wisdom.

J. WANTON,

FRED. SMYTHE,

DAN. HORSMANDEN,

ROBET. AUCHMUTY,

To His Majesty.

Commissioners.

Newport, Rhode Island, June 22, 1773.

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*Chief Justice Horsmanden to the Earl of Dartmouth.*

New York, 20th February, 1773.

My Lord:—On the 21st of January last, I had the honor of addressing Your Lordship, in conjunction with the rest of the commissioners, at Rhode Island, giving some account of our proceedings, and the reasons that induced us to adjourn to the 26th of May next.

On my arrival at that place, on the 31st of December, I was surprised to find that the main object of our errand was become public, which, in prudence, was to be kept secret; nevertheless, Your Lordship's letter to Governor Wanton, was published in the Boston weekly paper, and spread industriously over all New England.

However amazing to us, upon inquiry, it came out, that the Governor had communicated it to his Assembly, who had got it printed; upon expostulating with the Governor upon it, he said, he by law was obliged to communicate all dispatches from the ministry to his corporation, and sworn so to do; that such dispatches were usually directed to the Governor and Company.

Upon inquiry how Your Lordship's packet was directed, neither he, nor his secretary could inform us; the superscription, they said, was mislaid, and not to be found; but that this was not so directed, as the Governor said, I inferred from its being addressed to him (sir).

My Lord, as to the Government (if it deserves that name), it is a downright democracy; the Governor is a mere nominal one, and therefore a cipher, without



power or authority; entirely controlled by the populace, elected annually, as all other magistrates and officers whatsoever.

The Governor treated the commissioners with great decency and respect; and to do that gentleman justice, behaved with great propriety, as a commissioner, except his communicating Your Lordship's letter to the corporation; which, indeed, he seemed constrained to do, under the above circumstances.

To show that the Governor has not the least power or authority, he could not command the sheriff or constable to attend us; he prevailed with them, indeed; but in expectation of being paid their daily wages by the commissioners, so that they were hired for this service, at our expense; and even for expresses sent to summon witnesses, the commissioners found it necessary to advance their own money; also for the very fire-wood expended for our accommodation in the council chamber, on this occasion. This, My Lord, we readily disbursed, and all other contingences, relying upon the honor of government.

We found, My Lord, that the Governor, upon the first notice of this piece of villainy, had issued a proclamation, offering £100 reward, for a discovery, but without effect.

My Lord, it is suggested in the commission, that the people assembled upon this adventure, in the town of Newport, and the places adjacent, by beat of drum, the which was intimated, doubtless, through misinformation; for it comes out, that it was at Providence, on the Narragansett River, about thirty miles from Newport, and seven or eight from the place where the Gaspee was aground. The news of which, was soon communicated to that town; and there it is supposed, the people assembled and soon formed their scheme, to man six or seven boats on purpose to attack her at that disadvantage.

My Lord, the colony of Rhode Island is branched out into three divisions; Newport, on Rhode Island; Providence and Warwick, more inland, adjoining to the Massachusetts colony. At these three places, the Assembly is held, alternately; but Newport is reputed the seat of government; between the two former, there is an emulation, with respect to their trade, and a kind of enmity, likewise; so that they do not generally correspond cordially. Providence is thirty miles distant from it, so that it seems most unlikely that the people of Newport could be concerned in so sudden and precipitate an enterprise; nor was the fact known at Rhode Island, till the day after the treason was committed.

My Lord, as to the negro evidence, which seems to be the foundation of this inquiry, it is much to be suspected, though his story is told with much plausibility, and he pertinaciously repeated it upon examination before the commissioners; and a sailor of the crew of the Gaspee, swore he was one of the negroes after the attack, that rowed the boat which landed part of the Gaspee's crew, near Providence.

But to countervail this information, it was asserted, that the master of this negro, from whom he had escaped on board the man-of-war, with intent to run away, who is a person of undoubted credit, would swear that about 9 o'clock that night the Gaspee was destroyed, he ordered this negro to bed, and that he saw him go, accordingly, with his two other negroes, with whom he usually slept; and it was said that these negroes would also depose, that he lay with them all night, till his master called him up in the morning, on business.

My Lord, the commissioners did not enter upon counter evidence, though I, myself, was inclined to do it, as we proceeded; and bring the witnesses face to face,

considering the commission required we should report all the circumstances attending the affair.

Captain Dudingston had been plying upon his business in the Narragansett River, for some time; he had not communicated his commission to the Governor, on his arrival, as Mr. Wanton informed us; Mr. Dudingston had made several seizures of prohibited goods on that station; and on seizing their traffic, might probably have treated the boatmen with severity, roughness and scurrilous language, by which, the people of that place might be provoked to this daring insult and resentment; and not knowing Dudingston bore the King's commission of what he had done, they, as they gave out, looked upon him as pirate, and treated him as such. For, as the Governor informed us, upon complaint of his abuses, as they pretended, he expostulated with Mr. Dudingston, and demanded he would satisfy him as to the commission upon which he acted, which at length he did.

From these three different branches of government, My Lord, there arise three different factions: their election of the chief officers being annual, sometimes one party prevails, perhaps the next year, a different.

I was told by a gentleman of the law there, he had known a land cause of considerable value that had judgment reversed different ways seven or eight times; property being thus rendered wholly insecure, no wonder that persons of property and best sense and most sincerity, among them, have long wished for a change of government, and to be under His Majesty's more immediate protection.

Though by their charter, they are inhibited from passing laws contrary to those of England, but to be near as may be, agreeable to them, yet they seem to have paid little regard to that injunction, as may sufficiently appear upon inspection of the printed book of them; they have never transmitted them for the royal approbation nor indeed, by their charter were they obliged to do so.

Under these circumstances, Your Lordship will not wonder that they are in a state of anarchy; and I assure Your Lordship, that their sister colony Connecticut, is in the same condition in all respects; justice has long since fled that country. I have had an opportunity of being more intimately acquainted with the people of that colony for about thirty years past; having had the honor of attending there twice, upon two royal commissions for determining a controversy between the corporation and a tribe of Indians and the family of the Masons.

Major Mason, a gallant officer of the army, a principal person among the first of the English, who first landed in these parts, fought their battles with the savages, conquered several tribes, became the foster father to the colony; acted with so much generosity, humanity and prudence towards the natives, and so conciliated their friendship and esteem, that, after they had, through his persuasion, granted away great tracts of their lands, to form the newly proposed colony, and to make a sufficient plantation or settlement, the natives prudently thought of falling upon a method of reserving and securing for the future, a sufficiency for the subsistence of their tribe; and putting entire confidence in Major Mason, as their patron and friend (who had treated them with great generosity and humanity), requested that corporation or government, that they might, with their approbation, invest the remainder of their lands in Major Mason and his heirs, as the guardians and trustees of the Mohegan tribe; and that in future, they should be restrained from selling more of their lands without the advice and consent of that family.

Some were afterwards, from time to time, sold, with the consent of the Masons;

and to preserve the fidelity of the Masons, the family was to have an interest in the lands so to be conveyed, coupled with the trust.

For this purpose, My Lord, a deed was executed with solemnity, and by the declared approbation of the corporation, entered upon their records.

Notwithstanding this solemn engagement, so recorded, the heads of this corporation, did, from time to time afterwards, unknown to the Masons, inveigle the Indians to convey to them several tracts of very valuable reserved lands, without the consent of the Masons, and divided them among themselves; and this was the ground of their complaint, upon which those special commissions issued.

Upon the whole, My Lord, I was, and am still of opinion, that the devices in consequence of them, in favor of the corporation, were unjust; for it appeared to me, that the corporation had most shamefully prostituted the good faith and honor of government, by ungratefully and fraudulently wresting many large and valuable tracts from that tribe, and the Masons; and becoming the instruments of impoverishing that honest and worthy family (whose ancestors first founded the colony), in protecting and maintaining their rights, at their own expense, for thirty years past, and hitherto in vain; for the matter still lies before His Majesty and Council, waiting a determination.

Those two colonies, My Lord, commenced their settlements nearly at the same time; their charters bear date one year after the other; and they adjoin each other; the charters are similar; each has a grant of "all royal mines, minerals and precious stones," which may be thought a privilege of too much importance for a subject to enjoy.

My Lord, these colonies united, which as times are so alike in features, temper and disposition, that it were a pity they should remain separate. For, from my knowledge of the people, and credible information from many in each, I am fully persuaded, that the better sort of them have long groaned under their motley administrations, and wish for a deliverance; to be taken more immediately under the protection of the crown. These two, consolidated, might become as respectable a royal government, as any on the continent. The country in both, has a rich soil, abounds in timber fit for ship-building; the country, upon the whole, in my esteem, is superior to any I have seen in my travels, from Boston to Virginia.

But it must be confessed, as to the people, it would require a gentleman of very extraordinary qualifications and abilities, to adventure upon the first arduous task, for modelling them into due subordination and decorum.

I humbly entreat Your Lordship's pardon for trespassing thus much upon Your Lordship's time and patience. I flattered myself that some account of the present as well as former temper and circumstances of these two colonies, might not be unacceptable to you, in Your Lordship's high department; and conclude with the assurance that I am, with the most profound respect, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and obliged humble servant,

DAN. HORSMANDEN.

To the Earl of Dartmouth.

*The Earl of Dartmouth to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Whitehall, April 10, 1773.

Sir:—I have received your letters to me, of the 19th of October, and 30th of January last.

I am very much obliged to you, for the favorable sentiments you are pleased to express for me, in the first of those letters; but I must not omit to observe to you, that the publication in the common newspapers, of parts of my secret and confidential dispatch, of the 4th of September last, addressed personally to yourself, cannot, I fear, be considered as entirely corresponding with those assurances you give me, of paying the strictest attention and deference to such orders as you shall receive from me.

I am sensible, that you could not do otherwise than communicate the substance of that dispatch to the other parts of your corporation; but I refer it to your candor, whether it was proper to give copies of it.

I sincerely hope that it will appear by the report of the commissioners for inquiring into the affair of the Gaspee schooner, that no part of the corporation of the colony of Rhode Island has failed in obedience due to the laws and authority of this kingdom; in the meantime, the King is graciously pleased to approve of the respect shown to his royal commission, and the decency and order with which it was proclaimed.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

DARTMOUTH.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

*Chief Justice Horsmanden to the Earl of Dartmouth.\**

New York, 23d July, 1773.

My Lord:—Your Lordship's favor of the 10th of April last, I was honored with, on my return hither, on the 13th inst.; after the close of our commission, at Rhode Island, concerning the affair of the Gaspee.

It gives me great pleasure, that my representation of the 20th of February, has the honor of Your Lordship's approbation; and now beg leave to observe to Your Lordship, what has occurred to me, after finishing our report. For waiting some days at Newport, for a passage, wind and weather, I was accidentally informed of a piece of evidence, which, had it come to light sooner, would most probably have cut our business shorter.

An officer of a man-of-war, stationed at Newport, to whom the negro Aaron was turned over, informed me that upon his examining the fellow one day, before his master, and his two negroes who came on board, and interrogating face to face, the fellow prevaricated much; but still persisted in the main of his story, notwithstanding confronted by the master, and his two negroes, who declare that he slept with them all that night, on which the Gaspee was destroyed.

The master and his negroes being dismissed, the officer, upon what he had heard, from the master and his negroes, and had observed from the conduct of Aaron, upon the occasion, concluded he was an impostor, and charged him home, as such, and

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\* New York Colonial Documents, Vol. VIII.; from British State Paper Office, 165.

told him he was convinced he was no more concerned in that affair than he himself was; and conjured him to tell the truth; and at length, he confessed it was all a fiction, which he was constrained to, for saving himself from the punishment threatened him on board the other man-of-war, as they had charged him so positively with being one concerned; and therefore thought he must confess himself guilty, and name some principal people as accessories.

My Lord, a few days after the Gaspee was burnt, one of the ships stationed at Newport, went and anchored close by the island called Prudence, where the master of Aaron lived, about seven miles from where the Gaspee lay, and Aaron purposing to run away from his master, went on board in a small canoe; and they rightly guessed of his intention, and threatened to whip him; but on second thoughts, charged him as a confederate in destroying the Gaspee; and if he did not confess and make discovery, they would whip him, and hang him up at the yard arm.

And thus, My Lord, this forced confession of the negro Aaron has been held up by the marine, as a hopeful and sure clue to unravel this mystery of iniquity. The fellow might probably have heard the names of the most noted and principal traders at Providence, and other trading towns in that neighborhood, though he might not know their persons; and one Dr. Weeks, inserted in his list, he might know personally, as an attendant upon his master's family.

But my sentiments upon the whole are, that this daring insult was committed by a number of bold, daring, rash enterprising sailors, collected suddenly from the neighborhood, who banded themselves together, upon this bold enterprize: by whom stimulated for the purpose, I cannot conjecture. They cunningly calculated the attack at a time of night, under the Gaspee's disadvantage, aground, when it was probable the crew would be below deck, and asleep; as was the case, only one sentry on deck; and thus, by surprise, easily boarded and plundered her.

My Lord, I have been two voyages of four hundred miles each, upon this occasion, at great expense; and no small fatigue, for a person of my age, viz.; seventy-six; and I assure Your Lordship, I am already upwards of £200, out of pocket; and am still liable for my proportion with the other commissioners, for the pay of the clerks we found necessary to attend us upon the service; and though we have not had the wished for success, we hope His Majesty will graciously accept our sincere endeavors.

My Lord, I have lately received advice that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to sign a warrant for my salary, as chief justice, which further adds to the obligations Your Lordship has conferred upon me, which I cannot but esteem with the utmost gratitude.

I am, with profound respect, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obliged and dutiful, humble servant,

DAN. HORSMANDEN.

To the Earl of Dartmouth.

The following letter, which is printed in the New York colonial documents, is here inserted to show that Chief Justice Horsmanden, of New York, one of the royal commissioners, to inquire into the destruction of the Gaspee, had not, in 1777, or

five years after the commission was held in Newport, been paid his expenses for that service.

*Chief Justice Horsmanden to Governor Tryon.*

New York, 19th April, 1777.

Honored Sir:—Your Excellency well remembers what circumstances you found me in, on your arrival in this government; that I was then chief justice of the province, and had been so for eight or ten years (as my memory serves me), and had no other allowance on the Assembly for the support of the dignity of that office, than a miserable pittance of £300 a year, this currency, and the fees of the office, trifling and insignificant; but upon Your Excellency's recommendation home, His Majesty was pleased to allow me £500, sterling, a year, which I was to receive half yearly, on the commissioners of trade at Boston: which I did, to the time of their removal to Halifax: since which, has incurred one year and a half, the beginning of this month; but I am much at a loss how to apply for it; but as the commissioners are now in London, I have written to them for information.

When the duties arisen by trade, fell, the commissioners had directions from the lords of the treasury, to give drafts upon them for the salaries of the officers of government, of which I have had two, the salaries being payable half yearly.

Your Excellency well remembers that three or four years ago (I think), the King's special commission was sent over by Lord Dartmouth, then secretary of state, empowering the persons therein named (of which I was one), to inquire into the affair of the destruction of His Majesty's schooner, the *Gaspee*, at Rhode Island.

Your Excellency knew the state of health I was in, at the time I embarked for Newport, much enfeebled by the rheumatism, the time of year in December, when it is generally expected the river is full of ice. Myself unable to walk without help, and at a time of life drawing near to four-score; but as Lord Dartmouth's directions were to proceed immediately to that place, in order to execute that commission, I did not hesitate to undertake it; but was obliged to take with me my wife, carriage and two horses, without which, I could have been of no use.

After passing several weeks there, and doing little to the purpose, the commissioners found it necessary to adjourn over to the next year, which occasioned a second voyage, under the like circumstances; and at length the commissioners were obliged to close the commission, having not been able to make any discovery, to answer the intent of the commission; upon which occasion, I expended upwards of £200, of my own money, which remains out of pocket to this day: and hitherto, my trouble for nothing.

Upon the proceedings of the commissioners being sent home, Lord Dartmouth directed the commissioners to send home their accounts of the expenses they had been at. It was imagined with a view to compel Rhode Island government to discharge them; but if that was the intent, the alterations of the circumstances of that government in this time of confusion, that expectation is at an end; and in the anarchy and distraction which now surrounds us, and the great difficulty in getting money amongst us, which is our due, Your Excellency knows how needful it is to be solicitous for it, where it is due in other quarters.

I must humbly entreat Your Excellency to represent my case to Lord George Germain, hoping, from his clemency and goodness, to have a method pointed out, by which I may have satisfaction made in the foregoing particulars.

I am, with the greatest respect, sir,

Your Excellency's most devoted, obedient, humble servant,

DAN. HORSMANDEX.

(Referred to the Right Honorable Lord George Germain,  
by William Tryon).

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The meeting of the royal commission at Newport, the proceedings of which have been given, attracted great attention throughout the English colonies. The extracts we have printed from the Boston newspapers, but speak the minds of the whole people.

The House of Burgesses, of the colony of Virginia, took official notice of it, and on the 12th of March, 1773, passed resolutions appointing "a committee of correspondence and inquiry," consisting of eleven persons; among which, were Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Peyton Randolph and Richard Henry Lee.

The preamble sets forth that "His Majesty's faithful subjects have been much disturbed by various rumors and reports of proceedings, tending to deprive them of their ancient, legal and constitutional rights." The committee were instructed "to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts, and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration, as may relate to, or affect the British colonies in America; and to keep and maintain a correspondence with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations; and the result of such their proceedings from time to time, to lay before the House."

They were further instructed "to inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority on which was constituted a court of inquiry, said to have been lately held in Rhode Island, with power to transport persons accused of offences committed in America, to places beyond the sea, to be tried."

The resolutions were transmitted by Peyton Randolph, by order of the House of Burgesses, to Metcalfe Bowler, speaker of the House of Assembly of Rhode Island. Mr. Randolph asks that they be laid before that body at an early day, with the request that they "appoint some of their body to communicate from time to time with the corresponding committee of Virginia."\*

Rhode Island, in May, 1773, passed a resolution, appointing the following persons, viz. : Stephen Hopkins, Metcalfe Bowler, Moses Brown, John Cole, William Bradford, Henry Marchant and Henry Ward, as their committee of correspondence. The General Assembly requested the Governor to furnish the committee with a copy of his commission, as one of the judges of the court of inquiry; and of all other papers which were laid before that court. The Assembly further requested the speaker to write to all the legislative assemblies in North America, informing them of the proceedings of the colony, "relating to the preservation of the rights of the colonies."

The other British colonies acted promptly in the matter; appointed their committees of correspondence, and passed resolutions similar to those of Virginia. Among the colonies which responded, was that of Nova Scotia.

We close this publication, with the remarks of Judge Staples, inasmuch as they contain the legal opinion of an eminent jurist, who had carefully examined the testimony; and who, as a diligent historian, is familiar with all the events connected with the Gaspee affair:

"In reviewing the report of the commissioners, our surprise is not so much excited at the conclusion to which they came from the evidence before them, as at the small amount of testimony they collected.

It would be doing great injustice to the memories and characters of Governor Wanton, Judges Horsmanden, Oliver and Auchmuty, to suppose that they suppressed any evidence, or did not exert themselves to the utmost to procure testimony. The course they afterwards took in the war of the revolution, when they joined the ministerial party in the country, is a sufficient guaranty that they were,

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\* The correspondence of the several colonies, together with the resolutions, passed by them, in accordance with the desires of Virginia, is printed at length in this volume.



by no means, luke-warm in the service of His Majesty. They were surrounded, too, at the time of their sessions, by the officers of the crown, and individuals high in rank and standing, who were eager in the chase of those who insulted their sovereign, in the person of his representative, Lieut. Dudingston.

Under these circumstances, it is passing strange, that no persons could be found, who could identify those engaged in the enterprise, or that the great reward offered on the occasion, should not have induced some one to have turned informer. That the enterprise was suddenly conceived, there can be no doubt; but every circumstance shows, that no great care was used to preserve secrecy. They were called together by the beating of a drum in the streets. The collecting of the boats, the assembling at a public house, the embarking from a public wharf, all must have attracted the notice of the inhabitants. The parties assumed no disguise of any kind, but went in their usual dress.

Among them, were some, little conscious of the crime they were committing, and the penalty they were incurring. Mr. John Howland says, that on the morning after the affair, Justin Jacobs, a young man, was parading himself on "the Great Bridge," then the usual place of resort, with Lieutenant Dudingston's gold laced beaver on his head, detailing to a circle around him, the particulars of the transaction, and the manner in which he obtained the hat from the cabin of the *Gaspee*. It required sharp words to induce him to retire and hold his peace. There were others, probably, equally indiscreet; and yet not an individual could be found, who knew anything about the affair."

The following song, composed at the time, on the occasion, is attributed to Capt. Swan, of Bristol.

"He richly deserves the thanks, not only of his cotemporaries, but of posterity; not so much for the sweet poetry of his song, as for the ballad shape in which he invested the transaction. Undoubtedly some tune was found, at the time, to match it, notwithstanding the limping gait of some of the stanzas; and as it was sung in the circle of boon companions, they recalled the light of the burning *Gaspee* to their recollection, and hailed it as being, what subsequent events have shown it to be, the dawning light of freedom, whose mid-day effulgence now overspreads the land."

### S O N G .

'Twas in the reign of George the Third,  
Our public peace was much disturbed  
By ships of war, that came and laid  
Within our ports, to stop our trade.  
Seventeen hundred and seventy-two,  
In Newport harbor lay a crew,  
That played the part of pirates there,  
The sons of freedom could not bear,

Sometimes they weighed and gave them chase,  
Such actions, sure were very base.  
No honest coaster could pass by  
But what they would let some shot fly ;  
And did provoke, to high degree,  
Those true born sons of liberty ;  
So that they could not longer bear  
Those sons of Belial staying there.  
But 'twas not long 'fore it fell out,  
That William Dudingston, so stout,  
Commander of the Gaspee tender,  
Which he has reason to remember,  
Because, as people do assert,  
He almost had his just desert ;  
Here, on the tenth day of last June,  
Betwixt the hours of twelve and one,  
Did chase the sloop, called the Hannah,  
Of whom, one Lindsay, was commander.  
They dogged her up Providence Sound,  
And there the rascal got aground.  
The news of it flew that very day,  
That they on Namquit Point did lay.  
That night, about half after ten  
Some Narragansett Indian men,  
Being sixty-four, if I remember,  
Which made the stout coxcomb surrender ;  
And what was best of all their tricks,  
They in his breech a ball did fix ;  
Then set the men upon the land,  
And burnt her up, we understand ;  
Which thing provoked the King so high  
He said those men shall surely die ;  
So if he could but find them out,  
The hangman he'll employ, no doubt ;  
For he's declared, in his passion,  
He'll have them tried a new fashion.  
Now, for to find these people out,  
King George has offered very stout ;  
One thousand pounds to find out one  
That wounded William Dudingston.  
One thousand more, he says he'll spare,  
For those who say the sheriffs were ;  
One thousand more, there doth remain  
For to find out the leader's name ;  
Likewise, five hundred pounds per man  
For any one of all the clan.  
But let him try his utmost skill,  
I'm apt to think he never will  
Find out any of those hearts of gold,  
Though he should offer fifty fold.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the last Wednesday in October, 1772.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, the deputies of the town of Hopkinton, by order and in behalf of said town, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that some years ago, there was an highway laid out in said town, by order of the General Assembly, beginning at an highway which runs across said town from Richmond, westward to the colony line ; and from said highway, southerly, to Benjamin Maxson's Mills ; and further southerly, to Crandall's Mills, at the lower end of the said town of Hopkinton.

And that the said highways hath not been cleared or mended, nor can be, without doing great damage to several of the proprietors of the lands through which it passeth ; and therefore prayed this Assembly to empower the town council of the said town of Hopkinton, to alter or exchange the said highway, so that the public may be better served, and the owners of said land suffer less damage ; and the said petition being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, granted.

Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of East Greenwich, of said denomination of Christians called Presbyterians, or Congregationalists, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that they have, for a long time, labored under the disadvantage of having no house to meet in, for the public worship of God ; and that they are unable of themselves, to build one ; but have great encouragement from their brethren, in

the neighboring governments, that they will assist, in case they, the petitioners, can obtain the grant of a lottery for that purpose ; and therefore, prayed this Assembly to grant them a lottery, for raising the sum of \$1,500, for building a Presbyterian or Congregational meeting house in said town ; and that Messrs. William Johnston, Gideon Mumford, James Searle and Archibald Crarey, may be appointed managers or directors of the same ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted under the usual restrictions.

Provided, that the said lottery do not take place until the 1st day of May, A. D. 1773 ; and that the colony incur no expense thereby.

It is voted and resolved, that the gunner of Fort George, be, and he is hereby, directed to fire a royal salute (at the expense of the colony,) on each of the following days, to wit : on the birth day of His Majesty ; on the birth day of his royal consort ; on the day of His Majesty's accession ; on the day of coronation ; and on the day of the election of general officers for this colony.

Whereas, a petition, signed by a great number of subscribers, was presented to this Assembly, setting forth, that there is an highway laid out in the north part of the town of Gloucester, from the colony line, at a place known by the name of Allum Pond Hill ; and leading thence southerly, to the mills, called Cook's Mills ; about the distance of five miles, crossing the river, called Clear River ; and at the north end, meeting an highway laid out in the Massachusetts Bay, which leads from Oxford to Providence. That if the said road be put into good order, it will be greatly beneficial to the public ; and that there are but few inhabitants in that part of the town, who are unable to make and keep the said road good ; and praying this Assembly to grant a lottery, to raise the sum of \$400, to be appropriated to the building a bridge over the said river, and the clearing the said highway, and making it good for traveling ; and that Messrs. Jonathan Harris, Enoch Whipple, Thomas Herrenden, William Ross and John How-

land, Jr., may be appointed directors of the said lottery ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions.

Provided, that the said lottery do not take place until the 1st day of April, A. D. 1773 ; and that no expense accrue to the colony, thereby.

Whereas, a petition, signed by a great number of subscribers, was preferred to this Assembly, representing that the meeting house in the town of Johnston, is indebted upwards of £1,500, old tenor, for what hath already been done upon it ; which sum hath been due ever since the year 1764 ; and that the said meeting house is yet unfinished, and unfit for the purpose for which it was designed ; and praying this Assembly to grant a lottery, for raising \$500, agreeably to a scheme with the said petition presented, to be appropriated for the purposes of paying the said debt, and finishing the said meeting house ; and that Messrs. Andrew Aldrich and Jeduthu Belknap, may be appointed directors and managers of the said lottery ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions.

Provided, that the said lottery do not take place until the 1st day of February, A. D. 1773 ; and that the colony incur no expense thereby.

It is voted and resolved, that the petition now before this Assembly, praying that a duty may be imposed upon ship timber, exported out of this colony, in shipping called rafts, be referred to the next session ; and that in the mean time public notice be given thereof, in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

Whereas, at the General Assembly, held in October, A. D. 1771, an act was passed, granting a lottery for raising the sum of \$600, for building a steeple, and purchasing a clock, for the use of King's Church, in Providence ; which lottery hath been since drawn, and the steeple built.

And whereas, the congregation of said church, have represented unto this Assembly, that the sum raised by said lottery, is by no means adequate to the expenses they have been at, and must still be at ; and prayed that another class of a lottery may be granted them, for the raising a further sum of \$1,000 ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that another lottery be granted, for raising the said sum of \$1,000, for the finishing said church, under the same regulations as the former lottery granted them ; and that Messrs. John Smith, John Innis Clarke, Ebenezer Thompson and John Updike, all of said Providence, be, and they are hereby, appointed directors thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that James Barker, Esq., the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Mr. Moses Brown, Mr. Benjamin West, Mr. William Ellery, and the secretary be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to inspect the accounts of Doctor Thomas Moffatt and Martin Howard, Jr., Esq., this day exhibited to this Assembly, relative to the losses respectively sustained by them in the riots, in the town of Newport, in the year 1765 ; that they expunge any charges made by the said sufferers, or either of them, for expenses upon their voyage to, while at, and in their return from, Great Britain ; and for any consequential damages they may have charged ; that they make deductions from their respective accounts, for the value, as nearly as may be, of such books, goods and effects, as may appear to have been saved, and may be in the hands of the said sufferers, their friends or others, according to the best light the said committee may obtain, from any depositions heretofore taken, by order of this Assembly, or from such other depositions and proofs as they may obtain.

That the said committee be, and hereby are, empowered to summon any persons before them, and to examine them, upon oath, for the obtaining the best knowledge of the real loss sustained by said sufferers, during the said riot ; that they consider no charge, but for such effects as were absolutely lost,

damaged or destroyed, during the said riot ; and that they make report of their doings to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the attorney general attend upon the said committee, to assist them in their inspection and examination of the said accounts.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee appointed at this session, to inspect the accounts of Doctor Thomas Moffatt and Martin Howard, Jr., Esq., do not take into consideration the account, at this session exhibited by Joseph Aplin, Esq., in behalf of the said Martin Howard ; as it appears upon examination, to be the same account which was heretofore presented to this Assembly, and rejected, as being charged in gross and not containing the particulars of the loss sustained by him, in the riots in Newport, in the year 1765.

It is further voted and resolved, that when the said Martin Howard shall, by himself or his agent, present an account of the particulars of his said loss, the same shall be considered by a committee, then to be appointed for that purpose.

It is further voted and resolved, that whereas, Augustus Johnston, Esq., hath not, at this session, applied to this Assembly, for their consideration of his loss, by the said riots ; that, whenever he shall, there shall be the same consideration had thereof ; and that a copy of this vote be by the secretary delivered, or sent, to the said Martin Howard and Augustus Johnston.

And it is further voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to write to the lords of the treasury, in Great Britain, and inform them how far this Assembly have proceeded upon the petitions of the sufferers by said riots ; and respecting the moneys due from the crown, to this colony, requesting that the same may not be delayed further than the next session of Parliament ; and also, to the agent for this colony, upon the same subject.

Whereas, the conduct of Henry Marchant, Esq., as agent for this colony, in Great Britain, merits the approbation of

this Assembly, this Assembly do therefore, as a testimonial thereof—

Vote and resolve, that they fully approve of, and return him their thanks for, his prudent conduct in the said department.

Whereas, the ministers, church wardens, vestry and a number of the congregation of King's Church, in Providence, in behalf of said church, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that they have been at very great expenses, in repairing said church ; and that they have labored under many difficulties, in raising moneys, from among the members of said church, to make such necessary repairs ; owing to their not being authorized, by any law of this colony, to carry into execution such regulations as might be agreed to by the majority of the congregation ; and thereupon prayed this Assembly, that an act may be passed, to incorporate them into a body politic, by the name of The Minister, Church Wardens, Vestry and Congregation of King's Church, in Providence ; giving them, and their successors, full power to make and ordain all such laws, rules and ordinances, as they, or the major part of them, shall agree to, for the better regulating the affairs of said church ; and that a charter may be granted them accordingly ; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the prayer of the said petition, be granted ; and that the following charter be granted to the petitioners.

[Here follows the charter.]

God save the King.



*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the second Monday in December, 1772.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, divers persons preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the road leading from Uxbridge to Providence, commonly called the Wonscut Road, is for about six miles, very rocky, and in many places wet and miry, so that to put it in good order, will require a much greater expense than the inhabitants, near the said road, can possibly bear ; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly to grant a lottery, to raise the sum of \$500, to be laid out in mending the said road ; and that Mr. Joseph Olney, of North Providence ; Mr. Sylvanus Sayles and Mr. Amos Keech, Jr., both of Smithfield, may be appointed directors thereof, they giving bond for the faithful performance of their duty, and completing the same, without any expense to the colony ; on consideration, whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions.

Whereas, Augustus Johnston, Esq., Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, Mr. John G. Wanton, Mr. John Collins and Henry Ward, Esq., in behalf of, and by direction from the town of Newport, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the hospital upon Coaster's Harbor, hath been found, at several times, too small for the reception of persons having the small pox ; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to grant a lottery, for raising a sufficient sum of money, to erect a new hospital, at said Coaster's Harbor, upon such a plan as shall be approved of by said town ; that Messrs. John Collins, John G. Wanton, Nathaniel Mumford, Simon Pease, John Malbone,

John Warren and Robert Stevens, Jr., may be appointed directors of the said lottery, with power to carry on the same, in one or more classes, and in such manner, as they shall think most prudent ; and that in case any one or more of the directors shall refuse to serve, the said town of Newport may appoint another or others, in his or their room ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions.

It is voted and resolved, that the account exhibited unto this Assembly, by Augustus Johnston, Esq., at the present session, be delivered to the committee, appointed at the last session, to consider and report upon the account of Doctor Thomas Moffatt ; that the said committee, or a major part of them, consider and examine what loss the said Augustus Johnston sustained by the riots in the town of Newport, in the months of August and December, A. D. 1765, and what sum said loss amounted to ; and that the said committee, or the major part of them, make report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that it was the sense of this Assembly, that the major part of the committee, appointed at the last session, to examine Doctor Thomas Moffatt's accounts, should inspect into, and report upon the same.

Whereas, the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., James Barker, Esq., Mr. William Ellery and Mr. Benjamin West, presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit :

*Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, relative to Dr. Thomas Moffatt's Accounts against the Colony, claiming compensation for alleged losses sustained by him, in the Riots, in the year Newport, in 1765.*

We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee, by the General Assembly, to inspect the account of Doctor Thomas Moffatt, relative to his loss sustained by riots, in the town of Newport, in the year 1765, as by the vote and order of the General Assembly, hereto annexed, may appear ; have, in compliance therewith, met and examined many persons, respecting the same, and considered the depositions here-

tofore taken, by order of the General Assembly; and having fully heard what the said Doctor Thomas Moffatt had to offer in that behalf, do report as follows:

And first, as to his loss in books.

It appears, by the deposition of Joseph G. Wanton and his wife, and Charles Cozzens and his wife; and upon a full examination of the said Joseph and Charles, that a great number of books, sufficient to fill the bodies of two large carts, were saved in their houses, and delivered to Dr. Moffatt's friends and agents.

Mr. Cozzens, upon examination, also informs us, that he was present at the whole transaction; and is well assured that there were not more than fifty books lost. And upon inspection of some of the books saved, it appears to us, that some sets were broken, but that very few had received damage. We are therefore of opinion,

*Sterling,*  
£ s. d.

that the damage sustained in the books, does not exceed— - - 30 00 0

In philosophical instruments.

We find that a telescope, and a thermometer and barometer, in one frame or table, and a sliding thermometer, were saved; and the loss and damage in the other articles, we compute at - - - 17 14 0

In furniture.

We find a fine mahogany book-case totally destroyed; value, by the maker's account - - - - - 19 02 6

A book-case lost, and a desk damaged - - - - - 6 14 0

Eight mahogany chairs saved; of which, three or four, were damaged - 3 00 0

His black walnut and Windsor chairs saved.

Bedsteads—one saved, and one damaged - - - - - 3 00 0

Damage in mahogany tables, several being saved entire - - - 4 00 0

His china all saved.

Three looking-glasses, or mirrors saved.

Kitchen furniture, chiefly saved.

Table, bed and body linen, mostly saved.

Four paintings, and thirty-four prints, framed and glazed, saved.

Loss in kitchen and other household furniture, in bed and bedding, body, bed and table linen, in paintings, prints, charts, drawings, anatomical and botanical preparations, ores, fossils, reptiles, insects, ancient coins, and other rarities - - - - - 72 00 0

Loss in manuscripts, letters, common-place books and observations in his possession, &c. - - - - - 9 00 0

Loss in wearing apparel - - - - - 15 00 0

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£179 10 6

From the examination of the said Joseph G. Wanton, and Charles Cozzens, and Caleb Gardner, upholsterer, it appears to us, that the articles of the said Doct. Thomas Moffatt's household furniture were very few; and excepting his book-case, and two or three other articles, very indifferent.

And in this opinion, we are the more confirmed, from the smallness of the house the doctor then lived in, and from an examination of his whole ratable personal estate, exhibited, on oath, by himself, in the year 1761, amounting to only £107 14s., sterling money.

And from a comparison of the value of many of his books, as charged in his account, with several printed catalogues and invoices, it appeared he had rated some double, and others treble of the real value.

The foregoing is submitted to the General Assembly, by—

STEPHEN HOPKINS,	WILLIAM ELLERY,
JAMES BARKER,	BENJAMIN WEST.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted ; that the said sum of £179 10s. 6*d.*, sterling, be granted to Doctor Thomas Moffatt, as a full compensation for the damage he sustained by the riots in the town of Newport, in the year 1765 ; to be paid when, and as soon as, the General Assembly shall receive information that the money due from the crown, to the colony, for their services in the expedition against Crown Point, in the year 1756, shall be received by the agent for this colony, in Great Britain.

That thereupon, the general treasurer of this colony be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed, in behalf of this colony, to draw a bill or bills upon the colony agent, payable to the said Thomas Moffatt, for the abovesaid sum, so granted as aforesaid ; and that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to send home a fair copy of this report and vote, with all other papers relating thereto.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Mr. Moses Brown and John Cole, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a draught of a letter, in answer to Lord Dartmouth's letter, and lay the same before this Assembly, at the next session.\*

Whereas, two of the council of the Narragansett tribe of Indians, in this colony, are dead, and William Sachem (one of the said council), refuseth to sign the deeds, for the sale of the lands of Thomas Ninegret, deceased, late sachem of the said tribe,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the committee appointed to settle the estate of the said Thomas Ninegret, with

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\* This letter is not found in the public archives.

two of the surviving council of the Indians, make and execute a deed or deeds of the lands they have already sold, or may hereafter sell, to pay the said Ninegrets's debts ; and that such deed or deeds be as good and valid, to all intents and purposes, as though the said deed or deeds had been made and executed by the committee, and all the Indian council.

God save the King.

*Public Acts passed during the year 1772.\**

[The following laws will be found at length in the printed "Schedules," or acts and resolves of the General Assembly, for the year 1772.]

An Act incorporating Rawson's Fountain Society. (October.)

An Act for disposing of certain lands and tenements belonging to the colony. (October.)

An Act to incorporate King's Church, in Providence. (October.)

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the second Monday in January, 1773.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

[There was no business of a public nature, transacted at this session of the Assembly.]

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\* Continued from page 54.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1773.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged :

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Samuel Dyre,

Mr. James Barker,

Mr. Solomon Drown,

Mr. David Harris,

Mr. John Almy,

Mr. Thomas Wickes,

Mr. Jonathan Randall,

Mr. John Congdon,

Mr. Rowland Robinson.

Mr. William Richmond.

DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Thomas Cranston,

Mr. John Wanton,

Mr. George Hazard,

Mr. Joseph Wanton, Jr.,

Mr. John Read,

Mr. Thomas Freebody.

*Providence.*

Mr. Stephen Hopkins,

Mr. Benjamin Man,

Mr. John Jenckes,

Mr. John Smith.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Metcalfe Bowler,

Mr. John Jepson,

Mr. Jonathan Brownell.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Benjamin Greene,

Mr. William Greene,

Mr. Jacob Greene,

Mr. John Low.

*Westerly.*

Mr. Joshua Babcock,

Mr. James Rhodes.

## DEPUTIES.

<i>New Shoreham.</i>	<i>Middletown.</i>
Mr. John Littlefield,	Mr. Nicholas Easton,
Mr. John Sands.	Mr. Isaac Smith.
<i>North Kingstown.</i>	<i>Bristol.</i>
Mr. Peter Phillips,	Col. Simeon Potter,
Mr. John Northup.	Mr. William Bradford.
<i>South Kingstown.</i>	<i>Tiverton.</i>
Mr. John Rose,	Mr. Edward Gray,
Mr. Daniel Rodman.	Mr. Thomas Cory.
<i>East Greenwich.</i>	<i>Little Compton.</i>
Mr. Preserved Pearce,	Mr. Thomas Church,
Mr. Thomas Tillinghast.	Mr. Daniel Wilbur.
<i>Jamestown.</i>	<i>Warren.</i>
Mr. John Gardner,	Mr. Sylvester Child,
Capt. Samuel Slocum.	Mr. Nathan Miller.
<i>Smithfield.</i>	<i>Cumberland.</i>
Mr. Daniel Mowry, Jr.,	Mr. John Dexter,
Capt. Jonathan Arnold.	Mr. Nathaniel Shepperdson.
<i>Scituate.</i>	<i>Richmond.</i>
Mr. William West,	Mr. Robert Stanton,
Mr. Rufus Hopkins.	Mr. Caleb Barber.
<i>Glocester.</i>	<i>Cranston.</i>
Mr. Solomon Owen,	Mr. Richard Searle,
Mr. Caleb Arnold.	Mr. Christopher Lippitt.
<i>Charlestown.</i>	<i>Hopkinton.</i>
Mr. Sylvester Robinson,	Mr. Zaccheus Reynold,
Mr. Stephen Perry.	Mr. Jesse Maxson.
<i>West Greenwich.</i>	<i>Johnston.</i>
Mr. William Nichols,	Mr. Richard Eddy,
Mr. Thomas Gorton.	Mr. Caleb Harris.
<i>Coventry.</i>	<i>North Providence.</i>
Mr. Israel Bowen,	Capt. Eseck Hopkins,
Mr. Caleb Vaughan.	Mr. Thomas Olney.
<i>Exeter.</i>	<i>Barrington.</i>
Mr. Jeffrey Wilcox.	Mr. Nathaniel Martin,
	Mr. Thomas Allen.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, speaker ; Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

Mr. Henry Ward, secretary.

Mr. Henry Marchant, attorney general.

Mr. Joseph Clarke, general treasurer.

Stephen Hopkins, Esq., chief justice of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery.

#### SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Walter Chaloner. Providence county—Mr. Paul Tew. Kings county—Mr. Beriah Brown. Bristol county—Mr. John Brown. Kent county—Mr. Henry Rice.

#### FIELD OFFICERS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Daniel Dunham, colonel ; Mr. Isaac Dayton, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. John Forrester, major.

Providence county—Mr. Knight Dexter, colonel ; Mr. Abraham Winsor, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Chad Brown, major.

Kings county—Mr. Thomas Gardner, colonel ; Mr. Moses Barber, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Jonathan Vaughan, major.

Bristol county—Mr. Simeon Potter, colonel ; Mr. Nathaniel Martin, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Thomas Gray, major.

Kent county—Mr. John Waterman, colonel ; Mr. Aaron Bowen, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Benjamin Vaughan, major.

Whereas, many of the inhabitants of the town of Providence, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, and represented that the steeple of the Presbyterian, or Congregational meeting house in the said town, is in so ruinous a condition, that it must immediately be taken down ; and the said meeting house stands in need of many other great repairs and alterations, which the society of themselves are utterly unable to make ; and that the situation of the meeting house is such, that if a tower and steeple, with a clock, be erected at the west end, thereof, it will answer extremely well for a town clock, and be also



beneficial to the people who come from the adjacent country, to market; and thereupon prayed, that a lottery may be granted, for raising the sum of £700, for the purpose of taking down the old steeple, and erecting a tower and steeple, with a clock, at the west end of the said meeting house; and also, for the making any other alterations, additions and repairs to, and upon, the said house; that Messrs. James Greene, Samuel Nightingale, Jr., Charles Keen, Paul Allen and Nathaniel Metcalf, all of Providence, may be appointed directors of the said lottery; and that in case of the death or refusal of any of the said directors, the standing committee, for the time being, of the said Presbyterian or Congregational Society, in said Providence, may be empowered to appoint other directors in their stead and room; and also, be further empowered to audit the accounts of, settle with, and discharge such directors, upon the completion of the said lottery; on consideration whereof,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions; the directors giving bond for the faithful performance of their trust; provided, that the colony incur no expense in consequence thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to write to the agent of this colony, and inform him, that Mr. Benjamin Mason, in behalf of Mr. Ralph Inman, hath presented to this Assembly, a bill of exchange, drawn by the agent, on the Governor and Company of this colony, payable to said Ralph Inman, for the sum of £200, sterling; but that no advice, respecting the said bill, is yet come to hand; and that His Honor the Governor, be also requested to transmit to the agent, a copy of his last account, as settled by this Assembly, in the year 1770, and desire him to acquaint the colony, whether he hath received the balance, in full satisfaction of said account; and also, to desire him to transmit to this colony, his account, commencing from his said

last account ; and to assure him, that the balance which shall appear to be justly due to him, shall be punctually paid.

It is voted and resolved, that the possessors of any lawful money bills, emitted by this colony, or treasurer's notes given for such lawful money bills, be, and they are hereby, directed to bring them into the general treasury, in order to be discharged within one month from the rising of this Assembly ; that no interest upon such bills and notes, shall be allowed after that time ; and that the general treasurer immediately give public notice of this vote in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the time for paying in the last colony rate, be lengthened to the next session of this Assembly ; and that the rate gatherers collect the interest, as well as the principal, until paid, and pay the same into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Oliver Ring Warner be, and he is hereby, appointed to repair all the platforms for the guns at Fort George, agreeably to the directions of John Jepson, Esq., and Capt. Eseek Hopkins ; that he also procure six new carriages for the cannon that belonged to the colony sloop ; and that he draw the money out of the general treasury, to pay for the same.

Whereas, the following petition was presented unto this Assembly, to wit :

*Petition of the Town of New Shoreham, to the General Assembly, for assistance to make a Harbor, &c., there.*

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in New England, in America, to be holden at Newport, on the first Wednesday in May, A. D. 1773.

The subscribers, deputies from the town of New Shoreham, in behalf of, and by direction from, the said town, humbly show :

That the inhabitants of the said island, have, for a number of years past, labored under the greatest difficulties and inconveniences, for want of an harbor, at the said island ; they having no other way to ship off their fat cattle, horses and sheep, than by swimming them into the sea, where there is generally a large surf, and then

hoisting them into a vessel; whereby, it frequently happens that some of them are drowned, and others so much bruised, as to be unfit for market.

That these disadvantages are greatly increased by the large freight they are obliged to pay upon every thing brought to the island, for their own use, or transported from thence for sale; for, as there is no safe harbor, very few vessels go to the island with, or for, freight; and those who follow that business, lose so much time, by being often forced to leave the island upon the approach of a storm, before the freight they carry is unladed, or the freight they go for, taken in; and to make an harbor upon the continent, where they must wait for another wind, and meet with so many other hardships and dangers, that they ask double the freight which is given in other parts of the colony, for the transportation of the like articles the same distance.

That they also suffer greatly, by the loss of the codfishery; which formerly, while a channel was kept open between the sea, and a large salt pond, on the west side of the island, was so considerable, that they used to catch fish enough for their own consumption, and to supply Newport, and divers other places, with fresh fish, besides exporting large quantities of cured fish; but that the channel being now filled, the small fish or bait, which used to go into the pond, have left the island, and the codfish with them; so that at present, the inhabitants cannot get near enough for their own eating.

That these inconveniences have such an effect upon the real estates on the island, that land will not sell, or rent, for more than half the sum which land of the like quality will sell, or rent for, in other parts of the colony; and the island, consequently, in a general estimation of property, is not worth above half so much to the colony, as it otherwise would be.

That these are some of the many evils, that the inhabitants continually suffer; besides which, there are others, arising from the want of an harbor, at the said island, which greatly affect the commerce of the whole colony, and of a great part of the continent; many vessels, for want of such an harbor, being blown off the coast, or forced to a different port, from that to which they were bound, or perhaps shipwrecked, or foundered, to the loss of the lives and properties of many.

That a most effectual remedy, for all these evils, may be provided, by cutting a channel from the sea, into the aforementioned pond, which is large enough to contain the whole British navy, and deep enough for any vessels in this colony.

That between the sea, and the pond, there is a sand bank, about twenty rods wide, and on the pond side, ten feet of water, within two rods of the bank, which soon increases to thirty feet; and on the side of the sea there is also a very fine bold shore; that a channel was formerly cut through the said bank, and became so navigable, that vessels of seventy and eighty tons burthen have actually sailed into the pond; but the place where the said channel was formed, not being properly defended on the sea-side, it filled up with sand.

That the place now proposed for opening a communication with the sea, is about a quarter of a mile southward from the old channel, where the water is much deeper, and the channel will be secured by a point of rocks that lies to the southward; which affords the greatest prospect of obtaining an effectual and lasting harbor.

That the benefit resulting to the inhabitants of the said island, to the colony in general, and to the neighboring governments, from such an harbor, will be very

great, as the real value of the island will be much enhanced, and the ratable estate of the colony proportionably increased, a most extensive codfishery may be carried on, to the great emolument of the colony, and an harbor, into which, vessels driven near the island, by stress of weather, may run and be safe from every wind that blows, and thereby preserve the lives and properties of many.

And that the said inhabitants, although they are willing to exert themselves to the utmost, in completing so beneficial a design, are, by reason of their poverty, utterly unable to accomplish it.

The petitioners hope that, as the inhabitants of the said island, have at all times contributed in full as large a proportion as any other town, towards building and repairing court houses, jails, bridges and other conveniences, without having received any grant from the General Assembly, for the particular benefit of the said island for nearly forty years past, they may, with modesty, ask the assistance of the public upon this occasion. And they do humbly request that the General Assembly will take this matter into consideration, and appoint some suitable persons to examine the pond, and the situation of the place proposed for the channel, and report their opinion of the practicability of the project, and an estimate of the expense.

And in case, upon their report, it shall appear advisable to open such a communication, they humbly pray that such a sum of money may be granted out of the general treasury, as will be sufficient to purchase timber, and provide stones for beginning, and, in some measure, carrying on, the work; and that the remainder may be raised by lotteries; which, considering the utility of such an harbor, they have reason to hope will meet with great encouragement; and, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

JOHN LITTLEFIELD,  
JOHN SANDS.

On consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Thos. Cranston, Esq., Mr. Eseek Hopkins, Joseph Wanton, Jr., Esq., and Mr. Joseph Brown, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed, a committee to go to New Shoreham, and inspect into the circumstances of the premises mentioned in the said petition; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the third Monday in August, 1773.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of the county of Providence, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the road, commonly called Plainfield Road, is one of the largest that leads into the town of Providence; that the bounds thereof, are mostly lost and unknown; and that several persons have made encroachments on said road, so that, in many places, it is almost impassable, especially in the winter season; and thereupon, they prayed this Assembly to appoint a committee, to revise the said road, from a birch tree, standing in a brook, called Bennett's Brook (a known boundary of said road), westerly, as far as Scituate line, with power to make such alterations as they shall think necessary; and the said petition being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Job Randall, Esq. and Charles Harris, Esq., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby, appointed a committee, to revise the aforesaid highway; that the charge, thereof, be equally paid by the towns of Providence, Cranston and Johnston.

And that the said committee be, and they are hereby, empowered to make such alterations in said highway, as they shall think proper, agreeably to law.

It is voted and resolved, that the time for the payment of what remains due, of the last colony tax, be lengthened to the 10th day of October next; that it be upon interest until paid; and that the general treasurer issue his warrants against the

several town treasurers, for the sums that shall be due from them, respectively, on the 10th day of October, returnable in ten days.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax of £4,000, lawful money, be assessed, and levied, upon the inhabitants of this colony, and paid into the general treasury, on or before the 1st day of May next; one half thereof, to be appropriated to the payment of the debts, now due from the colony, and the other half to the supplying of the treasury; that the said tax be apportioned unto the several towns in the same proportion as the last colony tax was done; and that Joshua Babcock, Esq., Daniel Rodman, Esq., and Mr. John Low, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draw up an act accordingly, of the same tenor (excepting the necessary alterations) of the act, apportioning the last colony tax.

Whereas, the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Capt. Eseek Hopkins and the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Jr., Esq., presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit:

*Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, relative to New Shoreham.*

We, the subscribers, together with Thomas Cranston, Esq. and Mr. Joseph Brown, being appointed a committee, to go to New Shoreham, and inspect into the circumstances set forth in the petition of a number of the inhabitants of New Shoreham, do report:

That we have been to Block Island; have viewed and examined the place proposed for making a harbor; have sounded the water both on the sea and pond sides; have observed both the height and distance of the land between them; and, on the whole, are of opinion, that a channel may be made, secured and kept open between the sea and the pond, sufficient to admit small vessels of forty or fifty tons burthen; which, when in the pond, will be in as safe a harbor, as any can be; and also restore and perpetuate much the most considerable and beneficial fishery in the colony, which will be altogether lost, without such a channel be cut and kept open.

We further report that, as things are at present, there is no landing, nor taking off any creatures or goods at Block Island, but by putting them afloat in the surf; and even passengers cannot land in the smoothest time, as we ourselves experienced, without wading in the water above their knees, or being carried by those that do.

And lastly, we do report, that although the making and securing such a harbor as we have spoken of, be so extremely necessary, and will be, when made, so extensively beneficial to the inhabitants of Block Island, yet we think the burthen of doing it wholly at their own expense, will be too great for them to bear; and, as

not they, only, but the colony in general, will be benefited by its being done, we are of opinion the colony will do well to assist them in doing it.

STEPHEN HOPKINS,  
ESECK HOPKINS,  
JOSEPH WANTON, JR.

Newport, Aug. 18, 1773.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

Whereas, a number of merchants in this colony, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that they have, for several years past, been concerned in prosecuting that valuable branch of business, the codfishery, in and near the Gulf of St. Lawrence; by which, a great number of industrious poor have been employed and supported, and an advantageous circulation of specie promoted; and that the permission granted by His Majesty to his subjects, to carry on the said fishery, being not sufficiently explicit, the same is thereby rendered precarious; and is particularly greatly endangered by a certain bill before a committee of the Honorable House of Commons, of Great Britain, for encouraging the fishery, aforesaid, &c.

And thereupon, they prayed this Assembly, to interpose in their behalf, with His Majesty's ministers, and procure their cause so to be represented to His Majesty, that they may, by royal indulgence, be permitted to prosecute their fishing business in its full extent, at Isle Bonaventure, Isle Pierre, Point St. Peter, and elsewhere, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, without obstruction or hindrance; and that the fishery in those parts may by no means be converted into private property, or monopolized by a company; and the said petition being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Aaron Lopez, George Gibbs and William Vernon, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare the draught of a letter, respecting the matters set forth in the said petition, to be sent to His Majesty's secretary of state; and that they lay the same before this Assembly.

Whereas, the following petition, signed by forty-three Indians, of the Narragansett tribe, in this colony, was presented unto this Assembly, to wit :

*Petition of the Narragansett Tribe of Indians to the General Assembly.*

To the Honorable the General Assembly of His Majesty's colony of Rhode Island, holden at Newport, the third Monday of August, 1773.

The petition of us, the subscribers, Indians of the Narragansett tribe, in said colony, humbly sheweth :

That some of our late sachems, through extravagance and indiscretion, had heretofore run themselves largely in debt ; and for the discharging those debts, we have consented to the sale of the greatest part of the most valuable lands belonging to the tribe ; so that there now remaineth but a small tract, compared with what they once possessed ; and that they have remaining only one small piece of Fort Neck, by which they can get to the salt water, from which they fetch great part of the support of themselves and families.

And being informed by the honorable committee, appointed by the Assembly, to settle the accounts, and discharge the debts of the late Sachem Thomas Ninegret deceased, that they apprehend that they, with our consent, have sold lands sufficient to discharge the whole of said debts ; we therefore humbly petition this Honorable Assembly, to pass an act, to secure to the said tribe, forever, as well the said small part of Fort Neck, as all the other lands now of right belonging to them ; and that the same be not, for the future, liable to the payment of debts.

We would further represent to this Honorable Assembly, that when the late Sachem Ninegret, by his deed of the 28th of March, 1709, in consideration of the protection of the colony, resigned to the Governor and Company of said colony, the lands then called the vacant lands, he, by the same deed, excepted and reserved to himself, for the use of the tribe, a certain tract of land, bounded on the east, as followeth ; that is to say :

“Beginning at the brook where Joseph Davil's mill standeth, and runs into the Great Salt Pond ; and so, from said brook on a straight line, northerly, to Pasqueset Pond, and by the brook that runs out of Pasqueset Pond, into Pawcatuck River.”

That soon after, and while the intent of the parties was well known, by order and direction of the late Col. Joseph Stanton, and others of the committee, appointed by the General Assembly, to oversee the Indian affairs, the line was run from the said brook to Pasqueset Pond, and bounds made.

That afterwards, some persons, who claimed lands to the eastward of said line, caused another line to be run from one of the most westernmost parts of said brook, viz. : Cross's Mill Dam, to Pasqueset Pond. By the running of which last mentioned line, as well the burying ground and graves of our ancient sachems and fathers, as also several hundred acres of land, which were not intended to be granted by the deed, aforesaid, are claimed, and, against right, held from the Indians, by sundry persons in Charlestown.

We, therefore, humbly pray this Honorable Assembly, to authorize and empower the



committee for settling the affairs of the late Sachem Thomas Ninegret, or some one or more of them, to cause an exact survey of the said lines, and so much of the brook and Pasqueset Pond, as may be necessary to illustrate the facts, to be taken; and that a draught thereof, be laid before this Honorable Assembly, for their advisement thereon.

And we do, on this occasion, approach the General Assembly with the greater confidence, because we look upon them as our guardians and protectors, agreeably to the consideration of the deed of the sachem Ninegret.

The granting our prayer will oblige your petitioners, as in duty bound, ever to pray, &c.

And the said petition being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, granted; that all the lands now of right belonging to the said tribe, be secured to them; and that the same, or any part thereof, shall not, for the future, be liable to the payment of any debts.

That James Helme, Esq., or some other of the committee, appointed for settling the accounts of the late Sachem Thomas Ninegret, cause a survey of the lines of the lands claimed by the said tribe, and the lands claimed by some other persons in Charlestown, and held from the said tribe (as it is said in the said petition), against right; that a draught of the same be laid before this Assembly at the next session; that he be, and hereby is, empowered to summon and swear witnesses respecting the same.

That the secretary cause notifications to be set up in one or more public places in Charlestown, notifying the persons claiming said lands, to appear before the next session of Assembly, to be then heard, thereon; and that the colony be at no charge respecting this affair, but that the charge, thereof, be paid by said tribe.

Whereas, James Barker, Esq., the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., William Ellery, Esq. and Henry Ward, Esq., who were appointed a committee, to audit the accounts of Martin Howard, Jr., Esq., laid before this Assembly an account, exhibited to them by Mr. Simon Pease, attorney to the said Martin Howard, together with their report thereon, as follows, to wit:

*Estimate of damage sustained by Martin Howard, by the Riot at Newport, Rhode Island, August 27, 1765.*

My house, which was repaired, and but just finished; cost		<i>Sterling.</i>
me nearly - - - - -	£450 00 0	
Sold for, at vendue, by Mr. Rome, deducting all charges,	210 00 0	£ s. d.
	<hr/>	240 00 0

It is impossible to be particular, as to the loss and damage of my furniture, as I cannot recollect all the articles, which are lost and missing. What follows are the chief I can remember.

A shagreen case of knives and forks, almost new	- - -	1 10 0
A serutoire and book-case, with glass doors, damaged and broken	- - -	2 00 0
A large mahogany table, broken to pieces	- - -	2 05 0
A small desk lost	- - -	1 10 0
A red cedar desk, and book-case, cut to pieces	- - -	3 10 0
A small tea-table	- - -	10 0
A couch frame lost	- - -	10 0
Four large family pictures, gilt frames; one, by Sir Peter Lely	- - -	35 00 0
Several mezzotinto ditto, damaged and broken	- - -	15 0
An escutcheon, or coat of arms, of Mr. Kay	- - -	10 0
A japanned tea-table, and tea-board, destroyed	- - -	1 10 0
A close stool, with a pewter pan	- - -	15 0
A glass lantern	- - -	05 0
Two large chairs	- - -	2 05 0
A japanned high case of drawers, broken and lost	- - -	4 00 0
A japanned dressing table	- - -	2 10 0
Two leather buckets	- - -	10 0
A large demijohn	- - -	08 0
Sundry books lost, kitchen furniture destroyed, china, empty bottles, baskets, &c., broken and lost, at least to the value of	- - -	15 00 0
A cask of old sherry wine, put in bottles, a little while before the riot,		5 00 0
Cider, provisions in the store and cellar	- - -	3 00 0
A large press book-case, in my office	- - -	1 05 0
A common writing desk	- - -	03 0
	<hr/>	£324 13 0

I submit it to the consideration of the gentlemen of the committee, appointed to examine the foregoing account, whether they will not think it reasonable to allow interest upon such sum as they shall find due to me. MARTIN HOWARD.

Newbern, North Carolina, Dec. 26, 1772.

*Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, to examine the foregoing Account.*

We, the subscribers, being appointed to examine the loss of Martin Howard, Jr., Esq., by the riot in Newport, in August, 1765, do report :

That we have examined the above account, and considered several evidences respecting his loss ; that we find that the real damage sustained in the house, did not exceed £60, sterling ; it having been actually repaired and put into better order, than before the riot, for that sum or less ; and have accordingly deducted £180, sterling, from that charge.

And that we have also deducted £32 15s., sterling, which appears to us to have been overcharged in the pictures, and some other articles.

So that his loss, as estimated by us, amounts to £111 18s., sterling ; which we submit.

JAMES BARKER,                      WILLIAM ELLERY,  
STEPHEN HOPKINS,                  HENRY WARD.

And the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the foregoing report be, and the same is hereby, accepted ; that the sum of £111 18s., sterling, be granted to the said Martin Howard, Jr., as a full compensation for the damage he sustained by the riots, in the town of Newport, in the year 1765 ; to be paid when, and as soon as, the General Assembly shall receive information, that the money due from the crown, to the colony, for their services in the expedition against Crown Point, in the year 1756, shall be received by the agent of this colony, in Great Britain.

That thereupon, the general treasurer of this colony, be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed, in behalf of this colony, to draw a bill or bills upon the colony agent, payable to the said Martin Howard, for the abovesaid sum, so granted, as aforesaid ; and that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to send home a fair copy of this report and vote, with all other papers, relating thereto.

Whereas, James Barker, Esq., the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., William Ellery, Esq. and Henry Ward, Esq., who were appointed a committee, to audit the accounts of Augustus Johnston, Esq., laid before this Assembly, an account, by him exhibited to them, together with their report thereon, as followeth, to wit :

*An Account of the Losses sustained by Augustus Johnston, in the Riots in Newport, in August and December, 1765.*

	<i>Lawful Money.</i>
	£ s. d.
Two broadcloth jackets, and one pair of breeches, half worn - - -	2 16 0
Four pair of fine sheets - - - - -	3 00 0
Eleven new shirts; the cloth cost me £355 8s., old tenor, which, with the making, is - - - - -	18 09 0
Four shirts, about one-third worn - - - - -	6 00 0
Three yards of New Holland, which cost £10, old tenor, per yard -	1 05 8
About eighteen fine cravats - - - - -	2 08 0
One beaver hat, worn but two or three times - - - - -	1 10 0
Two wigs, (one quite new,) which cost me 48s. - - - - -	2 14 0
About nine pair of worsted stockings, very fine and good - - -	1 04 0
About five pair of thread stockings - - - - -	10 0
All the clothes belonging to three children (one, about eight years old), besides what they had on, when taken out of bed, to be carried to a place of safety - - - - -	10 00 0
Sundry men's caps, at least a dozen - - - - -	1 00 0
Five pair of fine pillow-cases - - - - -	3 00 0
At least one dozen fine napkins, and one dozen fine table-cloths -	10 16 0
At least two dozen homespun towels - - - - -	2 08 0
A number of women's shifts, aprons, caps and cambric handkerchiefs,	10 00 0
A case of old Jamaica rum, a large old cheese, hams, and other provisions,	5 00 0
Molloy de Jure Maritimo, quite new - - - - -	1 16 0
Holt's Reports, a large folio, and almost new - - - - -	3 00 0
First and seventh volumes of Swift's works; the sett being eight volumes, cost me 40s., sterling.	
One volume of Madam de Maintenon's Letters; the three cost me 13s. 6d., lawful money.	
Pope's Works, in eight or ten volumes (I forget which), neatly bound and gilt; they cost me - - - - -	2 08 0
Five volumes of Dryden's works; I can't find what they cost me; but the five could not be worth less than - - - - -	1 08 0
Life of Count Saxe, three volumes - - - - -	14 0
Two volumes of The World; the sett being six volumes, cost me -	1 08 0
One volume of Campbell's Lives of the Admirals; the four cost me -	1 10 0
Mrs. Rowe's works, two volumes, 9s.; Henrietta, two volumes, 9s.; Happy Orphans, 9s. - - - - -	1 07 0
Importance of the African Expedition, 3s.; Delincourt on Death, 9s.	12 0
Third, fourth and sixth volume Compendium Voyages; the sett being six volumes, cost me a little time before - - - - -	40 0
One volume Bolingbroke's works; the two cost me - - - - -	20 0
The damage done my furniture, as appraised by the committee -	9 06 0

N. B. Since exhibiting my last account, I have found some few of my books, that were charged in that account ; and have left them out of this.

Newport, August 19, 1773.

AUGUSTUS JOHNSTON.

*Report of the Committee, appointed by the General Assembly, to examine the foregoing Account.*

We, the subscribers, being appointed a committee, to examine into the losses sustained by Augustus Johnston, Esq., by the riots in Newport, in the 1765, do report :

That he exhibited to us an account of the particulars of his loss, under oath ; which we have examined, together with several other evidences, respecting his loss ; and, after making some small deductions, have settled it at £76 10s., sterling.

Which account, with this report, we submit to the General Assembly.

JAMES BARKER,                      HENRY WARD,  
STEPHEN HOPKINS,                WILLIAM ELLERY.

And the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the foregoing report be, and the same is hereby, accepted ; that the sum of £76 10s., sterling, be granted to the said Augustus Johnston, as a full compensation for the damages he sustained by the riots in the town of Newport, in the year 1765, to be paid when, and as soon as, the General Assembly shall receive information that the money due from the crown, to the colony, for their services in the expedition against Crown Point, in the year 1756, shall be received by the agent of this colony, in Great Britain.

That thereupon, the general treasurer of this colony be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed, in behalf of this colony, to draw a bill or bills upon the colony agent, payable to the said Augustus Johnston, for the abovesaid sum, so granted, as aforesaid ; and that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to send home a fair copy of this report and vote, with all other papers relating thereto.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit to the Right Honorable the Earl of Dartmouth, the letter presented to this Assembly, respecting the codfishery, in the River St. Lawrence ; he making such alterations therein, as he shall think proper.

It is voted and resolved, that no money be drawn out of the

general treasury by virtue of any general act or order of this Assembly, heretofore made or passed, without further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that £300, lawful money, be paid out of the general treasury, to Mr. Oliver Ring Warner, for carrying on the repairs at Fort George.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to acquaint the Right Honorable the Earl of Dartmouth, that the assurance His Lordship hath given the Governor and Company of this colony, of his desire of serving them, respecting their demand upon the crown, is very flattering to their just expectations, of at length obtaining the moneys so long due, for their most ready and faithful services.

That the colony is the more encouraged in this, as the General Assembly have, they doubt not, answered the expectations of His Majesty, in their consideration of the sufferers, recommended to them by His Majesty.

And that the General Assembly desire His Lordship's more particular attention hereto, as they have just received advice of the death of their late agent; and are, at present, destitute of an agent that might repeat their application to the treasury.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at South Kingstown, on the last Wednesday in October, 1773.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Daniel Commins, of Coventry, in the county of Kent, yeoman, for, and in behalf of, a religious society of people, in said Coventry, of the Baptist profession, preferred a pe-

tition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the society, aforesaid, have not been able, by reason of their poverty, to build a house for public, social worship, in said town, for the edification of themselves and others, whose sentiments correspond with theirs.

And thereupon, prayed this Assembly to grant them the liberty of raising \$500, by lottery, under the direction of John Rice, Thomas Matterson and Nehemiah Potter, all of said Covenant, Esqs. ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual restrictions.

Provided, that no charge arise to the colony, thereby.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., George Hazard, Henry Ward and Henry Marchant, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby, appointed a committee, to consider of the queries sent to this colony, by the Earl of Dartmouth, and to form an answer to them ; and that they lay the same before this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to write a letter to the Earl of Dartmouth, advising him of the receipt of the queries ; and that the same were laid before the General Assembly, who have appointed a committee to inspect into and answer the same.

Also, to request His Lordship, as this colony hath not any agent appointed at the court of Great Britain, that he will still be a protector to the colony, until an agent shall be appointed.

And also to solicit His Lordship, that he will make application to the treasury board, for the moneys due to the colony.

God save the King.

*Public Acts passed during the year 1773.*

[The following laws will be found at length in the printed "Schedules," or acts and resolves of the General Assembly, for the year 1773.]

- An Act for the more effectual repairing of highways in this colony. (January.)  
 An Act to prevent fish being interrupted in their course up Mill Cove, in Warwick. (January.)  
 An Act empowering the towns of Providence and North Providence, to repair their highways, by a town tax. (January.)  
 An Act making it lawful to break down and blow up the rocks at Pawtucket Falls, to let fish pass up. (January.)  
 An Act empowering the church and society of the people called Baptists, or Anti-Pedobaptists, in Providence, to sell their lot of land, in Providence. (August.)  
 An Act to prevent fish from being hindered in their courses of going into Point Judith Pond, and Petaquamscut River. (August.)  
 An Act for assessing a tax of £4,000. (August.)  
 An Act to naturalize Thomas Courtain. (October)  
 An Act incorporating Cook's Fountain Society. (October.)

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Lord Dartmouth.*

Newport, Rhode Island, February 16, 1773.

My Lord:—I have the honor to address Your Lordship upon the subject of a demand of this colony upon the crown.

Before I enter upon the narrative of this affair, I would just observe to Your Lordship, that in the cause of the last war, the colony greatly distinguished themselves by their exertions against the enemy; which was repeatedly acknowledged by His Majesty's ministers and commanders; and notwithstanding the Parliamentary grants made them at different times (which they remember with gratitude), incurred a very heavy debt, which the colony hath not yet been able to discharge.

Mr. Secretary Fox, in his letter of the 13th of March, 1756, informed the colony that nothing more than the raising the men; their pay, arms and clothing would be expected from the colony, who had the preceding year furnished their quota of military stores and provisions. But this letter was not received until after the colony had provided their quota of stores and provisions; and the principal part of which, were really expended in the service, and the remainder taken into the King's magazines.

This, My Lord, was also the case of the other northern colonies, all of whom, have been reimbursed their expenses upon that account, excepting the colony of Rhode Island. The Province of New Hampshire, indeed, received theirs by a grant from Parliament, but the session before the last.

By the miscarriage of letters in a time of war, or by some other accident, the accounts from the colony for those expenses, were not laid before the lords of the treasury until the year 1759; which, being so long after the supplies were granted by the colony, was a very unfavorable circumstance, and I imagine was the sole reason why payment was not made.



The lords of the treasury referred the accounts, amounting to £4,211 7s. 7d., to the secretary of war and paymaster general, who reported the sum of £3,002 5s. 7d., sterling, to be due to the colony; having deducted the sum of £1,209 14s., which was charged in the accounts for the subsistence of the regiment, until their arrival at Albany, and upon their return home, after they were discharged.

The affair remained in this situation, for some considerable time, when the lords of the treasury, upon a second application, again referred the consideration of it to the secretary at war, and the paymaster general; who made another considerable deduction, for several articles charged in the accounts, as not being strictly military stores, and then reported the sum of £2,672 18s. 11d., to be due and payable.

As the colony had really advanced the sum of £4,211 7s. 7d., and as the other colonies for the same services, had been reimbursed in a larger proportion, they conceived themselves greatly aggrieved at these deductions. But even this sum, so reduced, from what they thought they had a right to expect, hath never yet been paid.

In the year 1765, considerable confusion and tumults arose in all the North American colonies. And it is confessed, that this colony was not exempt from these disorders; although the injury done to private property, was inconsiderable.

Doctor Moffatt, Mr. Howard and Mr. Johnston, however, represented themselves to the administration, as very great sufferers. In consequence of which, His Majesty was pleased to recommend them to the colony, for a compensation for their losses. The General Assembly, altogether from motives of obedience to the royal recommendation, immediately came to a resolution that they would make them full compensation for their real losses; upon which, the gentlemen exhibited to the General Assembly accounts, consisting altogether of general charges; such as no persons could judge of, and amounting to within about £20, sterling, of the above sum reported to be due to the colony.

This naturally gave reason to suspect that the gentlemen flattered themselves with the hopes of obtaining all that money. The General Assembly ordered that they should exhibit an account of the particulars of their losses; and in the mean time instructed Joseph Sherwood, Esq., their agent, to apply to the lords of the treasury, to obtain their recommendation of this matter to Parliament, for a grant of these moneys so long due to the colony. Mr. Sherwood informed the colony, that it was intimated to him (though it was not openly declared), that the lords of the treasury chose to postpone doing any thing in the affair, until they should be acquainted with the measures adopted by the colony, with respect to the sufferers.

The colony, My Lord, could not see any reasonable connection between that demand upon the crown, and the claims of these gentlemen. They also esteemed themselves affected in a tender point; that any of His Majesty's ministers should think the withholding these moneys a necessary measure to induce the colony to a due respect to the royal recommendation. It was not from so unworthy a motive, that the colony undertook to pay the sufferers their losses, but altogether in compliance with the recommendation of their gracious sovereign, who never had occasion to call their duty and ready obedience in question. That sum, distressed as the colony hath been, and still is, would never be an inducement.

The General Assembly again instructed their agent to renew his application to the lords of the treasury. The colony also addressed their lordships and the Earl of Hillsborough upon the subject. And His Lordship was pleased to inform the General

Assembly, that they might depend upon his attention to it; and that the sufferers were enjoined to exhibit such accounts of their losses as were required by the General Assembly.

Still, My Lord, those gentlemen did not comply with this most reasonable requisition of the General Assembly. Although the colony is informed that Doctor Moffatt hath acquainted the lords of the treasury that he really offered such an account to the Assembly, but was refused an hearing; which I must assure Your Lordship was not the case. That gentleman not only seems to hold the colony in defiance, but also to have been unwearied in his misrepresentations of it.

The colony, nevertheless, from the disposition they have perceived in the present lords of the treasury, together with the hopes of Your Lordship's patronage, flatter themselves that at length they will have justice done them.

Joseph Sherwood and Henry Marchant, Esqs., agents for the colony, did the last year present a memorial to the lords of the treasury upon this subject; who were pleased, by their secretary, Grey Cooper, Esq., to give the following answer:

"June 11, 1772. I am authorized to inform you, that, at a board held last week, Mr. Stewart, as agent for Dr. Moffatt, and Mr. Howard, again attended the board, by their lordships' order, upon Dr. Moffatt's affair; and accordingly instructed Mr. Stewart strongly to recommend to the Doctor, to present as soon as possible, an account of his losses to the General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island; but to omit in such account, the charge he had made in his former account, of his expenses upon his voyage to Great Britain, and of any consequential damages; and to exhibit an account only of such effects as were absolutely lost, damaged or destroyed, during the riot; and that he should consent to accept in part of his compensation, any goods or effects that were saved, and are now remaining in the hands of any of his friends or others; and the lords suppose that, upon such an account being exhibited, the Assembly will act upon it in such manner, as to give satisfaction to the board.

And should the doctor refuse, in a reasonable time, to exhibit such an account, the lords will proceed to a final settlement of the matter in dispute."

Doctor Moffatt, hereupon saw fit so far to comply, as to exhibit another account of his losses, less general, indeed, than he had before presented, but by no means so particular as he could easily have given, and the colony had a right to expect; twelve hundred volumes of books being one article, and others made in gross, to a very large amount. The General Assembly, however, immediately received it, and appointed a committee to consider it.

The Doctor still made no deduction for any of the articles saved; although the greater part of his books, furniture, &c., had been deposited in the hands of his most intimate friends and agents; and even went so far as to declare before the committee, that he was utterly ignorant that any articles were saved; until the committee showed him, by incontestible evidence, that not only many articles were saved, but led him to the spot where they still were.

He also charged a very round sum for china; when it appeared, that the small quantity he had, had been carried from his house and placed with a friend, several days before the riot, upon the apprehension that there might be one; and remained unpacked until it was shown to the Doctor. The committee, upon the examination of the matter, reported the Doctor's loss at £179 10s. 6d., sterling. The General Assembly received the report, and granted him that sum.

But the Doctor, by his attorney, in the face of the General Assembly, refused to accept it in writing, under his hand.

I enclose Your Lordship copies of the Doctor's account, the appointment and report of the committee, &c. ; and flatter myself, it will appear to Your Lordship, that the colony have fully complied with the royal recommendation, and with the expectation of the lords of the treasury, respecting the Doctor's demand.

Mr. Johnston hath since exhibited an account of his losses, which the Assembly have referred to the same committee. Mr. Howard, who lives in a remote province, hath not yet had an opportunity of exhibiting his account ; which, as soon as he does, will meet with due consideration.

I must mention to Your Lordship, that I have certain information, that the Doctor hath taken a number of evidences, in a very indirect manner, without giving any one of the committee, or any other person, an opportunity of appearing, on the part of the colony, to cross-examine the witnesses. These evidences, instead of passing through the proper offices, to be authenticated in the manner that such things have been constantly and invariably done, and annexed to the certificate, are secreted, to prevent the colony from knowing the purport of them, and from justifying themselves by setting matters in a true light. And the Doctor hath taken a general certificate, that certain persons are officers, without any reference to their particular acts or attestations. What weight ought to be allowed to such depositions, I submit to Your Lordship's judgment.

His Majesty has the highest reason to expect loyalty and obedience from his faithful subjects of this colony, who have demonstrated it, not only by the most sincere professions and declarations, but by cheerfully expending their blood and treasure upon every requisition from the crown.

May not, My Lord, the colony have reason to expect that the administration will see the royal promise to the colony complied with ? If under a former administration, they have been disappointed, they will not despair of the present. And from the answer which the lords of the treasury were the last year pleased to give to the memorial then presented to them, from the justness of their demand, and from the hopes they conceive of Your Lordship's friendship and countenance, they will not doubt but a grant, at this present session of Parliament, will be made at least for the sum reported to be due and payable, with the interest thereof.

I beg Your Lordship's patronage of this cause, in which the colony hath been so long delayed, and am, may it please Your Lordship,

Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servant,  
JOSEPH WANTON.

To the Earl of Dartmouth.

*Peyton Randolph to the Governor of Rhode Island, transmitting certain proceedings of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia.*

Virginia, March 19th, 1773.

Sir :—I have received the commands of the House of Burgesses of this colony, to transmit to you a copy of the resolves entered into by them on the 12th instant, which they hope will prove of general utility, if the other colonies shall think fit to adopt them.

They have expressed themselves so fully as to the motives that led to these resolutions, that I need not say any thing on that point ; and shall only beg you will lay

them before your Assembly as early as possible, and request them to appoint some of their body to communicate from time to time with the corresponding committee of Virginia.

I am, with great respect, &c.,

PEYTON RANDOLPH.

To the Governor of Rhode Island.

*Extracts from the Journal of the Proceedings of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia.*

“ Friday, the 12th of March, }  
13th George III., 1773. }

Upon a motion made,—

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole House, upon the state of the colony.

Mr. Speaker left the chair.

Mr. Bland took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. Bland reported from the committee that they had directed him to make the following report to the House, viz. :

‘ Whereas, the minds of His Majesty’s faithful subjects, in this colony, have been much disturbed by various rumors and reports of proceedings, tending to deprive them of their ancient, legal and constitutional rights;—

And whereas, the affairs of this colony are frequently connected with those of Great Britain, as well as of the neighboring colonies, which renders a communication of sentiments necessary; in order, therefore, to remove the uneasiness, and to quiet the minds of the people, as well as for the other good purposes above mentioned,—

Be it resolved, that a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry, be appointed, to consist of eleven persons, to wit: the Hon. Peyton Randolph, Esq., Robert Carter Nicholas, Richard Bland, Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton, Patrick Henry, Dudley Digges, Dabney Carr, Archibald Carey and Thomas Jefferson, Esqs., any six of whom, to be a committee, whose business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration, as may relate to, or affect the British colonies in America; and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations; and the result of such their proceedings, from time to time to lay before this House.

Resolved, that it be an instruction to said committee, that they do, without delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority, on which was constituted a court of inquiry, said to have been lately held in Rhode Island, with powers to transport persons accused of offences committed in America, to places beyond the seas, to be tried.’

The said resolutions being severally read a second time, were, upon the questions severally put thereupon, agreed to, by the House, *nemine contradicente*.

‘ Resolved, that the speaker of this House do transmit to the speakers of the dif-

ferent Assemblies of the British colonies on this continent, copies of the said resolutions, and desire that they will lay them before their respective Assemblies; and request them to appoint some person or persons of their respective bodies, to communicate from time to time, with the said committee.'

By the House of Burgesses of the colony of Virginia. } G. WYTHE,  
Extracted from the journal. } C. H. B.,"

*Metcalf Bowler, Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island, to the Speaker of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia.*

Newport, May 15th, 1773.

Sir:—Having received a letter from the speaker of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia, enclosing the resolutions of that patriotic and illustrious Assembly, of the 12th of March last; and also a letter, from the committee of correspondence and inquiry, by them appointed.

I took the earliest opportunity of laying them before the House of Deputies of this colony, who immediately entered into the consideration of them; and persuaded that nothing less than a firm and close union of the colonies in the most spirited, prudent and consistent measures can defeat the designs of those who are aiming to deprive them of their inestimable rights and privileges, passed *nemine contradicente*, the resolutions of which I have the honor to enclose you a copy.\*

I beg the favor of you to lay them before your House of Representatives as soon as possible.

I am, with great respect, &c., &c.,  
METCALFE BOWLER.

To the Speaker of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia.

*Resolutions of the House of Representatives of Rhode Island, relative to the foregoing Correspondence.*

Whereas, this House hath appointed a committee of correspondence with committees of the other colonies in North America, respecting the rights and privileges of the colonies, &c.: it is therefore—

Resolved by this House, that His Honor the Governor, be requested to deliver the said committee a copy of his commission as one of the judges of the court of

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\* The printed Schedules, or proceedings of the General Assembly, for May, 1773, do not contain these very important resolutions, relative to the measures proposed by the House of Burgesses, of Virginia; although it is certain the subject was acted on by the Assembly, at this session.

On referring to the manuscript acts and resolves of this period, four blank pages are found; and as the next minutes of the proceedings of the Assembly, under date of the 7th May, 1773, contain these resolutions, it is evident that the clerk omitted to complete the record, for which the blank pages were left. The sudden breaking off of the manuscript acts and resolves, show that it was intended to make additions; and that, for some reason, perhaps to the incompleteness of some papers, the imperfect copy was sent to the printers. The correspondence growing out of these resolves, appears to be complete.—J. E. B.

inquiry, constituted from home, and said to be held in this colony; and of all such other papers, which were laid before said court, as may be consistent with his honor as Governor of this colony.

Resolved, that the speaker of this House be requested to write to the Speaker of the House of Burgesses, in Virginia, and to all other speakers of Assemblies in North America, informing them of the proceedings of this House relating to the preservation of the rights of the colonies.

Resolved, that a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry, to be appointed, to consist of seven persons, to wit: the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., Metcalfe Bowler, Moses Brown, John Cole, William Bradford, Henry Marchant and Henry Ward, Esqs.; any four of whom, to be a committee, whose business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration as may relate to, or affect the British colonies, in America; and to keep and maintain a correspondence and communication with the other colonies, respecting those important considerations; and the result of their proceedings, from time to time, to lay before this House.

*J. Wentworth, of New Hampshire, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Portsmouth, New Hampshire, }  
27th May, 1773. }

Sir:—Having received a letter from the committee of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia, enclosing their resolves of the 12th of March last, a few days before the receipt of yours, of the 15th May inst.; which resolves, the House have duly considered, and agree in substance with them; and you may be assured, that this House will readily concur with you, and all the American colonies, in all constitutional measures, to obtain the desired redress.

In behalf of the House, I pray the favor of a copy of the commission of inquiry whenever obtained.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

J. WENTWORTH.

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Rhode Island.

*Resolutions of the House of Representatives of New Hampshire, relative to certain Resolutions of the Colonies of Virginia and Rhode Island.*

In the House of Representatives, }  
May 27th, 1773. }

Province of New Hampshire:

Resolved and voted, that a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry, be appointed, to consist of seven persons, viz.: the Hon. John Wentworth, Esq., John Sherburne, William Parker, John Giddinge, Jacob Sheape, Christopher Toppan and John Pickering, Esqs., any four of whom, to be a committee, whose business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration, as may

relate to, or affect the British colonies, in America; and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations; and the result of such their proceedings from time to time to lay before this House. Attest: WILLIAM PARKER, Clerk.

Extracted from the journal of the House of Representatives, }  
of the Province of New Hampshire. }

*Extract from the proceedings of the House of Representatives  
of Massachusetts.*

In the House of Representatives, }  
May 28th, 1773. }

Whereas, the speaker hath communicated to this House a letter from the truly respectable House of Burgesses, in His Majesty's ancient colony of Virginia, enclosing a copy of the resolves entered into by them on the 12th of March last, and requesting that a committee of this House may be appointed, to communicate from time to time, with a corresponding committee then appointed by the said House of Burgesses, of Virginia.

And whereas, this House is fully sensible of the necessity and importance of an union of the several colonies in America, at a time when it clearly appears that the rights and liberties of all are systematically invaded, in order that the joint wisdom of the whole may be employed in consulting their common safety,—

Resolved, that this House have a very grateful sense of the obligations they are under to the House of Burgesses, in Virginia, for the vigilance, firmness and wisdom, which they have discovered at all times in support of the rights and liberties of the American colonies; and do heartily concur with them in their said judicious and spirited resolves.

Resolved, that a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry, be appointed, to consist of fifteen members, any eight of whom, to be a quorum; whose business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration, as may relate to, or affect the British colonies in America; and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations; and the result of such their proceedings, from time to time, to lay before the House.

Resolved, that it be an instruction to the said committee, that they do, without delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority on which was constituted a court of inquiry, held in Rhode Island; said to be vested with powers to transport persons accused of offences committed in America, to places beyond the seas, to be tried.

Resolved, that the said committee be further instructed to prepare and report to this House, a draft of a very respectful answer to the letters received from the speaker of the honorable House of Burgesses, of Virginia, and the speaker of the Honorable House of Representatives of the colony of Rhode Island; also, a circular letter to the speakers of the several other Houses of Assemblies, on this continent, enclosing the aforesaid resolves; and requesting them to lay the same before their respective As-

semblies, in confidence that they will readily and cheerfully comply with the wise and salutary resolves of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia.

Then the House immediately made choice of the following gentlemen, to be the committee of correspondence and communication with the other colonies, viz.:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Samuel Adams, Hon. John Hancock, Esq., Mr. William Phillips, Capt. William Heath, Hon. Joseph Hawley, Esq., Hon. James Warren, Esq., Richard Derby, Jr., Esq., Mr. Elbridge Gerry, Jerathmeel Bowers, Esq., Jedediah Foster, Esq., Daniel Leonard, Esq., Capt. Thomas Gardner, Capt. Jonathan Greenleaf and James Prescott, Esq.

A true copy:

SAML ADAMS, Clerk.

*John Cruger, of New York, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

New York, May 29, 1773.

Sir:—I had the honor, this day, to receive your letter, directed to the speaker of the House of Representatives of this province, together with the resolves entered into by the honorable House of Deputies of Rhode Island, which shall be laid before the General Assembly of this colony, so soon as they are convened; which will not be before the latter end of this, or the beginning of the next year, unless they are called on some extraordinary occasion.

I am, with great respect, &c., &c.,

JOHN CRUGER.

To the Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Massachusetts, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Rhode Island.*

Province of the Massachusetts Bay, }  
June 3, 1773.

Sir:—The House of Representatives, of this province, being earnestly attentive to the controversy between Great Britain and the colonies; and considering that the authority claimed and exercised by Parliament, on the one side; and by the General Assemblies of this continent, on the other, greatly militates, and so is productive of this unhappy contention; think it of the utmost importance to the welfare of both, and particularly of the colonies, that the constitutional rights and powers of each, be inquired into, delineated and fully ascertained.

That His Majesty's subjects of America, are entitled to the same rights and liberties, as those of Great Britain; and that these ought, in justice by the constitution, to be as well guaranteed and secured to the one as to the other, are truths too apparent to be denied.

It is by this House, humbly conceived to be likewise undeniable, that the authority assumed and now forcibly exercised by Parliament over the colonies, is utterly subversive of freedom in the latter; and that while His Majesty's loyal subjects in Ameri-



ca, have the mortification daily to see new abridgments of their rights and liberties, they have not the least security for those which at present remain.

Were the colonists only affected by a legislature, subject to *their* control, they would even then have no other security than belongs to them by the laws of nature, and the English constitution; but, should the authority now claimed by Parliament, be fully supported by power, or submitted to by the colonies, it appears to this House, that *there* will be an end to liberty in America, and that the colonists will *then* change the name of freemen, for that of *slaves*.

The magnanimous House of Burgesses, of Virginia, having, in order to adjust and settle these important concerns, proposed a method for uniting the councils of its sister colonies, which appears to this House, to be a measure very wise and salutary.

It has, for many years, been the policy of the administration, to disunite, in order to govern the colonies; and this House is well assured, that had the firm and lasting union now in prospect, taken place early in the controversy, Great Britain and the colonies would at this day have harmonized most happily together.

The same effects are yet to be expected from such a union. It was, therefore, with inexpressible pleasure, that this House received your letter, and the resolves of the patriotic House of Deputies, of the colony of Rhode Island, corresponding with those of Virginia. And the first business of the House in this session, was to pass the enclosed resolves.

In the name, and by order of the House, I have the honor, &c., &c.,

THOMAS CUSHING,

To the Speaker of the Honorable House of Representatives }  
of the colony of Rhode Island. } Speaker.

*Ebenezer Silliman, of Connecticut, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Fairfield, in Connecticut, 25th June, 1773.

Sir:—I have received the commands of the House of Representatives, of this colony, to acknowledge the receipt of your favor, of the 15th of May last, which I received while the Assembly of this colony was sitting.

I without delay communicated it to the House, who had before received dispatches from the speaker and committee of the House of Burgesses, in Virginia, and had taken the subject matter thereof, into consideration, and came into a complete concurrence with the sentiments of that patriotic House; and fully adopted the measures by them proposed.

In consequence whereof, the House of Representatives of this colony made sundry resolves, and appointed a committee of correspondence to keep up and maintain a strict and happy union with our sister colonies; and constantly to correspond, touching any thing that may affect the general interests of the British colonies on the continent.

I am commanded to transmit a copy of said resolves to you, which I here enclose; and in the name and behalf of said House, request you to improve the earliest opportunity to lay them before the House of Representatives of the colony of Rhode Island.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

EBENEZER SILLIMAN,

To the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives, }  
of the colony of Rhode Island. }

*Proceedings, &c., in the Commons House of Assembly, of South Carolina.*

In the Commons House of Assembly, }  
the 8th of July, 1773. }

South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker reported to the House, that he had received a letter from the speaker of the Honorable House of Burgesses, of Virginia, enclosing several resolutions of that House; and the said resolutions being read, were unanimously approved of, by the House.

Resolved, that Mr. Speaker, and any eight of the other members of the standing committee of correspondence, be a committee, to inquire for, and obtain intelligence upon the several matters mentioned in the said resolutions; and to correspond with the committee appointed by the said House of Burgesses, and committees appointed, or to be appointed, in our other sister colonies, respecting the same.

Resolved, that Mr. Speaker do transmit the thanks of this House, to the speaker and members of the said House of Burgesses, of Virginia, for communicating the said resolutions to this House, as well as for their steady attention to the general interests of America.

Mr. Speaker also reported to the House, that he had received a letter from the committee mentioned in the resolutions of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia, enclosing him a copy of an act of the General Assembly, of Virginia, to prevent the counterfeiting the paper money of other colonies. And the said letter and act being read to the House,—

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in a bill, to prevent the counterfeiting the paper money of other colonies. And it is referred to Mr. Rutledge, Capt. Gadsden and Col. Pinckney, to prepare and bring in the said bill.

A true copy from the journal :

THOS. FARR, JR., Clerk.

*Raw. Lowndes, of South Carolina, to Metcalfe Bowler, of Rhode Island.*

Charleston, South Carolina, }  
22d July, 1773. }

Sir :—I am to acknowledge the receipt of your favors of the 15th day of May last, enclosing a copy of the resolves of your House of Deputies, of the 7th of the same month, respecting the measures proposed by the House of Burgesses, of Virginia.

You may assure yourself, sir, that I shall take the first opportunity, after our House meets, which stands prorogued to the 9th of next month, to lay your letter before them.

The resolutions of the House [of Burgesses] of Virginia, have been transmitted here, and our House have adopted the wise expedient recommended by that truly respectable senate. I take the liberty to enclose you an extract from our journals of what we have done, relative to that matter; and also, to the proposition for preventing the counterfeiting the paper money of other colonies.

As a close and firm union of the colonies is most certainly necessary for the gen-

eral welfare, so ought the general endeavors of the whole to be exerted in averting the dangers threatened to any part. The novel, unconstitutional court of inquiry, set up in your province, is truly alarming; and requires the united efforts of the colonies to prevent its baneful effects and influence.

You will do an acceptable service to our House, if you will be pleased to furnish me (if practicable) with a copy of the commission and instructions, by which the judges are to be governed in the exercise of the most extravagant powers they are said to be vested with; and of their proceedings in consequence thereof.

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

RAW. LOWNDES.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Lord Dartmouth.*

Providence, Rhode Island, Aug. 20, 1773.

My Lord:—I am requested by the General Assembly of this colony, to transmit to Your Lordship the enclosed copy of a petition preferred to them by a very considerable number of respectable inhabitants, concerning the fishery, at, and within, the River St. Lawrence, a matter of public utility and general concern.

Permit me, My Lord, to inform Your Lordship, that for several years past, the fishermen from this colony have erected, at their own cost, and improved certain houses, buildings and stakes upon most or all of the places mentioned in the petition referred to; of which some of the inhabitants of His Majesty's province of Canada, the spring past, forcibly took possession, and the same detained against right, until awed by numbers.

I am also requested to desire Your Lordship will please to communicate the subject matter of that petition to His Majesty, that his royal pleasure therein, may be known; and humbly to entreat His Majesty, in behalf of the poor fishermen, from this, his loyal colony, that they may uninterruptedly prosecute their business, as well at the several places in the said petition specified, as elsewhere within the Gulf of St. Lawrence; provided they conduct themselves inoffensively toward others.

I am, My Lord, &c., &c.,

JOSEPH WANTON.

To the Right Honorable the Earl of Dartmouth.

*Proceedings, &c., in the Commons House of Assembly, of Georgia.*

Commons House of Assembly, }  
Friday, the 10th September, 1773. }

Georgia.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House, two letters that he had received from the speaker of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia; and also, of the House of Deputies, of Rhode Island, enclosing resolutions of their respective Houses; and also, the copy of an act to prevent counterfeiting the paper currency of other colonies; which said resolutions being severally read, were unanimously approved of.

Resolved, *nem con*, that Mr. Speaker, and any five of the committee of correspond-

ence, be a committee to inquire for, and obtain, the earliest intelligence of the many important matters contained in the said several resolutions; and that they likewise do, from time to time, correspond with the respective committees that now are, or may be, appointed by the houses of representatives, on this continent.

Resolved, *nem con*, that the thanks of this House be transmitted to the honorable the speaker, and members of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia; and also, the honorable the speaker and members of the House of Deputies, of Rhode Island, for communicating their intentions firmly to support the rights and privileges of His Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects in America; and also, to the Honorable Peyton Randolph, Esq., Robert Carter Nicholas and Dudley Digge, Esqs., for transmitting to this House a copy of the above mentioned act.

A true copy, taken from the original journals, and examined by—

RICHARD CUNNINGHAM CROOKE, Clerk.

To the speaker of the House of Representatives of Rhode Island.

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Pennsylvania,  
to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Rhode  
Island.*

Philadelphia, September 25th, 1773.

Sir:—I embraced the earliest opportunity, to communicate your favor of the 19th of March, with the resolves of the House of Burgesses, of the colony of Virginia, to the Assembly of this province; and I have it in command from them, to assure your honorable House, that they esteem it a matter of the greatest importance, to cooperate with the representatives of the other colonies, in every wise and prudent measure which may be proposed for the preservation and security of their general rights and liberties; and that it is highly expedient and necessary a correspondence should be maintained between the Assemblies of the several colonies.

But, as the present Assembly must in a few days be dissolved by virtue of the charter of the province, and any measures they might adopt at this time, be rendered, by the dissolution, ineffectual, they have earnestly recommended the subject matter of the letter and resolves of the House of Burgesses, of Virginia, to the consideration of the succeeding Assembly.

In the name, and by order of the House,

I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

JOSEPH GALLOWAY,

Speaker.

To the Honorable the Speaker of the House of Deputies, }  
of the colony of Rhode Island. }

*Proceedings, &c., of the Lower House of Assembly, of Maryland.*

By the Lower House of Assembly, }

Friday, October 15th, 1773. }

The order of the day being read, the House took into consideration the several letters, and other papers, communicated to this House by the honorable speaker, and addressed to him, by the honorable the speakers of the several colonies of Virginia, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut and Rhode Island; and—

Resolved unanimously, that this House most cordially accept the invitation to a mutual correspondence and intercourse with our sister colonies.

Resolved, unanimously, that a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry, be appointed, to consist of eleven persons, to wit: the Honorable Matthew Tilghman, Esq., speaker; John Hall, Thomas Johnson, William Paca, Samuel Chase, Edward Lloyd, Matthias Hammond, Josias Beall, James Lloyd Chamberlaine, Brice Thomas, Beale Worthington and Joseph Sim, Esqs.; any five of whom, to be a committee, whose business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration as may relate to, or affect the British colonies, in America; and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations; and the result of such their proceedings, from time to time, to lay before this House.

Resolved, unanimously, that the speaker of this House transmit to the speakers of the different Assemblies of the British colonies, on this continent, copies of the above resolutions.

JNO. DUCKETT,  
Clerk of the Lower House.

Extracted from the journal of the Lower House of Assembly, }  
of the Province of Maryland. }

*Proceedings, &c., in the House of Representatives, of Delaware.*

Counties on Delaware, in the House of Representatives, }  
Saturday, October 23d, 1773. A. M. }

On motion of Mr. Read,—

Ordered, that the several letters, from the respective speakers of the House of Burgesses, in the colony of Virginia; the House of Deputies, in the colony of Rhode Island; and the House of Representatives, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay; with the several resolves enclosed, be read the second time; which was done, accordingly.

And the House, taking the same into consideration, resolved itself into a grand committee of the whole House.

The speaker left the chair.

Mr. McKean took the chair of the committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

Mr. McKean reported from the committee, that they had directed him to make the following report to the House, viz.:

Whereas, the speaker of the late Assembly, presented to the House, several letters, which he received during the recess of the House; one, from the truly patriotic House of Burgesses, of His Majesty's ancient dominion of Virginia, enclosing a copy of certain resolutions entered into by them, on the 12th of March last; one, from the honorable House of Deputies, of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, enclosing certain resolutions entered into by them, on the 7th of May last; and one, from the free and spirited House of Representatives, of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, enclosing certain resolutions, entered into by them, on the 28th of May last; and requesting that a committee of this House may be appointed, to communicate, from time to time, with the corresponding committees, appointed by the said Assemblies, and named in the said respective resolves.

And, whereas, this House is of opinion, that the measures adopted by the aforesaid

Assemblies, and proposed to this, are very salutary, and highly necessary at this time, when the rights and liberties of all appear to be systematically invaded.

Resolved, that this House have a very grateful sense of the obligations they are under to the House of Burgesses, in Virginia, for the vigilance, firmness and wisdom, which they have discovered at all times, in support of the rights and liberties of the American colonies; and do heartily concur with them in their said judicious and spirited resolves.

Resolved, that a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry, be appointed, to consist of five members, any three of whom, to be a quorum; whose business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration, as may relate to, or affect the British colonies in America; and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations; and the result of such their proceedings, from time to time, to lay before the House.

Resolved, that it be an instruction to the said committee, that they do, without delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority on which was constituted a court of inquiry, held in Rhode Island; said to be vested with powers to transport persons accused of offences committed in America, to places beyond the seas, to be tried.

Resolved, that the said committee be further instructed to prepare and report to this House, drafts of very respectful answers to the letters above mentioned; also, a circular letter to the speakers of the several other Houses of Assembly, on this continent, enclosing the aforesaid resolves; and requesting them to lay the same before their respective Assemblies, in confidence that they will readily and cheerfully comply with the well-concerted and wise resolves of the House of Burgesses, in Virginia.

To which said resolves, the House agreed, *nemine contradicente*.

Then the House immediately made choice of the following gentlemen to be the committee of correspondence and communication with the other colonies, viz.:

Mr. Speaker, George Read, Thomas M'Kean, John M'Kinly and Thomas Robinson, Esqs.

I do hereby certify, that the above and foregoing, is a true copy of the minutes of Assembly.

DAVID THOMPSON,

Clerk *ibid*.

*Cesar Rodney, Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Delaware, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Newcastle, on Delaware, October 25th, 1773.

Sir:—I am ordered by the House of Representatives, of this government, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th of May last, addressed to the speaker of the late Assembly here, enclosing a copy of the resolves, entered into by the House of Deputies, of your colony; and to inform you, that the same were laid before this House, the first time they met, after receiving them.

And I now have the pleasure of transmitting to you, a copy of their minutes and proceedings on this occasion : which are so expressive of their sentiments of the measures adopted and recommended by your House, that nothing need be added thereto.

In the name, and by the order of the House,

I am, with the greatest respect, &c., &c.,

CÆSAR RODNEY, Speaker.

To the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives, )  
of the colony of Rhode Island. )

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Georgia, to the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Savannah, in Georgia, 20th November, 1773.

Sir:—Your esteemed favor, enclosing several resolutions of the House of Deputies, of the colony of Rhode Island, has duly come to hand ; and I took an opportunity of laying them before the Commons House of Assembly, of this province, who immediately entered into some ; of which, I have the pleasure, by order of the House, to enclose you a copy.

By them, you will see that the representatives of the people are not backward in any thing that may have a tendency to promote the general welfare of America ; a the same, to testify their abhorrence of measures that strike ultimately at the destruction of our liberties and privileges.

I have the honor to be, sir, &c., &c.,

WILLIAM YOUNG.

To the Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Georgia, to the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Savannah, in Georgia, 20th November, 1773.

Sir:—I have the honor to transmit the thanks of the Commons House of Assembly, of this province, to you, sir, and the other members of the House of Deputies, of Rhode Island, for communicating your intentions firmly to support the rights and liberties of America.

I am, respectfully, sir, &c., &c.,

WILLIAM YOUNG.

To the Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.

*The Speaker of the House of Delegates, of Maryland, to the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Maryland, December 6, 1773.

Sir:—Having received your letter of the 15th May last, together with the resolutions of your House of Deputies, I took the earliest opportunity of laying them before the House of Delegates, of this province ; who, sensible of the great utility of a

perfect union amongst the colonies, most readily concurred in the measure proposed by the House of Burgesses, of Virginia; and came to the resolutions I have now the honor to enclose, and which I have it in command to transmit to you; requesting you will lay them before your House of Deputies, at their next meeting.

I am, sir, with great respect, &c., &c.,

MAT. TILGHMAN.

To the Speaker of the House of Deputies, of Rhode Island.

*Proceedings, &c., of the House of Representatives of North Carolina.*

In the Assembly, 18th December, 1773.

North Carolina.

Upon the speaker's communicating to this House, a letter from the truly patriotic House of Burgesses, of His Majesty's ancient dominion of Virginia, enclosing a copy of certain resolves entered into by them, upon the 12th of March last, and requesting that this House would appoint a committee, to communicate from time to time, with a corresponding committee by them then appointed; and also letters from several of our sister colonies, expressing the high approbation of, and concurrence with so salutary a measure; this House—

Resolve, that the vigilance which the honorable House of Burgesses, of Virginia, have displayed in attending to every encroachment upon the rights and liberties of America, and the wisdom and vigor with which they have always opposed such encroachments, are worthy the imitation and merit the gratitude of all their sister colonies; and in no instance more particularly, than the measure proposed for appointing corresponding committees in every colony, by which such harmony and communication will be established among them, that they will at all times be ready to exert their united efforts, and most strenuous endeavors to preserve the just rights and liberties of the American colonies; which appear of late, to be so systematically invaded, that we heartily concur with their spirited resolves.

Resolved, that a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry, be appointed, to consist of nine persons, to wit: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Howe, Mr. Harnell, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Caswell, Mr. Vail, Mr. Ashe, Mr. Hewes and Mr. Samuel Johnston, any five of whom, to be a committee, whose business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration as may relate to, or affect the British colonies, in America; and to keep and maintain a correspondence and communication with the other colonies, respecting those important considerations; and the result of their proceedings, from time to time, to lay before this House.

Resolved, that it be an instruction to said committee, that they do, without delay, inform themselves particularly of the principles and authority, on which was constituted a court of inquiry, said to have been lately held in Rhode Island, with powers to transport persons accused of offences committed in America, to places beyond the seas, to be tried.

Resolved, that the speaker of this House write respectful answers to the letters above mentioned; and also, a circular letter of thanks to the speakers of the several Houses of Assembly, who have so spiritedly adopted the patriotic resolutions and



measures of the truly respectable House of Burgesses, of Virginia, and for their obliging communication thereof to this House, enclosing a copy of our proceedings and requesting them to lay the same before their respective Assemblies.

By order:

JAS. GREENJIMELK.

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives, of North Carolina,  
to the Speaker of the House Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

North Carolina, December 26th, 1773.

Sir:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your much esteemed favor of the 15th of May, accompanying the resolves of the House of Deputies, which I lost no time in laying before the House of Assembly, of this colony; who very cheerfully received and adopted them.

I have it in command, to transmit you the resolutions entered into by our House, which you will herewith receive; and am,

With great respect and esteem, sir, &c., &c.,

JOHN HARVEY.

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of  
Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the  
first Wednesday of May, 1774.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged.

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. John Collins,

Mr. Thomas Wickes,

Mr. Peleg Barker,

Mr. Jonathan Randall,

Mr. David Harris,

Mr. John Congdon,

Mr. John Sayles, Jr.,

Mr. William Potter,

Mr. John Almy,

Mr. William Richmond.

## DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. Thomas Cranston,  
 Mr. John Wanton,  
 Mr. George Hazard,  
 Mr. John Bours,  
 Mr. John Read,  
 Mr. Thomas Freebody.

*Providence.*

Mr. Stephen Hopkins,  
 Mr. John Jenckes,  
 Mr. John Smith,  
 Mr. John Matthewson.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Metcalfe Bowler,  
 Mr. John Jepson,  
 Mr. Joseph Brownell,  
 Mr. John Shearman.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Benjamin Greene,  
 Mr. William Greene,  
 Mr. Jacob Greene,  
 Mr. John Low.

*Westerly.*

Mr. Joshua Babcock,  
 Mr. Stephen Saunders.

*New Shoreham.*

Mr. John Sands,  
 Mr. Walter Rathbun.

*North Kingstown.*

Mr. Peter Phillips,  
 Mr. John Northup.

*South Kingstown.*

Mr. John Potter,  
 Mr. Carder Hazard.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. Preserved Pearce,  
 Mr. William Pearce.

*Jamestown.*

Mr. Edward Hull,  
 Mr. Daniel Weedon, Jr.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Israel Wilkinson,  
 Mr. William Winsor.

*Scituate.*

Mr. Ezekiel Cornell,  
 Mr. Rufus Hopkins.

*Glocester.*

Mr. Silas Williams,  
 Mr. Chad Brown.

*Charlestown.*

Mr. Sylvester Robinson,  
 Mr. Jesse Champlin.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Benjamin Tillinghast,  
 Mr. Thomas Gorton.

*Coventry.*

Mr. Israel Bowen,  
 Mr. Caleb Vaughan.

*Exeter.*

Mr. George Pierce,  
 Mr. John Chapman.

*Middletown.*

Mr. Nicholas Easton,  
 Mr. Isaac Smith.

*Bristol.*

Col. Simeon Potter,  
 Mr. William Bradford.

## DEPUTIES.

<i>Tiverton.</i>	<i>Cranston.</i>
Mr. Edward Gray,	Mr. Joseph Rhodes,
Capt. John Cooke.	Mr. Thomas Potter.
<i>Little Compton.</i>	<i>Hopkinton.</i>
Mr. Thomas Church,	Mr. Thomas Wells, Jr.,
Mr. Daniel Wilbur.	Mr. Jesse Maxson.
<i>Warren.</i>	<i>Johnston.</i>
Mr. Sylvester Child,	Mr. Edward Fenner,
Mr. Nathan Miller.	Mr. Jeduthun Belknap.
<i>Cumberland.</i>	<i>North Providence.</i>
Mr. John Dexter,	Capt. Stephen Jenckes,
Mr. Nathaniel Shepperdson.	Mr. Thomas Olney.
<i>Richmond.</i>	<i>Barrington.</i>
Mr. Robert Stanton,	Mr. Nathaniel Martin,
Mr. Caleb Barber.	Mr. Thomas Allen.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, speaker ; Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

Mr. Henry Ward, secretary.

Mr. Henry Marchant, attorney general.

Mr. Joseph Clarke, general treasurer.

Stephen Hopkins, Esq., chief justice of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery.

## SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Walter Chaloner. Providence county—Mr. Paul Tew. Kings county—Mr. Beriah Brown. Bristol county—Mr. John Brown. Kent county—Mr. Henry Rice.

## FIELD OFFICERS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Daniel Dunham, colonel ; Mr. Isaac Dayton, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. John Forrester, major.

Providence county—Mr. James Angell, colonel ; Mr. Chad Brown, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Jabez Bowen, major,

Kings county—Mr. Moses Barber, colonel ; Mr. James Babcock, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Jonathan Vaughan, major.

Kent county—Mr. John Waterman, colonel ; Mr. John Low, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Joseph Fry, major.

Whereas, Mr. Abial Brown, of South Kingstown, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that on the 6th instant, his house, and the principal part of his furniture, were accidentally consumed by fire ; by which misfortune, he, with his wife, and four small children, are reduced to a state of poverty and distress ; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly to grant him a lottery, for raising the sum of \$500, in such and so many classes as the directors shall think best, to be applied to his relief ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition, be, and the same is hereby, granted, upon the usual conditions ; provided, that no charge accrue to the colony ; and that Messrs. Robert Potter, Abijah Brown and John Gardner (son of John), all of South Kingstown, be appointed directors of the said lottery.

Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of East Greenwich, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that there is, at present, but one school house in the compact part of the said town ; and that another is necessary for the education of youth ; and thereupon prayed this Assembly, that a lottery may be granted, to raise the sum of \$600, to be applied towards the purchasing a lot, and building a public school house in the said town ; and that Preserved Pearce, Esq., Mr. Oliver Arnold and Mr. John Reynolds, all of East Greenwich ; and Silas Casey, Esq. and Mr. Isaac Tripp, Jr., both of Warwick, may be appointed directors of the said lottery ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the foregoing petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, on the usual conditions ; provided, that no charge accrue to the colony, thereby.

Whereas, Mr. Griffin Greene, of Coventry, forge-master, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that,

at the session of this Assembly, held in August, A. D. 1772, a lottery was granted, to raise the sum of \$2,500, for repairing a loss sustained by the forge, in Coventry, aforesaid, being burnt; that Messrs. William Greene, Christopher Greene and Charles Holdon, Jr., of Warwick, were appointed directors; that, in conformity thereto, two classes of said lottery have been drawn, for raising the sum of \$500, only; that the greatness of the plan, hath proved an insurmountable obstacle to its further progress; that Messrs. Nathaniel Greene and Company, parties concerned, are willing to relinquish their interest in said lottery, with respect to any further gain; and that he is, and hath been, a great sufferer, and stands in need of assistance; and thereupon, the said Griffin Greene prayed this Assembly, that the mode of said lottery may be altered; and that he may be permitted to raise the sum of \$500, by one or more classes, under the direction of the above named directors; they complying with the usual requisitions; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that the number of families and persons in this colony be taken; specifying the number of whites, Indians and blacks, both male and female; and ascertaining the number above, and under, the age of sixteen; and that the persons whose names are set down in the subsequent list, be, and they are hereby, appointed to take the account in their respective towns, to wit:

*Persons appointed by the General Assembly, to make an Enumeration of the Inhabitants of the Colony.*

Newport—Mr. Edward Thurston, Jr.,	South Kingstown—Mr. Nath'l Hawkins.
William Coddington, Esq.	East Greenwich—William Pierce, Esq.
Providence—James Angell, Esq.	Jamestown—Benj. Underwood, Esq.
Portsmouth—John Shearman, Esq.	Smithfield—Daniel Mowry, Jr., Esq.
Warwick—Mr. Anthony Low.	Scituate—Mr. Rufus Hopkins.
Westerly—Joseph Crandall, Esq.	Glocester—Zebedee Hopkins, Jr., Esq.
New Shoreham—Mr. John Sands.	Charlestown—Mr. Jonathan Hassard.
North Kingstown—Peter Phillips, Esq.	West Greenwich—Job Spencer, Esq.

Coventry—Mr. Abel Bennett.

Exeter—George Peirce, Esq.

Middletown—John Barker, Esq.

Bristol—Richard Smith, Esq.

Tiverton—Walter Cooke, Esq.

Little Compton—Thomas Church, Esq.

Warren—William Turner Miller, Esq.

Cumberland—John Dexter, Esq.

Richmond—Robert Stanton, Esq.

Cranston—Thomas Potter, Esq.

Hopkinton—Thomas Wells, Jr., Esq.

Johnston—Edward Fenner, Esq.

North Providence—Hope Angell, Esq.

Barrington—Mr. Thomas Allen.

It is further voted and resolved, that, in case any of the above named persons shall refuse, or by any casualty be rendered unable to serve, then the deputies in the respective towns be, and they are hereby, empowered to appoint others in their stead.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the secretary transmit, by express, as soon as possible, a copy hereof, to the persons above appointed ; and also, furnish each person with a proper roll, with ruled columns, to take the numbers ; and that the persons so appointed, make return thereof, to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the thanks of this Assembly be given to the Hon. Darius Sessions, Esq., Deputy Governor of this colony, for his spirited conduct in exerting his authority for the honor of the colony, in issuing a proclamation for apprehending Daniel Willson, a criminal, under sentence of death, who had broken out of the jail in Providence.

And that the sheriff of the county of Providence, present an account of the expenses and charges of apprehending the said Willson, to this Assembly, at the next session.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the second Monday in June, 1774.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Mr. Benjamin Greene, one of the owners of the iron works, in Coventry, called Greene's Iron Works, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that a lottery was heretofore granted to the owners of the said iron works, to enable them to re-build them, after they had been consumed by fire ; that the said owners have received but small benefit from the said lottery ; that the expense of re-building them, hath been very great, and particularly heavy upon him ; and that, as the said branch of business is exceedingly advantageous to the public, he is greatly encouraged to hope that a lottery, for his relief, will be soon filled ; and thereupon, the said Benjamin Greene prayed this Assembly to grant him a lottery, to raise the sum of \$600, towards discharging the expenses of re-building the said iron works ; and that Capt. David Brayton, of Coventry ; Mr. Daniel Hall, of North Kingstown ; and Mr. John Greene, (son of David,) of Warwick, be appointed directors thereof ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual conditions and restrictions ; provided, no charge accrue to the colony, thereby.

It is voted and resolved, that William Potter, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to procure a new court house to be built, in the county of Kings county, upon the place where the old court house now stands, agreeably to the plan presented to this Assembly, by the committee, appointed for that purpose ;

that he sell the old court house for what it will fetch, and apply the money, arising from the sale thereof, towards building the new court house ; and that the said old house remain in the condition it is now in, until after the sitting of the superior court in April next.

This Assembly taking into the most serious consideration, several acts of the British Parliament, for levying taxes upon His Majesty's subjects, in America, without their consent, and particularly an act lately passed, for blocking up the port of Boston ; which act, even upon the supposition that the people of Boston had justly deserved punishment, is scarcely to be paralleled in history, for the severity of the vengeance executed upon them ; and also considering to what a deplorable state this, and all the other colonies are reduced, when, by an act of Parliament, in which the subjects in America have not a single voice, and without being heard, they may be divested of property, and deprived of liberty ; do, upon mature deliberation,—

Resolve, 1st. That it is the opinion of this Assembly, that a firm and inviolable union of all the colonies, in councils and measures, is absolutely necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties ; and that, for that purpose, a convention of representatives, from all the colonies, ought to be holden, in some suitable place, as soon as may be, in order to consult upon proper measures to obtain a repeal of the said acts ; and to establish the rights and liberties of the colonies, upon a just and solid foundation.

2d. That the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, and the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed by this Assembly, to represent the people of this colony, in a general congress of representatives, from the other colonies, at such time and place, as shall be agreed upon by the major part of the committees appointed, or to be appointed, by the colonies in general.

3d. That they consult and advise with the representatives of the other colonies, who shall meet in such congress, upon a loyal and dutiful petition, and remonstrance, to be presented to His Majesty, as the united voice of his faithful subjects in



America, setting forth the grievances they labor under, and praying his gracious interposition for their relief; and that in case a major part of the representatives of all the colonies shall agree upon such petition and remonstrance, they be empowered to sign the same, in behalf of this colony.

4th. That they also consult and advise upon all such reasonable and lawful measures, as may be expedient for the colonies, in an united manner, to pursue, in order to procure a redress of their grievances; and to ascertain and establish their rights and liberties.

5th. That that they also endeavor to procure a regular, annual convention of representatives from all the colonies, to consider of proper means for the preservation of the rights and liberties of the colonies.

6th. That the speaker of the lower house transmit, as soon as may be, copies of these resolutions, to the present or late speakers of the respective houses of representatives of all the British colonies upon the continent.

An Act establishing an independent company, by the name of  
The Light Infantry, for the county of Providence.

[Here follows the charter.]

At the request of the persons formed into a company, by the name of The Light Infantry, for the county of Providence,—

It is voted and resolved, that the following persons be, and hereby are, appointed the first commissioned officers for the said company, to wit:

John Matthewson, captain; Jonathan Ellis, first lieutenant; Thomas Truman, second lieutenant; Asa Franklin, ensign.

Whereas, a number of the inhabitants of towns of Warwick and Cranston, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that they have built a meeting house for the church and congregation of the Baptist denomination, at Pawtuxet; and that there is still wanting, in the said place, a parsonage house and lot, for the settlement and dwelling of the minister of the

said congregation ; and therefore prayed this Assembly to grant a lottery, for raising the sum of £300, lawful money, for the purpose of purchasing a parsonage lot, and building a parsonage house, to be, and remain, forever hereafter, to and for the use of the minister of the said congregation, at said Pawtuxet ; and that Anthony Aborn, Esq. and Mr. Nehemiah Rhodes, both of Cranston, aforesaid ; and Robert Rhodes, Esq. and Mr. Benj. Arnold, both of Warwick, aforesaid, may be appointed directors of the said lottery, to raise the said sum of money, for the purpose aforesaid, as soon as conveniently may be ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual conditions and restrictions ; provided, that no charge accrue to the colony, thereby.

Whereas, the General Assembly, at their session held in August, A. D. 1773, passed an act, entitled “ An act making it lawful to break down and blow up the rocks at Pawtucket Falls, to let fish pass up ;” through a misunderstanding of which act, many disadvantages have happened,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the Hon. Stephen Hopkins and the Hon. Darius Sessions, Esqs., and Mr. Moses Brown, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, with power to see the said act truly executed ; and that no rocks be blown up, nor any thing done, by virtue of said act, but by the direction or permission of the said committee, or any two of them.

Whereas, Messrs. Nicholas Brown, Joseph Brown, John Brown, Benjamin Thurber, Daniel Cahoone, Daniel Tillinghast, Edward Thurber, William Russell, Nathaniel Wheaton, Christopher Sheldon, Ephraim Wheaton and John Jenckes, the committee of the Baptist or Anti-Pedobaptist society, in the town of Providence, did, in behalf of said society, prefer a petition, and represent unto this Assembly, that the said society hath purchased a convenient lot, to build a meeting house upon, for the public worship of Almighty God, and holding the public commencements in ; and that the purchase of the said

lot, together with the building a proper house for the purposes, aforesaid, will be attended with very great expense; and thereupon prayed that a lottery may be granted, to raise the sum of £2,000, to enable the said society to carry their pious designs into execution; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted under the usual restrictions and conditions; provided, that no charge accrue to the colony, thereby; and that the first class of the said lottery be not drawn until the 1st day of October next.

And it is further voted and resolved, that Messrs. Nicholas Brown, John Jenckes, Benjamin Thurber, Daniel Tillinghast, William Russell, Edward Thurber, Nathaniel Wheaton, James Arnold, William Holroyd and Nicholas Power, be, and they are hereby, appointed directors of the said lottery.

Whereas, a certain act of the British Parliament, for stopping up the harbor of Boston, is now in its full operation, to the great distress of that town in particular, and of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in general.

And whereas, it appears to this Assembly, that the said act is in direct violation of the rights and liberties of that people; and, as such, is truly alarming to every colony upon the continent of British America, with a sense whereof, this Assembly is deeply impressed.

And whereas, the Supreme Being, upon account of our manifold sins, may have permitted the present invasions of American liberty, and every public evil with which we are threatened,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Thursday, the 30th day of this instant June, be set apart as a day of public fasting, prayer and supplication, throughout this colony, to beseech Almighty God to grant us sincere repentance; to avert every threatened judgment from us, and restore us to the full enjoyment of our rights and privileges; and, in particular, that he would appear for the relief and recovery of the town of Boston, from their present distressed situation; and that

His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to issue a proclamation accordingly, recommending a decent and due observance thereof, by all public religious societies, as well as individuals.

It is voted and resolved, that this Assembly hath a tender commiseration for the poor in Boston, and will, at a future session, cheerfully assist towards their support, as their necessities may require, and the abilities of the colony afford.

Whereas, Gideon Almy, of Tiverton, in the county of Newport, trader, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that the last fall he laid out every shilling he was worth in fitting out two-third parts of the sloop Sally, on a whaling voyage; that the said sloop, meeting with success, had got on board one hundred and twenty barrels of oil, by the latter end of January last; and that the said sloop being obliged, in a gale of wind, to come to an anchor under Hispaniola, was seized by a French frigate, carried into Port-au-Prince, and there, with her whole cargo, condemned as a lawful prize; by which misfortune, he hath totally lost upwards of \$2,000, being the whole what he was worth, and had scraped together, by his unwearied diligence and industry, and is deprived of the means of putting himself into any way of business, to support a wife and seven children.

And thereupon, the said Gideon Almy prayed this Assembly to grant him a lottery, under the direction of Messrs. Edward Gray, Joseph Wanton, Jr., John Cooke and Isaac Corey, for raising the sum of \$1,200, to help him forward in business again; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the aforesaid petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual conditions and restrictions; provided, that no charge accrue to the colony, thereby.

It is voted and resolved, that the attorney general, Mr. John Read and Mr. Thomas Freebody, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill to prevent the introducing and passing, false copper money in this colony; and that they

present the same to this General Assembly, as soon as conveniently may be.

It is voted and resolved, that William Potter, Esq., be, and he is hereby, directed to advertise in the public prints, in this colony, the dimensions of the court-house, to be built in the county of Kings county, and the manner in which it is to be built, and finished; and request the house carpenters in the colony to send in to him their proposals for building the same, in writing, sealed up.

That he contract by the great, with such carpenter or carpenters, as shall appear skillful, and will undertake the business upon the best terms.

That he do the same, with regard to masons, and other workmen.

And that the said William Potter be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £300, lawful money, towards carrying on the said building.

An Act prohibiting the importation of Negroes into this Colony.

Whereas, the inhabitants of America are generally engaged in the preservation of their own rights and liberties, among which, that of personal freedom must be considered as the greatest; as those who are desirous of enjoying all the advantages of liberty themselves, should be willing to extend personal liberty to others;—

Therefore, be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that for the future, no negro or mulatto slave shall be brought into this colony; and in case any slave shall hereafter be brought in, he or she shall be, and are hereby, rendered immediately free, so far as respects personal freedom, and the enjoyment of private property, in the same manner as the native Indians.

Provided, nevertheless, that this law shall not extend to servants of persons travelling through this colony, who are not inhabitants thereof, and who carry them out with them, when they leave the same.

Provided, also, that nothing in this act shall extend, or be

deemed to extend, to any negro or mulatto slave, belonging to any inhabitant of either of the British colonies, islands or plantations, who shall come into this colony, with an intention to settle or reside, for a number of years, therein ; but such negro or mulatto, so brought into this colony, by such person inclining to settle or reside therein, shall be, and remain, in the same situation, and subject in like manner to their master or mistress, as they were in the colony or plantation from whence they removed.

Provided, nevertheless, that if any person, so coming into this colony, to settle or reside, as aforesaid, shall afterwards remove out of the same, such person shall be obliged to carry all such negro or mulatto slaves, as also all such as shall be born from them, out of the colony with them.

Provided, also, that nothing in this act shall extend, or be deemed to extend, to any negro or mulatto slave brought from the coast of Africa, into the West Indies, on board any vessel belonging to this colony, and which negro or mulatto slave could not be disposed of in the West Indies, but shall be brought into this colony.

Provided, that the owner of such negro or mulatto slave give bond to the general treasurer of the said colony, within ten days after such arrival in the sum of £100, lawful money, for each and every such negro or mulatto slave so brought in, that such negro or mulatto slave shall be exported out of the colony, within one year from the date of such bond ; if such negro or mulatto be alive, and in a condition to be removed.

Provided, also, that nothing in this act shall extend, or be deemed to extend, to any negro or mulatto slave that may be on board any vessel belonging to this colony, now at sea, in her present voyage.

And to prevent any slave or slaves from being clandestinely brought into this colony, in order that they may be free, and liable to become chargeable,—

Be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all persons, so offending, shall be liable to, and pay, a fine of £100, lawful money, for each and every one so brought in, to

and for the use of the colony, to be recovered in the same manner that other fines and forfeitures usually are, by the laws of this government.

And also, all persons who shall be convicted of receiving, harboring, or concealing, any such negro or mulatto slave, within this colony, he or they, so offending, shall be liable to the like penalty, to be recovered and applied in the same manner; and such negro or mulatto shall be sent out of the colony, as other poor persons are, by law.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Carder Hazard, Benjamin Greene and John Read, be, and they, or any two of them, are hereby, appointed a committee to audit the accounts of all the persons who, according to appointment, have taken an account of the number of people in this colony; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the petition from divers of the inhabitants of Middletown, praying that the act granting an excise on wine and other strong liquors, in said town, may be repealed, be, and the same is hereby, referred to the next session; and that in the mean time, the town treasurer of the said town of Middletown, be cited to appear then, to answer the same.

Whereas, Mr. Edward Thurston, Jr., presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit:

*Report of the Committee, appointed by the General Assembly, to take the number of the Inhabitants of the Colony.*

Pursuant to the appointment of the honorable House, I have completed the lists from the several towns, of the numbers of families and persons; and find the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, contains 9,449 families; and 59,678 inhabitants; of which, 54,435 are whites; 1,482 are Indians, and 3,761 are blacks, agreeably to the list herewith presented. Which is submitted by—

Your Honors' humble servant,

EDWARD THURSTON, JR.

To the Honorable the House of Deputies.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted ; that the secretary insert in the schedule of the acts and orders of this Assembly, the list, with the said report presented ; and that six shillings, lawful money, be allowed, and paid the said Edward Thurston, Jr., out of the general treasury, for his above mentioned service.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the fourth Monday in August, 1774.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, this Assembly granted a lottery, for raising a sum of money, to be applied towards building a Baptist meeting house, in the town of Providence ; and some time in the month of October next, was appointed for drawing the same.

And whereas, the directors of the said lottery have represented unto this Assembly, that they have disposed of all the tickets in the first class ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, at the request of the said directors, that they may draw the said lottery forthwith, or as soon in this month, or as early in September next, as they can get ready.

Whereas, Mr. Joseph Burrill exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the colony, for a large speaking-trumpet, for Fort George ; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that twelve shillings, lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid the said Joseph Burrill, out of the general treasury.



It is voted and resolved, that £60, lawful money, be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury, to the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq. ; and the like sum to the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esq., the delegates appointed by this colony, to meet the commissioners from the other colonies, in general congress, to defray their present exigences ; and that they account for the same, to this Assembly.

Whereas, it hath been represented to this Assembly, by Col. Benjamin Wickham, that the lottery granted to him by an act of this Assembly, passed in August, A. D. 1773, for the disposal of his real estate, to enable him to discharge his debts, hath met with discouragements, so that there appears but little prospect, at present, of its being filled and drawn.

And whereas, the colony obtained an execution against the said Benjamin Wickham, for upwards of £60, lawful money, which was returned, unsatisfied, to the last inferior court of common pleas, held at Newport ; in order to further the recovery of the said sum, for the colony, as well as to encourage the said lottery, and thereby to relieve the said Wickham,—

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to purchase of the directors of the said lottery, on the account and risk of the colony, as many tickets in the said lottery as the debt and cost of the said execution amount to ; on this condition, that the said execution be not discharged until the said lottery be drawn.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Thomas Freebody and John Smith, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to divide and set off to the county of Providence, their proportion of the colony's arms, now in the town of Newport, according to their proportion of the last colony tax.

That they deliver them to such person as shall be appointed by His Honor the Deputy Governor, to receive them, he giving a receipt therefor.

And that the said arms, so delivered, be always kept clean, and in good order, at the charge of the town of Providence, be lodged in the colony house, in Providence, and be returned when demanded by this Assembly.

Whereas, William Holden, of Warwick, in the county of Kent, presented a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that he, some years ago, exerted himself to the utmost of his abilities, and, with great labor and expense, erected a dam across Pawtuxet River, and thereon erected a grist mill, which supplied many of the neighboring towns, especially when many other mills failed for want of water.

That the last winter, the upper part of said dam was carried away by a great flood.

That he hath been so reduced, by the sickness of himself and family, that he is unable to repair the said dam ; and that if it be not repaired, it will not only be a heavy loss to him, but prove very detrimental to many of the inhabitants of the colony.

And thereupon, the said William Holden prayed this Assembly to grant him a lottery, to raise about £50, lawful money, to enable him to repair and secure the said dam ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual conditions and restrictions ; provided, that no charge accrue to the colony, thereby.

And that Capt. William Potter and Mr. John Wickes, son of Robert, both of Warwick ; and Mr. Anthony Holden, of East Greenwich, be, and they are hereby, appointed directors of the said lottery.

Whereas, a proclamation was issued by His Honor the Deputy Governor, promising a reward of £100, lawful money, to any person or persons who should apprehend Daniel Willson, a criminal, under sentence of death, who broke out of the jail, in Providence ; in pursuance of which, he was taken up by eighteen persons ; of whom, four belonged to this colony, and the other fourteen, to the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, whose names are as follows, to wit : George Bruce, Otis Whipple, George Whipple, Jonathan Whipple, Philip Amadown, Levy Willard, William Drown, Andrew Peters, Calvin Smith, Increase Thayer, David Daniels, Jr., Ichabod Hayward, Ar-

temas White and Jacob Aldrich, who have applied for their part of the said reward ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that one-eighteenth part of the said reward be paid to each of the above named persons, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the members of the lower House, before the next session, lay before their constituents the vote of this Assembly, at a former session, and the proceedings of the lower House, at the present session, respecting the granting a sum of money to our suffering, poor brethren in the town of Boston.

That they collect the sentiments of their constituents, respecting the subject matter thereof, and obtain instructions for the members, who may be elected for the next session ; and their approbation, if it may be, of a grant to be made, out of the general treasury, of a sum of money for that purpose.

And also, for the recommending a general subscription, throughout the colony, to give an opportunity for a further exertion of the generous and benevolent mind.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the last Wednesday in October, 1774.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Joseph Nightingale, John Matthewson, James Angell, Henry Marchant and James Mitchel Varnum, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to take into consideration the several petitions presented to this Assembly, for establishing an independent company in the town of Newport ; an independent company in the towns of East Greenwich, Warwick and Coventry ; and

a grenadier company in the town of Providence ; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as conveniently may be.

It is voted and resolved, that a tax be assessed upon the inhabitants of this colony, of £4,000, lawful money, to be paid into the general treasury by next May ; that £2,000, thereof, be appropriated to the discharging the lawful money notes given for sinking the old tenor debts of this colony ; and that the remainder be lodged in the general treasury, to defray the incidental charges of government.

Whereas, Messrs. Joseph Nash and Christopher Whipple, owners of the sloop Two Pollies, and her cargo, in behalf of themselves, and the insurers on said sloop and cargo, preferred a memorial and petition unto this Assembly, setting forth that at Providence, in this colony, on or about the 1st day of October, A. D. 1773, they shipped on board the said sloop (Ephraim Carpenter being master), a cargo of goods for the River Mississippi, with intent to dispose of the same to the settlers on that river.

That they, the said Joseph Nash and Christopher Whipple, sailed from Rhode Island, in the sloop Hope, in November following, for the said river, where they safely arrived in December, and found the said sloop Two Pollies.

That about two leagues below the town of New Orleans, they left the said sloop Hope, and went on board the sloop Two Pollies, and took with them, from the said sloop Hope, goods to a very considerable amount, with intent to proceed up the river, in order to dispose of the same.

That while the said sloop Two Pollies was lying at anchor, about two miles above the town of New Orleans, early on Sunday morning, being the 20th day of February, A. D. 1774, the said sloop Two Pollies was boarded by a party of Spanish soldiers, with their swords drawn, and bayonets fixed ; who, declaring they had orders from the Spanish governor, took possession of the said sloop, by force, and carried her to the said town of New Orleans ; where, as soon as she arrived, they stripped off her rigging and sails, opened her cabin door, and went imme-

diately to unlading her cargo ; part of which, was carried into the King's store, and part was stolen and carried off by the soldiers.

That on the evening of the same day, the said Joseph Nash (who was on board the said sloop, when she was so taken), with the said Ephraim Carpenter, and Benjamin Pitcher, the mate of the said sloop, were sent to prison, where they remained a considerable time.

That upon application made by the said Joseph Nash, to the governor and judge, setting forth the most flagrant and open breach of the treaty of Paris, committed in taking the said sloop and cargo (of which, the governor and his auditor, were convinced), every thing was ordered to be restored to the said Joseph Nash.

And that, although, by virtue of the said decree, they received \$3,535, yet they are still great sufferers, to the amount of upwards of \$5,500 ; as will appear by a copy of an account annexed to a remonstrance made to the said governor of New Orleans, after the said decree ; wherein they represented, that, in justice, every thing ought to be restored, with damages, and prayed that the same might be done ; with which request, the said governor refused to comply.

And thereupon, the said Joseph Nash and Christopher Whipple, prayed this Assembly, to take the premises into consideration, and in order that they may receive that satisfaction which the justice of their cause requires, represent their case to the Earl of Dartmouth, and request him to lay the same before His Majesty, that their injuries may be redressed by the court of Spain ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that Nicholas Tillinghast, John Foster, Paul Tew and Benoni Pearce, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby, appointed a committee to take the said memorial and petition into consideration ; and that they make report to this Assembly of the damages the said Joseph Nash and Christopher Whipple shall appear to have sustained, by means of the premises, as soon as may be.

An Act establishing an independent company, in the county of Newport, by the name of the Newport Light Infantry.

An Act establishing a company, in the town of Providence, to be called, and known by the name of the Providence Grenadier Company.

An Act establishing an independent company, by the name of the Kentish Guards.

An Act establishing an independent company, by the name of the Pawtuxet Rangers.

Whereas, Benoni Pearce, John Foster, Nicholas Tillinghast and Paul Tew, Esqs., presented unto this Assembly, the following report, to wit :

*Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, relative to the seizure of the sloop Two Pollies, by the Spaniards, on the Mississippi River.*

We, whose names are hereto subscribed, being a committee, appointed by the Honorable the General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, to take into consideration the memorial and petition of Joseph Nash and Christopher Whipple, and to make report of the damages they have sustained by reason of the seizure of the sloop Two Pollies, and her cargo, by the Spanish governor of New Orleans, in the River Mississippi, having duly inspected and considered the several papers and evidences, authenticated at said New Orleans, containing the proceedings relative to said seizure, do report :

That, by the seventh article of the treaty of Paris, subsisting between His Britanic Majesty, and His Most Christian Majesty, "The navigation of the River Mississippi shall be equally free, as well to the subjects of Great Britain, as to those of France, in its whole breadth and length, from its source to the sea ; and expressly, that part which is between the said island of New Orleans, and the right bank of that river, as well as the passage both in and out of its mouth.

It is further stipulated, that the vessels belonging to the subjects of either nation, shall not be stopped, visited, or subjected to the payment of any duty, whatsoever."

That the subjects of His Most Catholic Majesty, at said New Orleans, hold and enjoy their right to trade and commerce, in and by the said river, subject to the limits and regulations of said treaty.

That it appears to us, that the said seizure is a flagrant breach of said treaty ; and appears to have been so considered by the said governor of New Orleans, in and by his decree, acquitting the said Joseph Nash, his said sloop and cargo, and ordering every thing that had been seized, to be restored to him.

It further appears to us, that the said decree hath not been duly complied with.—That although, by virtue of said decree, the said Joseph Nash had \$3,535, restored to him ; yet, by the account of the said Joseph, exhibited before the said governor of New Orleans, and duly sworn to, and authenticated before the governor of Pensacola, that the said Joseph and Christopher have sustained damage, by means of the said seizure, to the amount of \$5,591, over and above what they had restored to them. All which, is humbly submitted, by—

BENOXI PEARCE, NICHOLAS TILLINGHAST,  
JOHN FOSTER, PAUL TEW.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted ; and that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit a statement of the said affair to His Majesty's secretary of state, for the American department, at the expense of the memorialists.

An Act for dividing the regiment in the county of Providence, into three distinct regiments, each regiment to be a battalion ; and for forming the whole into one brigade.

An Act establishing an independent company, by the name of The Company of Light Infantry, of the town of Gloucester.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to call the General Assembly together, as soon as he shall think proper, within one week after the arrival of the delegates of this colony, from the general congress.

God save the King.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the first Monday in December, 1774.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

An Act establishing a military company, by the name of the Scituate Hunters.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. James Angell, Col. Joseph Nightingale, Col. John Matthewson, Major Daniel Hitchcock and Mr. Nathaniel Greene, Jr., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to revise the militia laws of this colony ; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the present session, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that all the cannon now at Fort George (excepting two eighteen-pounders and one six-pounder), and all the powder, shot and stores, thereto belonging (excepting so much powder and ball as are sufficient for the cannon to be left at said fort), be immediately removed to the town of Providence ; that Col. Joseph Nightingale, be, and he is hereby, appointed to see the same done.

That the commanding officer of the said fort be, and he is hereby, ordered to deliver the same to the said Joseph Nightingale ; who is hereby directed to keep the cannon, ball, &c., in his possession, until further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the copies of the letter from the Earl of Dartmouth, to this colony, and of the order therein enclosed, now lying before this Assembly, be immediately sent by the speaker of the lower House, to Thomas Cushing, Esq., the late speaker of the House of Representatives of the Prov-



ince of the Massachusetts Bay, to be communicated to the provincial congress, in that colony.

An Act for establishing a military company, by the name of the Train of Artillery, in the county of Providence.

Whereas, the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., and the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esq., delegates for this colony, in the continental congress, held at Philadelphia, in the province of Pennsylvania, the 5th day of September, 1774, this day made report of the proceedings and resolutions of said continental congress,\* consisting of the bill of rights, list of grievances, occasional resolves, the association, an address to the people of Great Britain, a memorial to the inhabitants of the British American colonies, an address to the Canadians, &c. ; all which, being read, and maturely considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted and approved.

It is further voted and resolved, that the thanks of this Assembly be, and they are hereby, given to the said delegates of this colony, in particular, and to the members of the said continental congress, in general, for the wise, spirited and faithful discharge of the important trust reposed in them.

And it is further voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the several towns in this colony, to choose committees, agreeably to the eleventh article of the said association, for the purposes therein expressed.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the secretary be, and he is hereby, directed to send printed copies of the said bill of rights, list of grievances, the association, addresses and memorial ; and also of this vote, to each member of both houses of this Assembly, and to all such other officers, within this colony, as the schedules are by law transmitted to.

Whereas, Nathaniel Stoddard, of Little Compton, in the

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\* The report of the proceedings of the continental congress, are among the public archives of the State, in the secretary's office.

county of Newport, trader, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that in the fall of the year 1773, he laid out every shilling he was worth, in fitting out one-third part of the sloop Sally, on a whaling voyage; that the said sloop, meeting with success, had got on board one hundred and twenty barrels of oil, by the latter end of January following; and that the said sloop being obliged, in a gale of wind, to come to an anchor under Hispaniola, was seized by a French frigate, carried into Port-au-Prince, and there, with her whole cargo, condemned as a lawful prize; by which misfortune, he hath totally lost upwards of \$1,000, being the whole what he was worth, and had scraped together, by unwearied diligence and industry, and that he is thereby deprived of the means of putting himself into any business, to support a wife and seven children.

And thereupon, prayed this Assembly to grant him a lottery, for raising the sum of \$600, to help him forward in business again; and that the same be under the direction of Messrs. Nathaniel Searle, Jr., Benjamin Richmond, John Wood and Walter Wilbur; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted, under the usual conditions and restrictions; provided, that no charge accrue to the colony, thereby.

An Act establishing a military company, by the name of the Providence Fusiliers.

It is voted and resolved, that the captain of the company, called The Train of Artillery, for the county of Providence, be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed, to purchase at the expense, and for the use of the colony, four brass cannon, four-pounders, with carriages, implements and utensils, necessary for exercising them; and that they be lent to the said company, to improve them in the exercise of cannon, until further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. Stephen Hopkins,

Esq., and the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esq., be, and they are hereby, chosen and appointed delegates, to represent this colony at the continental congress, to be holden at Philadelphia, on the 10th day of May, 1775.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Marchant, Esq., Mr. Joseph Brown and William Ellery, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to draw up instructions to be given to the delegates, appointed to represent this colony in general congress ; and lay the same before this Assembly.

Whereas, the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., one of the delegates of this colony in the continental congress, on the 5th day of September last, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for his expenses on his journey to Philadelphia, during his residence there, and on his return home, &c., amounting to £61 11*d.*, lawful money.

And also prayed an allowance for eighty-one days spent in the said service, with a servant, two horses, and a carriage ; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said account be allowed ; that £72 18*s.*, lawful money, be also allowed, for his above-mentioned service, and for his servant, horses and carriage ; and that £133 18*s.* 11*d.*, lawful money, being the amount of the said two sums, be paid the said Stephen Hopkins, out of the general treasury ; deducting therefrom £60, lawful money, already received by him, as one of the delegates from this colony, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esq., one of the delegates from this colony, in the continental congress, held at Philadelphia, on the 5th day of September last, exhibited unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the colony, for his expenses on his journey to Philadelphia, during his residence there, and on his return home, &c., amounting to £49 13*s.* 1*d.*, lawful money.

And also prayed an allowance for seventy-two days, by him spent in the said service, with a servant and two horses ; and the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said account be allowed ;

that ££64 16s. lawful money, be also allowed for his above-mentioned service, and for his servant and horses ; and that £114 9s. 1*d.*, lawful money, being the amount of the said two sums, be paid the said Samuel Ward, out of the general treasury ; deducting therefrom, £60, lawful money, already received by him, as one of the delegates from this colony, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Read, Mr. John Jenckes and Simeon Potter, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to purchase as soon as may be, at the expense and for the use of the colony, three hundred half-barrels of pistol powder, each to contain fifty weight ; three tons of lead and forty thousand flints, to be deposited in such place or places as the Hon. Darius Sessions, Esq., Deputy Governor of this colony, shall direct, and to be delivered to the several colonels of the militia, and the colonels of the independent companies in this colony ; so that each soldier, equipped with arms, according to law, may be supplied with such quantities thereof, as by law is directed ; he or they paying for the same, at the prime cost given by the colony ; that the remainder thereof, be distributed as occasion may require.

That the said Darius Sessions be appointed, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered, to have the care of the said magazine ; and to deliver the powder, lead and flints, as herein directed, he taking receipts for what may be delivered out.

And that the said committee be, and they are hereby, empowered to draw on the general treasury, for such sums of money, as may be necessary for the purpose, aforesaid.

And in case of a deficiency in the general treasury, the general treasurer is hereby directed and empowered to hire a sufficient sum of money for said purpose, and to give his note or notes therefor, with interest, in behalf of the colony.

And it is further voted and resolved, that there be no firing of cannon upon any public occasion, or of small arms ; especially by the militia, or incorporated companies, on days of exercising, excepting only for perfecting themselves as marksmen, under the immediate direction of the commanding officer

for the day ; and that it be, and hereby is, recommended to all the inhabitants of this colony, that they expend no gun powder for mere sport and diversion, or in pursuit of game.

Whereas, the American Continental Congress, held in the city of Philadelphia, on the 5th day of September last, recommended to the several colonies to choose deputies, as soon as possible, to attend a general congress, to be holden on the 10th day of May next, in the said city of Philadelphia, unless the redress of American grievances be obtained before that time ; and whereas, this Assembly, having the greatest regard to the recommendation aforesaid, and being determined to co-operate with the other colonies in every proper measure for obtaining a redress of the grievances, and establishing the rights and liberties of all the colonies, upon an equitable and permanent foundation, have unanimously chosen and appointed the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq., and the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esqs., delegates to represent this colony.

It is therefore unanimously voted and resolved, 1st. That the said Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, fully authorized and empowered to represent this colony in a general congress of delegates, or representatives, of the several colonies, to be holden at the time and place above mentioned ; or at such other time and place as shall be agreed upon by the major part of the committees from the several colonies.

2d. That they be, and hereby are, fully authorized and empowered to consult and advise with the representatives of the other colonies, and in conjunction with them, or the major part of them, to enter into, and adopt, in behalf of this colony, all reasonable, lawful, and proper measures for the support, defence, protection and security of the rights, liberties and privileges, both civil and religious, of all the said colonies, or any of them.

3d. That they be, and hereby are, authorized and empowered to adjourn, from time to time, and at any time, within the space of one year, to be computed from the said 10th day of May next, and at any place which they shall think proper.

4th. That they be, and hereby are, directed to endeavor to procure a regular annual convention of delegates, or representatives, from all the colonies, to be holden at such time and place, as shall be by the delegates agreed upon, for the promotion and establishment of the peace, welfare and security of the said colonies.

It is voted and resolved, that the fire-arms in Newport, belonging to the colony, be distributed among the several counties which have not yet received their share of the same, in proportion to the rate paid by each county.

That they be delivered to the colonel of the regiment of each respective county, he giving his receipt therefor; who is hereby directed to deliver to each town in the county, its proportion of the same, taking security of each town therefor.

That the said guns, before they are delivered to the several colonels, be branded with the colony arms, upon the breech.

That Mr. Thomas Freebody be, and he is hereby, appointed to deliver the said arms to the several colonels.

And that all expenses which have arisen, or may arise, in consequence of their being removed from Newport, be paid by their respective towns.

And whereas, the county of Providence hath already received its part of the said fire-arms,—

It is voted and resolved, that each town in the said county shall receive its proportion of the said fire-arms, in manner as above mentioned; each town paying its proportion of the charge which hath accrued by cleaning them.

**An Act incorporating a military company, by the name of the North Providence Rangers.**

It is voted and resolved, that William Greene, Esq. and Mr. Nathaniel Greene, Jr., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to inquire into the circumstances of the affair which caused the Cadet Company, and the company of Light In-

fantry, to march from Providence to the town of East Greenwich, and into the charges which arose thereon; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

An Act for appointing a major general of the forces of this colony, annually.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority aforesaid it is enacted, that a major general of the colony's forces be annually appointed, by the Governor and Company, and be commissioned accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that Simeon Potter, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed major general of the colony's forces.

An Act in addition to, and amendment of, an act, entitled  
"An act regulating the militia of this colony."

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that for the future, each enlisted soldier, who shall not be provided with a sufficient gun, or fuzee, as directed in the said act, shall be fined two shillings, lawful money, for each deficiency; and also, that every soldier be provided with a good bayonet fixed on his gun, upon the penalty of four pence, lawful money, for each default.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the captain, or, in his absence, the next superior officer of each respective company, shall warn and call together the company under his command, one day in every month, and exercise the same in martial discipline, according to the mode established by His present Majesty, in the year 1764.

That the first warning be by warrant under the hand and seal of such officer, issued within ten days before such training or exercising; and that all succeeding warnings be given verbally by the commanding officer for the day, at the head of the company, while under arms.

Provided, nevertheless, that in the towns of Providence and Bristol, the captain, or other commanding officer, may warn

their companies by beat of drum, as in the said act is permitted in the town of Newport.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that within ten days after each penalty shall be incurred, the captain, or other superior officer, shall issue his warrant therefor, returnable to himself, within twenty days; and that twelve-and-an-half per cent. only, be allowed for collecting such fines.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the fines of all those who, being exempted from appearing on the days of training, are notwithstanding, obliged to be provided with arms and other accoutrements, shall be the same for every deficiency, as the fines of the enlisted soldiers; and that the examination and survey, appointed by the said act, shall be made by the sergeants of the company in whose district they live, by warrant from the captain, on the first Monday in February, and on the last Monday in April.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no town officer shall be exempted from doing military duty, as an enlisted soldier, excepting the members of the town council, the town treasurer, the town clerk and the town sergeant.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there be a general muster and review of each regiment or battalion, twice in every year, to wit: on the first Monday in April, and on the first Monday in October; and that there be a general muster and review of brigade, once in two years.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the captain general, lieutenant general and major general, or any two of them, be, and they are hereby, fully authorized and empowered to direct and order when, and in what manner, the forces within this colony shall march to the assistance of any of our sister colonies, when invaded or attacked; and also in what manner the said forces shall be provided and supplied; and also to direct and make use of the cannon belonging to the colony, either in or out of the colony, as they may deem expedient.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that



the said forces, whenever they shall be called out of the colony, shall be under the immediate command and direction of the major general.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the secretary forthwith cause this act to be published in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

Whereas, Mr. Jeremiah Hopkins, of Coventry, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that he sufficiently understands the business of a gunsmith, so as to make guns, or small arms, with advantage to himself, and to others, by whom guns are much wanted at this time, when they cannot be imported from Great Britain; but that he is unable to furnish himself with such works, tools and instruments, as are necessary for carrying on the said business.

And thereupon, the said Jeremiah Hopkins prayed this Assembly to grant him the benefit of a lottery, for raising the sum of \$200, to be appropriated and applied towards procuring said works, tools and instruments, and for no other purpose; and to appoint Christopher Lippitt, of Cranston; Jeremiah Olney and George Dorrance, Jr., of Scituate; and John Stewart, of Voluntown, managers and directors of said lottery; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be, and the same hereby is, granted, under the usual conditions and restrictions; provided that no charge accrue to the colony, thereby.

God save the King.

*Public Acts passed during the year 1774.*

[The following laws will be found at length in the printed "Schedules," or acts and resolves of the General Assembly, for the year 1774.]

An Act incorporating certain persons by the name of the Charitable Baptist Society, in the town of Providence. (May.)

An Act to naturalize Augustus Newman, a native of Saxony. (May.)

An Act incorporating the First Congregational Church, in Newport. (June.)

An Act to amend the charter of the Artillery Company, in Providence. (June.)

An Act explanatory of an act granting reviews of real and personal actions. (June.)

An Act incorporating the Congregational Church, in East Greenwich. (August.)

An Act to amend "An act for the maintenance and support of insolvent debtors." (October.)

An Act assessing a rate or tax of £4,000. (October.)

DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE ACTION OF RHODE ISLAND,  
FOR RESISTING THE ACT OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT, IM-  
POSING A DUTY ON TEA; AND FOR OTHERWISE RAISING A  
REVENUE IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES.

*Proceedings of the People of Providence, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting of the town of Providence, especially called and held at the court house, the 19th day of January, A. D. 1774. Jabez Bowen, Esq., moderator.

Inasmuch as the British Parliament have undertaken to raise a revenue in the American colonies, by a duty upon tea: we, the freemen of the town of Providence, legally assembled in meeting, cannot be silent on so interesting and alarming an occasion. Should we, in this case, omit to assert and express the firmest resolutions to vindicate our rights, it might be construed as a cession of them into the hands of those who have wantonly invaded them in this instance.

We do, therefore, in justice to ourselves, our posterity, and the sister colonies, openly and publicly make the following declarations; hoping that by a vigorous exertion, in conformity thereto, we may in some measure contribute towards escaping the dreadful train of evils which must be the consequence of a tame submission to any invasions of American freedom.

We lament any seeming acquiescence which hath at any time heretofore been made in these colonies, under parliamentary usurpations of our liberties; but as any such tacit concessions were made through fear, inattention, or without a due consideration of our rights, we strongly protest against any precedent being made thereby, to our disadvantage.

When we consider that many of our ancestors removed from Britain, and planted themselves here; that the religion, language and customs of the two countries are mostly similar, and that there hath been a long intercourse of trade and commerce between them, we are willing, and even desirous, of a continuance of connexion between the colonies and Britain, if it may be had on terms in any measure equal.

Upon full consideration of the matter, upon which we have met, we do resolve,—  
I. That the disposal of their own property is the inherent right of freemen; that

there can be no property in that, which another can, of right, take from us without our consent; that the claim of Parliament to tax America, is, in other words, a claim of right to levy contributions on us, at pleasure.

II. That the duty imposed by Parliament upon tea, landed in America, is a tax on the Americans, or levying contributions on them, without their consent.

III. That the express purpose for which the tax is levied on the Americans, namely, for the support of government, administration of justice, and defence of His Majesty's dominions, in America, has a direct tendency to render Assemblies useless, and to introduce arbitrary government and slavery.

IV. That a virtuous and steady opposition to this ministerial plan of governing America, is absolutely necessary, to preserve even the shadow of liberty; and is a duty which every freeman in America owes to his country, to himself, and to his posterity.

V. That the resolution lately entered into by the East India Company, to send out their tea to America, subject to the payment of duties on its being landed here, is an open attempt to enforce this ministerial plan, and a violent attack upon the liberties of America.

VI. That it is the duty of every American to oppose this attempt.

VII. That whoever shall, directly or indirectly, countenance this attempt, or in any wise aid or abet in unloading, receiving, or vending the tea sent, or to be sent out by the East India Company, while it remains subject to the payment of a duty here, is an enemy to his country.

VIII. That no tea belonging to the East India Company, or any other persons, subject to a duty, or dutied tea, shall be unladed here, or brought to land.

IX. That this town will co-operate with the other towns in this colony, and with all the other colonies, in a resolute stand, as well against every other unconstitutional measure, calculated to enslave America, as the tea act in particular.

X. That Samuel Nightingale, Esq., Jabez Bowen, Esq.; and Messrs. John Brown, John Updike, John Jenckes, John Matthewson and Daniel Cahoon, or the major part of them, be a committee, to correspond with the towns in this, and the neighboring governments, on all such matters as shall be thought to affect the liberties of America.

Voted, that this town highly approve of the proceedings of their brethren of Boston, Philadelphia and New York, in their spirited and resolute opposition made to the introduction of tea, while subject to a duty laid by Parliament; and that our thanks be given them for the same.

Voted, that the committee wait on all the importers of English goods, in this town, and inform them of the resolutions which the town have entered into, respecting tea, while subject to a duty; and if any of them have ordered any tea to come next spring, that they be desired to send counter orders immediately.

Voted, that the foregoing proceedings be published in the next Providence Gazette.

JAMES ANGELL,

Town Clerk.

Immediately after this meeting was dissolved, the gentlemen of the committee applied themselves to the discharge of their important trust, by waiting on the several importers, and had the satisfaction to find that only *one* chest of tea had been ordered for this town, next spring; which was countermanded previous to the meeting-

We are authorized to assure the public, from the best authority, that there have been but nine chests of tea imported into this town (on which the 3*d*. duty has been paid), since the memorable non-importation agreement.

*Proceedings of the People of Newport, in Town Meeting.*

At a very full town meeting, held at Newport, on the 12th January, 1774, measures were adopted, in substance, similar with the foregoing.

The gentlemen of the committee for that town are, Col. Joseph Wanton, Jr., Henry Ward, John Mawdley, John Collins and William Ellery, Esqs.

*Proceedings of the People of Bristol, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, held at Bristol, in the colony of Rhode Island, by adjournment, February 28, 1774. Col. Simeon Potter, moderator.

The committee chosen by the town, to consider and report what measures may be thought proper for the town to take, relative to the attempts of the administration to deprive us of our invaluable rights and liberties; especially, in permitting the East India Company to import tea in America, subject to a duty, reported the following resolves, which were voted to be the genuine sentiments of the town:

Resolved, 1. That our ancestors were neither felons, nor out-laws; but their emigration from their native land, and all that was dear and valuable to them there, was the effect of tyranny and oppression.

2. That arriving in America, and purchasing the soil of the natives, who were sole lords and proprietors of it, they had a right of jurisdiction, independent of the parent state.

3. That in their feeble state, being unable to support that right, they put themselves under the allegiance and protection of the crown of England; who, to encourage their perseverance, in subduing a wilderness, which has since been a great emolument to the British crown, stipulated to secure their natural, civil and religious rights, both to them and their posterity, by charter; concerning which, the late Bishop of Salisbury (Dr. Burnet.) was pleased to say, that there was a greater sacredness in the charter of New England, than in those of the corporation of England; because those were only acts of grace; whereas, the charter of New England, was a contract between the King and the first patentees.

4. That our privileges have been invaded, and several attempts made to deprive us of them; especially by a late act of Parliament, empowering the East India Company to import tea, subject to a duty, &c.

It is therefore resolved, that whoever is either aiding or assisting in landing, unloading, vending or purchasing any of the said tea, or any other dutied tea, shall be deemed an enemy to his country.

5. Considering the vast addition of territory, wealth and power, that the plantations in North America are to the crown of Great Britain; that it was obtained by our ancestors, without any expense to the crown, with the toil of their lives, and expense of their blood and treasure; considering also, our own exertions for the crown, in the late wars; especially, in the reduction of Louisbourg, in the year 1745, which purchased a peace for the whole nation, then involved in a calamitous war;

we say, considering these things, to invade our privileges, is the most cruel ingratitude. For although the charges of that expedition have been in part reimbursed by the crown; yet, what restitution has been, or can be made, for the flower of the land, who were slain in battle? and the charges consequent thereon, have been, and still are, a burthen to this town; as there are several widows of those who were either slain in battle, or died in the service of their King and country, who have, and still are, supported by the town.

6. That to invade our privileges, is as impolitic as it is cruel, as several millions of good subjects are thereby disaffected, and may in time be provoked to renounce their allegiance, and assert an independency.

7. That which makes our grievances intolerant, is, that so many unnecessary officers are supported by the earnings of honest industry, in a life of dissipation and ease; who, by being properly employed, might be useful members of society.

8. Instead of exploring another asylum, with the blood of our ancestors oosing from our veins, we are determined to join our brethren on the continent, in all lawful measures, to defend our rights and privileges in this good land, which our fathers have transmitted to us, their posterity, as a token of their dearest affection.

9. That, whilst we assert our own freedom, we would by no means deprive others of theirs; and that a difference in sentiment, under the influence of reason and virtue, ought by no means to produce an alienation of affection, or interrupt a friendly intercourse, or mutual exchange of good offices.

10. Some may apprehend there is danger from another quarter, generally unforeseen and unsuspected; that, that anarchy and confusion, which may prevail, will as naturally establish tyranny and arbitrary power, as one extreme leads to another; many, on the side of liberty, when they see it degenerating into anarchy, fearing their persons are not safe, nor their property secure, will be likely to verge to the other extreme; of which, those that envy us our happiness and prosperity, will avail themselves, to carry their designs into execution; our determinations, therefore, are as firm for the support of government, agreeably to our excellent constitution, as for the defence of our own rights and privileges.

11. That, as we have hitherto approved ourselves loyal subjects to our gracious sovereign, George the Third, so we take this opportunity to express our allegiance, and entire confidence in the rectitude of his intentions; being persuaded, if the wicked were taken from before the throne, an happy era would commence; that our petitions would be heard, and our complaints eased; that the wisdom, justice and clemency of the administration, would conciliate the affections of the colonies; which under the smiles and protection of the parent state, by increasing in wealth and power, would be a further addition to the strength and glory of Great Britain.

Voted, that the thanks of his meeting be given to the towns of Boston and Newport, and the other patriotic towns on the continent, for their virtuous and spirited opposition to the measures of the administration, and their noble exertions in defence and support of our invaluable rights and privileges.

By order of the committee—

JOSEPH RUSSELL,  
Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the People of Richmond, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, especially called and held at Richmond, in Kings county, and colony of Rhode Island, at the house of George Webb, Esq., the 28th of February 1774. Major Richard Bailey chosen moderator for said meeting.

This town, taking into their most serious consideration, an act passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, for levying duties upon tea, sent by the East India Company, to North America, to be paid in America,—

Do resolve, 1. That the first adventurers, settlers of His Majesty's dominions, in British America, brought with them, and transmitted to their posterity, and all other His Majesty's subjects since inhabiting in His Majesty's said dominions, all the privileges and immunities that have at any time been enjoyed and possessed by the people of Great Britain.

2. That by the charter granted to this colony, it is declared that the inhabitants thereof, are entitled to all the privileges and immunities of natural born subjects, to all intents and purposes, as if they had been born within the realm of England; and are, by the said charter, entirely exempted from all "services, duties, fines, forfeitures, claims and demands, whatever; except a fifth part of all the ore of gold and silver, found at all times in the colony;" which is reserved in lieu of those duties.

3. That the act of Parliament, allowing the East India Company to export tea into America, subject to a duty, payable here; and the actual sending tea into the colonies, by the Company, is an attempt to enforce the revenue acts, and is undoubtedly designed to make a precedent for establishing taxes in America, in order that a general tax upon all the necessaries of life, and lands, may take place.

4. That the act of Parliament, levying duties or taxes in America, is a violation of the liberties and privileges of America; and hath a tendency to render the General Assemblies useless.

5. That the General Assembly of this colony hath the sole exclusive right of levying taxes upon the inhabitants thereof; and that every attempt to vest that power in any other person or persons, whomsoever, is unconstitutional, and hath a manifest tendency to destroy the liberties of the colony.

6. That it is the duty of every American, by all due and legal means, to oppose every attempt which is made, to destroy the liberties and privileges of America; and particularly, the importation of tea, subject to a duty, to be paid here.

7. That the inhabitants of this town, ever have been, and still are, ready on any occasion, whatever, to demonstrate their love and loyalty to His Majesty and our mother country; and it is with the greatest regret that we look back upon the unhappy measures that have been adopted by the Parliament and ministry.

8. And we are still ready, when called upon in a constitutional way, to grant such aids and assistance to the crown, as the necessity of the case may require, and our abilities admit; and are ready to sacrifice our lives and fortunes for the honor and dignity of His Majesty, and the parent state, with a firm attachment to our natural and free-born rights and privileges, which are dearer to us, than our lives; and are a blessing, under God, that we will not give up to any power on earth; and this town will join with, and to the utmost of our power, support our sister colonies, in all legal measures for the preservation of the rights and privileges of North America.

Voted, that Edward Perry, Esq., Major Richard Bailey and Mr. David Nichols, Jr., be a committee of correspondence, to correspond with the other committees, appointed in this colony.

THOMAS LILLIBRIDGE,  
Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the People of New Shoreham, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting held at New Shoreham, March 2, 1774. John Sands, Esq., moderator.

Whereas, there has been sent to this town, a copy of the resolves entered into by the town of Newport, and a request to lay the same before this town, with a design that said town would unite with the other towns in this colony, in supporting their just rights and liberties.

1. Therefore, we, the inhabitants of this town, being legally convened in town meeting, do firmly resolve, as the opinion of said town, that the Americans have a good right to be as free a people as any upon the earth; and to enjoy at all times an uninterrupted possession of their rights and properties.

2. That the act of the British Parliament, claiming the right to make laws binding upon the colonies, in all cases, whatsoever, is inconsistent with the natural, constitutional and charter rights and privileges of the inhabitants of this colony.

3. That the express purpose for which the tax is levied on the Americans, namely, for the support of government, administration of justice and defence of His Majesty's dominions in America, has a direct tendency to render Assemblies useless, and to introduce arbitrary government and slavery.

4. That a tax on the inhabitants of America, without their consent, is a measure absolutely destructive of their freedom, tending to enslave and impoverish all who tamely submit to it.

5. That the act allowing the East India Company to export tea to America, subject to a duty payable here; and the actual sending tea into the colonies, by said company, is an open attempt to enforce the ministerial plan, and a violent attack upon the liberties of America.

6. That it is the duty of every American to oppose this attempt.

7. That whosoever shall, directly, or indirectly, countenance this attempt, or in any wise aid or assist in running, receiving or unloading any such tea, or in piloting any vessel, having any such tea on board, while it remains subject to the payment of a duty here, is an enemy to his country.

8. That we will heartily unite with our American brethren, in supporting the inhabitants of this continent, in all their just rights and privileges.

9. That Joshua Sands, Caleb Littlefield and John Sands, Esqs.; and Messrs. Walter Rathbun and Edward Sands, Jr., or the major part of them, be appointed a committee for this town, to correspond with all other committees appointed by any town in this colony; and said committee is requested to give the closest attention to every thing which concerns the liberties of America; and if any tea, subject to a duty here, should be landed in this town, the committee is directed and empowered to call a town meeting, forthwith, that such measures may be taken, as the public safety may require.

10. And we return our hearty thanks to the town of Newport, for their patriotic

resolutions, to maintain the liberties of their country; and the prudent measures they have taken to induce the other towns in this colony, to come into the same generous resolutions.

WALTER RATHBUN,

Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the People of Cumberland, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, held at Cumberland, in the county of Providence, specially called, and legally assembled, at the house of Captain John Fisk, innholder, March 18, 1774; Mr. Nathaniel Staples, chosen moderator.

At a time when the enemies of America are continually misrepresenting us to the mother country, and incessantly laboring to extinguish in her the few remaining sparks of parental affection, it must afford sensible pleasure to all who wish for the preservation of our invaluable constitutional rights and liberties, to find such an union take place in America, as may enable us, by the blessing of God, to support our just rights, liberties and privileges, wherewith God, nature, and our happy constitution, have made us free.

The town taking into consideration, certain intelligence, received from the committee of correspondence at Newport, the following resolves were passed *nem. con.*

1. That it is one of the natural rights of man, to dispose of the fruits of his honest industry himself.

2. That every British subject in special, in whatever part of the extensive British empire he is settled, has eminently, by our happy constitution, as well as by nature, the sole right to dispose of his own property, either by himself or representative.

3. That some violent attacks have been made by the administration on the rights and privileges of British subjects, in the colonies; that the retaining the duty on tea, for the express purpose of raising a revenue in America, and empowering the East India Company to send their tea here for sale, while subject to said duty, is a striking instance of their determination to persevere in their attacks, and thereby reduce us to the most abject state of wretchedness and slavery.

4. That whoever shall, directly or indirectly, countenance this attempt, or in any wise aid or abet in unloading, receiving or vending the tea sent, or to be sent out by the East India Company, while it remains subject to the payment of a duty here, shall be deemed by us inimical to the rights of his country, and as endeavoring to counteract the designs of those who are zealous for its true interests.

5. That we do, in this way, stand forth in the cause of liberty, in union with other towns, and do pay our tribute of thanks to the leading, spirited, patriotic towns of Newport and Providence, and other towns adjacent, for the firmness and intrepidity so conspicuous in them, by discovering to the world a true sense of the blessings which our constitution affords, and a noble resolution to defend them.

6. That we are sorry for the unhappy disagreement between this and the mother country; and earnestly wish to see harmony restored.

7. That John Dexter and Joseph Davis, Esqs.; Messrs. Nathan Staples, Ezekiel Ballou and James Dexter, Esqs., or the major part of them, be a committee, to cor-



respond with the towns in this and the neighboring governments, in all laudable measures for the preservation of the rights and liberties of America.

Voted, that the foregoing proceedings be published in the Providence Gazette.

Witness :

JOHN DEXTER,

Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the People of Barrington, in Town Meeting.*

At a meeting of the freemen of the town of Barrington, in the colony of Rhode Island, held the 21st day of March, 1774, by adjournment. James Brown, Esq., moderator.

The inhabitants of this town being justly alarmed at the several acts of Parliament, made and passed for raising a revenue in America : and more especially, the act empowering the East India Company to export their tea into America, subject to a duty, payable here, for the purpose of raising a revenue in America, with many other unconstitutional acts (which, having been duly considered by a number of our sister towns in this colony, we think it needless to enumerate), and being sensible of the dangerous situation of the colonies, occasioned by wicked and designing men, do enter into the following resolves :

1. That the inhabitants of this town ever have been, and now are, loyal and dutiful subjects to the King of Great Britain.

2. That we highly approve of the resolutions of our sister colonies, and the noble stand they have made in defence of the liberties and privileges of the colonies. We likewise thank the worthy author of *The Rights of Colonies Examined*, for his spirited performance, in support of the liberties of America.

3. That the act empowering the East India Company to export their tea to America, subject to a duty, payable here, is designed as a precedent for establishing taxes, duties and monopolies, in America, that our property may be taken from us at pleasure, and we be thereby reduced to a state of abject slavery.

4. That we will neither buy, sell, nor receive as a gift, any dutied tea, nor have any dealings with any person or persons that shall buy, sell, give, receive, or trade in said tea, directly or indirectly, knowing or suspecting it to be such; but will consider all persons concerned in introducing dutied tea, into this town, or any town in America, as enemies to their country, and unworthy the society of freemen.

5. That it is the duty of every man in America to oppose, by all proper measures, to the utmost of his power and abilities, every attempt upon the liberties of his country; especially, those mentioned in the foregoing resolves; and to exert himself to the utmost of his power, in obtaining a redress of the grievances the colonies now groan under. We do, therefore, solemnly resolve,—

6. That we will heartily unite with the town of Newport, and the other towns in this, and all the other sister colonies, and exert our whole force in support of the just rights and privileges of the American colonies.

7. That James Brown, Samuel Allen, Josiah Humphrey, Edward Bosworth, Nathaniel Martin, Moses Tyler and Thomas Allen, or a major part of them, be a committee, to correspond with all the other committees, appointed by any town in this and the neighboring governments; and the committee is desired to give their attention to every thing that concerns the liberties of America; and if any of the obnoxious tea should be brought into this town, or any other attempt made on the

liberties of the inhabitants thereof, the committee is directed and empowered to call a town meeting, forthwith, that such measures may be taken as the public safety may require.

8. That we heartily unite in, and resolve, to support the foregoing resolves, with our lives and fortunes.

Voted, that the above resolves be published in the Providence Gazette.

A true copy. Witness:

SOLOMON TOWNSEND, JR.,

Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the People of Providence, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, held at Providence, on the 17th day of May, 1774; called by warrant.

Resolved, that this town will heartily join with the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and the other colonies, in such measures as shall be generally agreed on by the colonies, for the protecting and securing their invaluable natural rights and privileges, and transmitting the same to the latest posterity.

That the deputies of this town be requested to use their influence at the approaching session of the General Assembly of this colony, for promoting a congress, as soon as may be, of the representatives of the General Assemblies of the several colonies and provinces of North America, for establishing the firmest union; and adopting such measures as to them shall appear the most effectual to answer that important purpose; and to agree upon proper methods for executing the same.

That the committee of correspondence of this town be desired to assure the town of Boston, that we consider ourselves greatly interested in the present alarming conduct of the British Parliament towards them; and view the whole English American colonies equally concerned in the event; and that we will, with the utmost firmness, act accordingly, whenever any plan shall be agreed on. In the mean time, we are of opinion, that an universal stoppage of all trade with Great Britain, Ireland, Africa and the West Indies, until such time as the port of Boston shall be reinstated in its former privileges, &c., will be the best expedient in the case; and that a proper time should be generally agreed on for the same universally to take place.

Whereas, Jacob Schoemaker, late of Providence, died intestate, and hath left six negroes, four of whom are infants; and there being no heir to the said Jacob, in this town or colony, the said negroes have fallen to this town, by law, provided no heir should appear. Therefore—

It is voted by this meeting, that it is unbecoming the character of freemen to enslave the said negroes; and they do hereby give up all claim of right or property in them, the said negroes, or either of them; and it is hereby recommended to the town council to take the said negroes under their protection, and to bind the small children to some proper masters and mistresses; and in case they should not be personal estate of the said Jacob Schoemaker, sufficient to pay his just debts, it is further recommended to said council, to bind out either or both of the adult negroes for that purpose.

Whereas, the inhabitants of America are engaged in the preservation of their rights and liberties; and as personal liberty is an essential part of the natural rights of mankind, the deputies of the town are directed to use their endeavors to obtain an act of the General Assembly, prohibiting the importation of negro slaves

into this colony; and that all negroes born in the colony, should be free, after attaining to a certain age.

Voted, that James Angell, Esq., be added to the committee of correspondence, of this town, and that he sign their letters as clerk.

A true copy :

JAMES ANGELL,  
Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the People of Newport, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, called, and held at Newport, in the colony of Rhode Island, the 20th day of May, 1774. Henry Ward, Esq., moderator.

Voted, that we have the deepest sense of the injuries done to the town of Boston, by the act of Parliament, lately passed, for putting an end to their trade, and destroying the port; and that we consider this attack upon them, as utterly subversive of American liberty; for the same power may at pleasure destroy the trade, and shut up the ports of every colony in its turn; so that there will be a total end of all property.

Voted, that we will unite with the other colonies in all reasonable and proper measures to procure the establishment of the rights of the colonies, upon a just and permanent foundation; and particularly, in case the other colonies shall, upon this alarming occasion, put a stop to their trade to Great Britain and the West Indies that we will heartily join with them in the measure.

Voted, that the committee of correspondence, for this town, immediately transmit a copy of these resolutions to the committee of correspondence, for the town of Boston.

Voted, that the committee of correspondence, of this town, immediately send a copy of the above resolutions to each town in this colony.

WILLIAM CODDINGTON,  
Town Clerk.

The above votes were passed in a very full meeting; and it is with great pleasure we inform the public, that there never appeared a more universal spirit, firmness and determined resolution to stand by, and support our brethren of Boston, against the diabolical ministerial plan of slavery; there being but one or two held up, against every thing bearing the least imaginable appearance of liberty.

It is proposed that a number of gentlemen immediately form a company for carrying on the woolen manufacture in this colony, in the most extensive manner; there being quite wool enough raised here, to clothe all the inhabitants.—*Prov. Gazette.*

*Proceedings of the People of Providence, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, held at Providence, Rhode Island, convened by warrant, on the 12th day of August, 1774. Benjamin Man, Esq., moderator.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DEPUTIES OF THIS TOWN, IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Gentlemen:—The sufferings and distresses of the people of the town of Boston, occasioned by a relentless execution of that cruel edict for blocking up the port,

awakens our attention and excites our compassion. Their cause is our cause; and unless aid and succor be afforded them, they may be discouraged into a hurtful submission, and ministerial vengeance may be next directed against this colony; and in the end, alight upon all.

You are therefore, requested to use your endeavors, at the next session of the General Assembly, to procure a grant to be made from this colony, of such sum of money as they may think fit, towards relieving and mitigating the difficulties and distresses which that town must experience from the operation of that most unrighteous inhibition, the hostile manner of carrying the same into force, and a general arrest of their liberties.

Permit us to observe, that in doing this, it will be evidenced, that as a community, we would do unto others as we would that they should do unto us, in a like circumstance; and that it will be a greater testimony of unanimity in the general concerns of America, in this day of struggle and danger, than private contributions, and far more equal.

JAMES ANGELL,

Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the People of Providence, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, held at Providence, on the last Tuesday of August, 1774. The Honorable Darius Sessions, Esq., moderator.

Whereas, at the last session of the Assembly, an order was passed, that John Smith would receive the quota of the arms belonging to the county of Providence, and deliver them to His Honor the Deputy Governor.

Whereupon, it is by this meeting voted, that John Smith be appointed to procure the said small arms to be cleaned and made fit for use, and to procure proper chests for the same; all of which expenses, to be paid by this town, after his accounts have passed the town audit.

It is resolved by this meeting, that this town ought not to be made the asylum of any person or persons, of whatever town, place or city, within the British dominions, whose principles and practices being inimical to the liberties of our country and its happy constitution, have rendered, or shall render them obnoxious to the inhabitants of such place or places from which they may emigrate; and that all such ought to be discouraged by every prudent and legal measure.

And the honorable town council are hereby requested to exert themselves for the removal and ejection of all such persons, so far as by law they may be warranted; as they being admitted among us, may tend greatly to endanger the peace, order and tranquility of the town, as by recent instances have been manifested.

Voted, that the above resolve be inserted in the Providence Gazette.

A true copy:

JAMES ANGELL,

Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the People of Providence, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, held in Providence on the 31st day of August, 1774; called by a warrant. The Hon. Darius Sessions, chosen moderator.

Whereas, on the evening of the 30th of August instant, a number of persons impudently and tumultuously assembled themselves together, in a manner that did

disturb the peace and order of the town; and as such proceedings are of evil example, and repugnant to the good and wholesome laws of this town and colony, which if executed, we deem sufficient to support the quiet and tranquility thereof; and such doings being ever derogatory to the honor of the town, and subversive of our rights and liberties to their very foundation, this town do protest against such proceedings; and desire the civil magistrates, therein, to exert themselves to their utmost, to prevent and suppress all such unhappy disturbances in future; in doing which, they may rely upon the aid and support of the freemen and well-disposed inhabitants of this town, at all times.

Voted, that this vote be published (together with the resolve of yesterday), in the next Providence Gazette.

The meeting was then dissolved.

JONA. ARNOLD,  
Deputy Clerk.

### *Proceedings of the People of Scituate, in Town Meeting.*

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Scituate, in the colony of Rhode Island, legally warned and duly assembled, on Monday, the 26th day of September, 1774. William West, Esq., moderator.

Having taken into our consideration, the dark and gloomy clouds that seem to threaten a total destruction of the liberties of this, our native country, in general; the distressing circumstances of the town of Boston, in particular; their harbor blockaded; the inhabitants cut off from all trade and commerce by sea, on which great numbers of them depended for a supply of bread; principles adopted for the government of that once flourishing province, unconstitutional, oppressive and enforced by military power; every artful means used to hasten its destruction; charters which we once doated on, which we considered as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, and gloried in as the bulwark of the constitution of these colonies, now seem failing to protect the liberty of the subject, and altering at pleasure; taxes levying, revenues raising without our consent obtained, or even asked; in short, slavery herself, protected and guarded by tyranny, advancing with hasty steps towards this land of freedom and liberty.

With the attention which such a subject demands, and at the same time we hope with all that calmness and candor so horrid a scene will possibly admit of, we have thought proper to come to the following resolve, viz. :

That we will choose a committee of correspondence, to meet the committees chosen in the neighboring towns, that they may consult and agree on some general plan, that may have a tendency, under the blessing of Heaven, to insure to us our invaluable rights and privileges; for which purpose, the following gentlemen were elected and chosen, viz. : Job Randall, Benjamin Slack, William West, Ezekiel Cornell, Esqs.; Capt. Rufus Hopkins, Messrs. Peter Cooke and Stephen Sheldon, Jr.; any four of whom, to represent this town in any meeting of correspondence with the other committees, and to make a report of their proceedings to this town.

Voted, that a committee be chosen, to collect donations for the relief of the poor of Boston, now suffering in the glorious cause of liberty; and that Capt. Rufus Hopkins and Ezekiel Cornell, Esq., receive said donations of said committee, and transmit

the value thereof, in fat sheep, to the selectmen of the town of Boston, for the use, aforesaid.

Voted, that the foregoing proceedings be published in the Providence Gazette.

A true copy :

GIDEON HARRIS,

Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the People of Providence, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, held at Providence, Rhode Island, on the 21st day of November, 1774, A. M., called by warrant, to order a town tax, &c. Nicholas Brown Esq., moderator.

Voted, that the committee of correspondence, for this town, be hereby empowered to receive of the town treasury the sum of £125, lawful money, and to transmit the same to the committee in the town of Boston, for receiving donations for the distressed inhabitants of the town of Boston and Charlestown; and the treasurer is hereby ordered to pay said sum out of the first money he shall receive of the tax now ordered.

JAMES ANGELL,

Town Clerk.

*Proceedings of the Committee of Correspondence of the Town of Providence.*

Providence, November 24, 1774.

The committee of correspondence of the town of Providence, having met together this day, and taking under consideration an article in the association, made at the late American Continental Congress, relative to improving the breed of sheep, increasing their number, killing them as sparingly as may be; especially, those of the most profitable kind, and not exporting them to the West Indies, do earnestly entreat and exhort all persons within this town, to conform themselves exactly to this good and wise regulation; as it will have a manifest tendency to bring about and secure that freedom and happiness which we so greatly contend for.

We would observe, in particular, that those who shall so far act in opposition to the united sentiments of all America, collected in general congress, as to kill any lambs, or young sheep, without the most evident necessity, or export any sheep at all to the West Indies, ought to be discountenanced, as persons who counteract the general welfare.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the committee, JAMES ANGELL, Clerk.

*Providence (Rhode Island), Committee. Proceedings of the People of Providence, in Town Meeting.*

At a town meeting, held at Providence, Rhode Island, on the 17th day of December, A. D. 1774, by adjournment and warrant. Nicholas Brown, Esq., moderator.

Voted, that the following persons, to wit: William Earle, Nicholas Cooke, Esq. Benjamin Man, Zephaniah Andrews, Arthur Fenner, Jr., Ambrose Page, Nicholas

Power, George Corlis, Paul Allen, David Lawrence, Joseph Russell, Job Sweeting, Joseph Bucklin, Jonathan Arnold, Bernard Eddy, Aaron Mason, Joseph Brown and Nathaniel Wheaton, together with the present committee of correspondence of this town, be, and hereby are, appointed a committee of inspection, to see that the association entered into by the general Continental Congress, be strictly adhered to, by all persons within this town, agreeably to the eleventh article of said association; and that any seven of them make a quorum, who are to meet monthly, to wit: on the third Wednesday of every month, at the council chamber, at five of the clock, P. M.; and that the town sergeant duly attend said committee; and that all the proceedings of said committee, be lodged on file at the town clerk's office.

*Proceedings of the People of Providence, in Town Meeting.*

Providence, December 24, 1774.

At a town meeting, held here, on Saturday last, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee, to see that the association agreement, entered into at the late Continental Congress, be faithfully and inviolably adhered to, in this town, viz.:

William Earle, Nicholas Cooke, Benjamin Man, Zephaniah Andrews, Arthur Fenner, Jr., Ambrose Page, Nicholas Power, George Corlis, Paul Allen, David Lawrence, Joseph Russell, Job Sweeting, Joseph Bucklin, Jonathan Arnold, Bernard Eddy, Aaron Mason, Joseph Brown and Nathaniel Wheaton. The committee is to meet on the third Wednesday, of every month, at the council chamber.

A committee was last week appointed at Newport, for the same purpose.

*Report of the Committee of Inspection, for the Town of Providence.*

At a meeting of the committee of inspection, for the town of Providence, appointed to observe the conduct of all persons, touching the association entered into by the American Continental Congress, held at Philadelphia, the 5th day of September, 1774:—

We, the committee of inspection, for the town of Providence, with a view of preventing as much as we can, any violation or departure from the agreement and association of the Continental Congress, aforesaid, have agreed to represent to the inhabitants of this town, in brief, such particulars contained in the said association, as will be incumbent on them all to observe.

1. That they do not import any goods from Great Britain or Ireland, or from any other place, any such goods as shall have been exported from Great Britain or Ireland; nor any India tea from any part of the world; nor any molasses, syrups, panicles, coffee or pimento, from the British plantations, or from Dominica; nor wines from Madeira, or the Western Islands; nor foreign indigo.

2. That they do not import or purchase any slave imported since the 1st of December inst., and that they wholly discontinue the slave trade.

3. That they do not purchase or use any tea, imported on account of the East India Company, or any on which a duty has been paid; and that, from and after the 1st day of March next, they do not purchase or use any East India tea whatever.

4. That on the 10th day of September next, they suspend all exportation to Great Britain, Ireland and the West Indies; except rice, to Europe.

5. That such merchants as have sent orders to Great Britain or Ireland, for goods, do immediately countermand the same, according to the fifth article of the association agreement.

6. That owners of vessels give orders to their captains or masters not to receive on board any goods prohibited by the non-importation agreement.

7. That they use their utmost endeavors, to improve the breed of sheep, and increase their number to the greatest extent; that, to that end, they kill them as sparingly as may be, especially those of the most profitable kind; that they do not export any to the West Indies, or elsewhere; and those who are, or may be, overstocked with, or can conveniently spare any sheep, do dispose of them to their neighbors; especially the poorer sort, on moderate terms.

8. That they encourage frugality, economy and industry; and promote agriculture, arts and the manufactures of this country; especially, that of wool; discountenance and discourage horse-racing, gaming, cock-fighting, expensive shows, plays and diversions; that, on the death of a friend, they do not go into any further mourning than a black crape or ribbon, on the arm or hat, for gentlemen; and a black ribbon or necklace, for ladies; and discontinue the giving of gloves and scarfs, at funerals.

9. That such as are venders of goods or merchandize, will not take advantage of the scarcity of goods that may be occasioned by the association; but that they sell the same at the rates they have been respectively accustomed to do, for twelve months past; and if any vender of goods or merchandize, shall sell any such goods on higher terms, or shall in any manner, or by any device, whatsoever, violate or depart from this agreement, no person ought, nor will any of us deal with such person, or his or her factor, or agent, at any time thereafter, for any commodity, whatever.

10. That any goods or merchandize, imported after the 1st day of December, and before the 1st day of February, be, at the election of the owner, either re-shipped, or delivered to the committee, to be stored or sold, agreeably to the tenth article of the association.

11. That all manufactures of this country be sold at reasonable rates, so that no undue advantage be taken of a future scarcity of goods.

In all and every of which matters, we request all persons in this town, to yield the strictest conformity; and in general, a full observance of every thing at large, in the proceedings of the congress; as they would avoid such contempt and inconvenience, as otherwise they would incur; recommending a frequent perusal of the said proceedings, to the end that they may fully know their duty with respect to said agreement entered into, as a great means for extricating this country from impending ruin and slavery.

And we earnestly request all persons, both in town and country, who deal or trade in this place, and all others, to give us information of the names of such as shall violate any part of the association, that they may meet with such discouragement as the congress have directed.

Voted, that all persons, who shall in future, bring goods into this town, either by land or water, shall produce a certificate from the committee of inspection, for the place from whence the goods may be brought, of their being imported before the 1st day of December; or, that they were bought at vendue, according to the regulation of the American Congress, as contained in the tenth article.



Voted, that the chairman of this committee, or any three of the members, be empowered to give certificates to any person who shall apply, for goods imported into this town, agreeably to the regulations of the congress.

NICHOLAS COOKE,  
Chairman.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH, AND PROCEEDINGS OF, THE COLONIES,  
RELATIVE TO THE ENCROACHMENTS OF PARLIAMENT, ON  
THEIR LIBERTIES.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly of New York.*

City of New York, 20th January, 1774.

The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole House, upon the letters received from the speakers of several of the Houses of Assembly on this continent, enclosing the resolutions entered into by them respectively.

After some time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair, and Col. Seaman reported from the committee, that they had directed him to report to the House the following resolutions, to wit:

Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, that it is the opinion of this committee, that a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry be appointed, to consist of the following persons, to wit: John Cruger, Esq., speaker; James DeLancey, James Jauncey, Jacob Walton, Benjamin Seaman, Isaac Wilkins, Frederic Phillips, Daniel Kissam, Zebulon Seaman, John Rapalje, Simon Bemm, John Denoyellis and George Clinton, Esqs., or any seven of them, whose business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration, as do, or may relate to, or affect, the liberties and privileges of His Majesty's subjects in the British colonies in America; and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting these important considerations; and the result of their proceedings to lay before the House.

Resolved also, *nemine contradicente*, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the speaker of this House prepare draughts of letters to the speakers of the Assemblies on the continent of America, enclosing these resolutions, and requesting them to lay the same before their respective Assemblies; and that he do return the thanks of this House to the Burgesses of Virginia, for their early attention to the liberties of America.

Which resolutions, having been read a second time,—

Resolved, that this House doth agree with the committee in the said resolutions.

By order of the General Assembly, for the colony of New York.

GERARD BANCKER,  
Assistant Clerk,

*Proceedings of the House of Assembly of New Jersey.*

New Jersey, }  
House of Assembly, }  
Tuesday, February 8th, 1774. }

The House resumed the consideration of the several letters and resolutions of the other Houses of Assembly, on the subject matter of the common rights and liberties of the colonies. And—

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole House, upon the matters aforesaid; and after some time spent therein. Mr. Speaker resumed the chair; and Mr. Crane, chairman of the committee, by order of the House, reported the resolutions of the committee, as follows, viz.:

1. Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the House should heartily accept of the invitation to a mutual correspondence and intercourse with our sister colonies.

To which, the House agreed *namine contradicente*.

2. Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that a standing committee of correspondence and inquiry, be appointed, to consist of the following persons, to wit: James Kinsey, Stephen Crane, Hendrick Fisher, Samuel Tucker, John Wetherill, Robert Friend Price, John Hinchman, John Meheln and Edward Taylor, Esqs., or any five of them, whose business it shall be, to obtain the most early and authentic intelligence of all acts and resolutions of the Parliament of Great Britain, or the proceedings of the administration, that may have any relation to, or may affect the liberties and privileges of His Majesty's subjects in the British colonies in America; and to keep up and maintain a correspondence and communication with our sister colonies, respecting those important considerations; and that they do occasionally lay their proceedings before the House.

To which, the House agreed *namine contradicente*.

3. Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the said committee of correspondence do write letters to the several speakers of the Assemblies on the continent of America, enclosing these resolutions, and requesting them to lay the same before their respective Assemblies; and that they do return the thanks of the House to the Burgesses of Virginia, for their early attention to the liberties of America.

To which, the House agreed *namine contradicente*.

A true copy, from the journals.

RICHARD SMITH,

Clerk of the Assembly.

*John Cruger, Speaker of the House of Representatives, of New York, to Metcalfe Bowler, Speaker of the House of Deputies, of Rhode Island.*

New York, March 1st, 1774.

Sir:—Your letter, of the 15th of May last, together with the resolves of the Honorable House of Deputies, of the colony of Rhode Island, which they entered into on the 7th May last, enclosed therein, I laid before the General Assembly, of this colony, at the

opening of the present session ; who being sensible that they are of the utmost importance to the rights and liberties of the American colonies, came to the enclosed resolutions, which they directed me to communicate to you ; and to desire that you will lay them before your House of Deputies, at their next meeting.

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

JOHN CRUGER, Speaker.

To the Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.,  
Speaker of the House of Deputies, of the colony of Rhode Island. }

*The Committee of Correspondence, of New Jersey, to the Speaker  
of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Burlington, March 16th, 1774.

Sir:—The representatives of this colony having received a letter from the truly patriotic House of Burgesses, in Virginia, enclosing their resolutions to obtain the most early intelligence of all such acts and resolutions of the British Parliament, or proceedings of the administration, as may relate to, or affect the British colonies and to maintain a mutual correspondence and communication, concerning these important considerations, have come to the enclosed resolutions, which we have the honor to send you.

The utility of the plan proposed, at a time when claims are made on the colonies to which they cannot give their assent, appeared so evident, that they unanimously and cheerfully adopted the design of uniting in every prudent and constitutional measure, necessary to defeat every attempt to deprive them of the inestimable rights and privileges of British subjects.

The committee of correspondence request the favor of you, to direct any intelligence which your Honorable House may conceive necessary, to be communicated to the colony, to James Kinsey, Esq., in the city of Burlington, New Jersey.

We are, with great respect, &c., &c.,

J. KINSEY,

J. WETHERILL,

SAM. TUCKER,

JN. HINCHMAN.

HEND'K FISHER.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.

*The Committee of Correspondence, of Westerly, to the Committee  
of Correspondence, at Boston.*

Westerly, May 19, 1774.

Gentlemen:—With mingled concern and indignation, the committee of correspondence for this town, have seen an act for blocking up the harbor of Boston.

Rome, designing to destroy the city of Carthage, barbarously required of the Carthaginians that they should forsake their city, and remove their habitations twelve miles from the sea. The consideration of the inveterate hatred, occasioned by the long and bloody wars which had subsisted between Rome and Carthage ; the remembrance of several hundred thousand Romans killed in those wars, and several hundred towns plundered by the Carthaginians, are some excuse for the Roman

severity; but the cruel and unnatural treatment which the town of Boston has received from Great Britain, will admit of no palliation.

The metropolis of a most affectionate and loyal colony, which in all the wars of Great Britain hath gloriously supported the British interest in America; and even by their wise and vigorous efforts made a conquest which gave peace to Europe, is now threatened with destruction, for no other cause, but because the people have bravely determined not to become slaves.

We have long felt for the town of Boston; we heartily sympathize with our brethren upon this alarming occasion; we are much pleased with the noble firmness with which this cruel edict is received in Boston.

We highly approve the measures taken by the town; and are entirely of opinion, that the joint resolution of the colonies, to stop all importations from, and exportations to, Great Britain and the West Indies, until the act is repealed, will infallibly produce the desired effect.

The country which we possess, blessed be God! affords every necessary of life. We are morally certain, that, with the common blessings of Heaven upon our industry and frugality, we can live comfortably, without importing a single article from Great Britain or the West Indies; and we are equally certain, that neither England nor the West Indies can subsist long without us; their own preservation, therefore, will compel them to do us justice.

This horrid attack upon the town of Boston, we consider not as an attempt upon that town singly, but upon the whole continent.

We are therefore, determined to use our whole influence for the support of the town of Boston, in the same manner as if the attack had been made on the metropolis of this colony; and we doubt not but the other colonies will consider this arbitrary and tyrannical edict in the same light, and heartily unite with the friends of liberty in Boston, in support of the common cause.

That infinite wisdom may direct and preserve all the colonies, is the ardent prayer of, &c., &c.

*The Committee of Correspondence of Newport, to the Committee of Correspondence of Boston.*

Newport, May 20th, 1774.

Gentlemen:—Your letters, together with one from Mr. Adams, upon the late most alarming occasion of shutting up the port of Boston, was considered in a full meeting of the freemen of the town, legally assembled this day; and the enclosed resolutions entered into, with not more than two or three dissenting voices.

We have no doubt but an hearty union of the colonies in the measures necessary to be taken in this important crisis, will open the eyes of our fellow subjects in Great Britain, and operate effectually to the redress of the grievances of the colonies.

We deplore the present unhappy situation of our brethren in Boston, and assure you that every consolation and relief in the power of Newport, may be expected and depended upon.

We are, gentlemen, &c., &c.,

Signed by—

JOHN COLLINS, WILLIAM VERNON,  
SAMUEL FOWLER, HENRY WARD,

Committee of Correspondence.

To the Committee of Correspondence, of Boston.

*The Committee of Correspondence, of Boston, to the Committee of Correspondence, of Newport.*

Boston, May —, 1774.

Gentlemen:—We have just received the copy of an act of the British Parliament, passed the present session, whereby the town of Boston is treated in a manner the most ignominious and unjust.

The Parliament have taken upon them, from the representation of our Governor, and other persons, inimical to, and deeply prejudiced against the inhabitants, to try, condemn, and by an act, to punish them unheard; which would have been in violation of natural justice, even if they had an acknowledged jurisdiction.

They have ordered our port to be entirely shut up, leaving us barely so much of the means of subsistence, as to keep us from perishing with cold and hunger; and it is said that a fleet of British ships of war is to shut up our harbor, until we shall make restitution to the East India Company for the loss of their tea, which was destroyed therein, the winter past; obedience paid to the laws and authority of Great Britain, and the revenue is duly collected.

This act fills the inhabitants with indignation. The more thinking part of those who have hitherto been in favor of the measures of the British government, look upon it as not to have been expected even from a barbarous state.

This attack, though made immediately upon us, is doubtless designed for every other colony, who will not surrender their sacred rights and liberties into the hands of an infamous ministry.

Now therefore, is the time, when all should be united, in opposition to this violation of the liberties of all. Their grand object is to divide the colonies.

We are well informed, that another bill is to be brought into Parliament, to distinguish this from the other colonies, by repealing some of the acts which have been complained of, and ease the American trade; but, be assured, you will be called upon to surrender your rights, if ever they should succeed in their attempts to suppress the spirit of liberty here.

The single question then is, whether you consider Boston as now suffering in the common cause, and sensibly feel and resent the injury and affront offered her? If you do (and we cannot believe otherwise), may we not, from your approbation of our former conduct in defence of American liberty, rely on your suspending your trade with Great Britain, at least; which, it is acknowledged, will be a great but necessary sacrifice to the cause of liberty, and will effectually defeat the designs of this act of revenge. If this should be done, you will please to consider it will be thought a voluntary suffering, greatly short of what we are called to endure under the immediate hand of tyranny.

We desire your answer, by the bearer; and after assuring you, that, not in the least intimidated by this inhuman treatment, we are still determined, to the utmost of our abilities, to maintain the rights of America,

We are, gentlemen,

Your friends and fellow countrymen,

WILLIAM COOPER, Clerk.

Signed by order, and in behalf of the Committee of Correspondence, for Boston.

N. B. The above was written with the concurrence of the committee of correspondence of the towns of Charlestown, Cambridge, Brookline, Newton, Roxbury, Dorchester, Lexington and Lynn.

*The Committee of Correspondence, of Virginia, to the Committee of Correspondence, of Rhode Island.*

Williamsburg, Virginia, }

May 28th, 1774. }

Gentlemen:—The enclosed papers will explain to you our present political state here, with respect to the unhappy dispute with our mother country.

The propriety of appointing deputies from the several colonies of British America, to meet annually in general congress, appears to be a measure extremely important and extensively useful, as it tends so effectually to obtain the united wisdom of the whole, in every case of general concern.

We are desired to obtain your sentiments on the subject, which you will be pleased to furnish us with. Being very desirous of communicating to you, the opinion and conduct of the late representatives on the present posture of American affairs, as quickly as possible, we beg leave to refer you to a future letter, in which we shall more fully express our sentiments on these subjects.

We are, with great respect, gentlemen, &c., &c.,

PEYTON RANDOLPH,

R. C. NICHOLAS,

DUDLEY DIGGE,

Committee of Correspondence, &c.

To the Committee of Correspondence, for Rhode Island.

*Resolution of the House of Representatives, of Massachusetts, relative to the Closing of the Port of Boston.*

Province of Massachusetts Bay, }

In the House of Representatives, May 26th, 1774. }

Resolved, that the committee of correspondence be, and they hereby are, directed to write to the committees of correspondence of all the British colonies on this continent, enclosing a copy of an unprecedented act of the British Parliament, for shutting up the port of Boston, and otherwise punishing the inhabitants of that town; and desire their immediate attention to an act, designed to suppress the spirit of liberty in America.

A true copy, attest.

*The Committee of Correspondence of Massachusetts, to the Committee of Correspondence, of Rhode Island, relative to certain proceedings of the House of Representatives, of that Colony.*

Province of the Massachusetts Bay, }  
 May 28th, 1774. }

Gentlemen:—By order of the House of Representatives, of this Province, we enclose you an act passed in the late session of the British Parliament, entitled “An act to discontinue in such manner, and for such time, as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping of goods, wares and merchandize, at the town, and within the harbor of Boston, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in North America.”

We think that the archives of Constantinople might be in vain searched for a parallel. To reason upon such an act, would be idleness. You will doubtless judge every British American colony deeply concerned in it, and contemplate and determine upon it, accordingly.

We are, with great regard,

Your friends and fellow countrymen,

THOMAS CUSHING,	THOS. GARDNER,
SAMUEL ADAMS,	JOSEPH HAWLEY,
JAS. WARREN,	WM. HEATH,

Committee of Correspondence, &c.

To the gentlemen the Committee of Correspondence, appointed by the Honorable House of Deputies, in the colony of Rhode Island.

*“Join or Die!”*

The act of Parliament, for blocking up the harbor of Boston, in order to reduce its spirited inhabitants to the most servile and mean compliances ever attempted to be imposed on a free people, is allowed to be infinitely more alarming and dangerous to our common liberties, than even that hydra, the stamp act (which was defeated by our firmness and union), and must be read with a glowing indignation, by every real friend of freedom in Europe and America.

Though the town of Boston is now intended to be made a victim to ministerial wrath; yet the insult and indignity offered to our virtuous brethren in that capital, who have so nobly stood as a barrier against slavery, ought to be viewed in the same odious light as a direct, hostile invasion of every province on the continent, whose inhabitants are now loudly called upon, by interest, honor and humanity, to stand forth, with firmness and unanimity, for the relief, support and animation of our brethren in the insulted, besieged capital of Massachusetts Bay.

The generals of despotism are now drawing the lines of circumvallation around our bulwarks of liberty; and nothing but unity, resolution and perseverance, can save ourselves and posterity from what is worse than death—slavery!

Newport, Rhode Island, May 30, 1774.

*The Committee of Correspondence, of Connecticut, to the Committee of Correspondence, of Boston.*

Hartford, June 3d, 1774.

Gentlemen:—The lower House of Assembly, at their session, at this place, which closes this day, came into sundry resolutions, relative to their rights and privileges; an extract from which, you have enclosed, which we take the earliest opportunity of sending you; and on the important subject, take the liberty to add, as our opinion, that a congress is absolutely necessary, previous to almost every other measure. Since, as the injury is general, the mode taken for redress, ought to be commensurate; which can be, by no means, short of a general conference and union.

The resolves of merchants, in any individual town or province, however generously designed, must be partial; and when considered in respect to the whole of the colonies, in one general view, at best defective; while on the other hand, every measure recommended, every resolve come into, by the whole united colonies, must carry weight and influence on the minds of the people, and effectually silence those base insinuations which our enemies are ever ready to throw out, of interested motives, sinister views, unfair practices and the like; for the vile purposes of sowing the seeds of jealousy between the colonies, to divide and render abortive all our designs in favor of the liberties of America.

We conceive that little, or nothing, need be added on this subject, as the propriety and utility of the measure, is acknowledged by all. The time and place seems only to be fixed on, for the first; the earlier, consistent with having the principal provinces notified and present, the better;—say the last Wednesday in July, or first in August; by which time, all, as far as Virginia, may be informed of, and invited to attend it.

For the place, New York is as near the center; but the season of the year makes us prefer some agreeable town to a city, in which there will be more avocations, besides its being disagreeable in these months. Norwalk or Fairfield, are towns in which gentlemen may be well accommodated, in this colony. But we submit this, as well as the time, to your opinions, which we shall expect as soon as possible.

We conceive, as a committee of correspondence and inquiry are appointed in every considerable colony, by their Assemblies, they are the proper persons to attend, or to appoint others for that business.

But of this, the gentlemen in your colony are the proper judges; and we hint this, as the Assemblies of some of the most respectable colonies will hardly have an opportunity of meeting again until next winter, and consequently will not be able to appoint in any season.

We have only to add, that we are sensibly affected with your distressed situation.

We are, gentlemen,

Your friends, and fellow countrymen,

SILAS DEAN,

Signed per order of the Committee of Correspondence, for Connecticut.

P. S. Yours, of the 31st ultimo, in reply to ours, of the 26th, is before us. The situation of the town of Boston, particularly of the poor, and such as must now be



deprived of employ and reduced to straits, was considered by both Houses of Assembly, and a resolution come into, to contribute to their relief, which passed both the Houses of Assembly; but the time and mode for carrying it into execution, is deferred, until they hear more directly from you; which doubtless they will, before their next meeting.

To the Committee of Correspondence, for Boston.

*The Committee of Correspondence, of Connecticut, to the Committee of Correspondence, of Newport.*

Hartford, June 4th, 1774.

Gentlemen:—You have, enclosed, the copy of our letter to the committee of correspondence, at Boston, of even date, herewith.

Confident you have not been inattentive to the present alarming proceedings, respecting the colonies, we shall not detain you, by attempting to suggest any thing new, on the subject; but to desire, if you are of the same sentiment with us, in the enclosed, that you will give us seasonable notice of the measures you take, in carrying the proposal into execution.

We are, with great regard, gentlemen,

Your friends, and fellow countrymen,

SILAS DEAN,

Signed per order of the Committee of Correspondence, for Connecticut.

To the Committee of Correspondence, Newport, Rhode Island.

*The Committee of Correspondence, of Massachusetts, to the Committee of Correspondence, of Rhode Island.*

Province of the Massachusetts Bay, }  
Boston, June 4, 1774. }

Gentlemen:—We take the earliest opportunity to enclose you copies of two bills brought into Parliament, and before this time, probably enacted, which we have just received by a vessel, in thirty-six days from Bristol.

It is also confidently reported, that a third bill is to be brought into Parliament, for the better regulating the governments of the other provinces in North America.

These edicts, cruel and oppressive as they are, we consider as but bare specimens of what the continent are to expect from a Parliament, who claim a right to make laws binding us in all cases, whatsoever.

We are your friends and fellow countrymen,

THOMAS CUSHING,

JOSEPH HAWLEY,

SAMUEL ADAMS,

THOMAS GARDNER,

Committee of Correspondence.

To the gentlemen the Committee of Correspondence, appointed by the House of Deputies, of the colony of Rhode Island.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE SEVERAL COLONIES, WITH RESOLUTIONS RELATIVE TO THE MEETING OF A GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE COLONIES IN PHILADELPHIA.

—

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Massachusetts, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Province of the Massachusetts Bay, }  
June 17th, 1774. }

Sir:—Agreeably to the directions of the House of Representatives, of this Province, I have the honor to transmit you a copy of certain resolves they entered into, in their present session; by which, you will perceive that it is their opinion that a meeting of committees from the several colonies on this continent, is highly expedient and necessary; and that they propose that such meeting be at the city of Philadelphia, on the 1st day of September next; and that, for the purposes mentioned in said resolves, they have appointed a committee of five, on the part of this Province, whom they have directed to repair to Philadelphia, at the time before-mentioned.

This appears to be a measure absolutely necessary for the establishment of the rights and liberties of the colonies, upon a just and solid foundation; and for the restoration of union and harmony between both countries.

It is not doubted, but it will be agreed to in your colony, if it should, it is desired that as early notice as possible might be transmitted to—

Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

THOMAS CUSHING,

Speaker.

To the Honorable the Speaker of the Honorable House of Deputies, of the colony of Rhode Island.

P. S. If this letter cannot be communicated seasonably to your Honorable House, it is desired it may be communicated to their committee of correspondence.

*Resolutions of the House of Representatives, of Massachusetts.*

Province of the Massachusetts Bay, }  
In the House of Representatives, June 17th, 1774. }

This House having duly considered, and being deeply affected with, the unhappy differences which have long subsisted and are increasing between Great Britain and the American colonies,—

Do resolve, that a meeting of committees from the several colonies on this continent, is highly expedient and necessary, to consult upon the present state of the colonies, and the miseries to which they are, and must be, reduced by the operation of certain acts of Parliament, respecting America; and to deliberate and determine upon wise and proper measures, to be by them recommended to all the colonies, for

the recovery and establishment of their just rights and liberties, civil and religious; and the restoration of union and harmony between Great Britain and the colonies, most ardently desired by all good men.

Therefore, resolved that the Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq., the Hon. Thomas Cushing, Esq., Mr. Samuel Adams, John Adams and Robert Treat Paine, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, on the part of this Province, for the purposes, aforesaid; any three of whom, to be a quorum, to meet such committees or delegates from the other colonies, as have been, or may be, appointed, either by their respective Houses of Burgesses, or Representatives, or by convention; or by the committees of correspondence, appointed by the respective Houses of Assembly, in the city of Philadelphia; or any other place that shall be judged most suitable by the committees, on the 1st day of September next; and that the speaker of the House be directed, in a letter to the speakers of the Houses of Burgesses, or Representatives, in the several colonies, to inform them of the substance of these resolves.

A true copy, attest:

SAMUEL ADAMS, Clerk.

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island,  
to the several British Colonies, in North America.*

Newport, June 20, 1774.

Sir:—Agreeably to the directions of the General Assembly, I have the honor to enclose you a copy of certain resolutions entered into by them, respecting the very alarming situation of the colonies.

I have also to inform you, that, upon this occasion, the Assembly have adjourned to the fourth Monday in August next.

I am, with very great regard, sir,

Your most humble servant,

METCALFE BOWLER, Speaker.\*

*The Committee of Correspondence, of New York, to the Com-  
mittee of Correspondence, of Connecticut.*

New York, June 24th, 1774.

Gentlemen:—We have your letter of June 4th, before us, enclosing the resolves of your Assembly, and a letter to the committee of correspondence, of Boston; and we agree with you, that at this alarming juncture, a general congress of deputies from the several colonies, would be a very expedient and salutary measure.

Such a congress, consisting of men of coolness, prudence and understanding, would, we conceive, be the best means, under Providence, of restoring that peace and harmony between Great Britain and her colonies, which is the surest foundation of happiness to both; and which every good man, every well-wisher to his country, ought to labor strenuously to establish.

We are sorry, therefore, that we are not sufficiently empowered to take any steps in relation to so salutary a measure; for we are a committee of correspondence,

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\* The resolutions, referred to, which were transmitted to the several British colonies, will be found on page 246.

and cannot consistently with good order and propriety, interfere in a matter of such importance, without the appointment and concurrence of our whole House of Representatives.

After what has been said, it would be needless to mention any thing about the place of meeting ; only this, that, if the other colonies, who may have authority for so doing, should meet in congress, in or near this city, we shall most gladly and willingly assist with our advice, &c., if necessary ; which, circumstanced as we are at present, is all we are enabled to do.

We should be glad, however, to know before we come to any final determination on this matter, what steps will be taken by the other colonies, who are in the same situation with us, by not having an opportunity of knowing the sentiments of their Houses of Representatives, when the measures proposed to be adopted by them, shall be communicated to us, we shall be better able to judge what plan will be most likely to procure a redress of our present grievances, and promote the union and prosperity of the mother country and the colonies ; and we expect daily to receive accounts of these matters, of which we shall send you the most early intelligence.

We are, with great esteem, gentlemen,

Your most obedient servants,

JOHN CRUGER,

JA. JAUNCEY,

FRED'K PHILIPSE,

JAMES DELANCEY,

JACOB WALTON,

SIMON BOEMM,

JOHN RAPALJE,

DANIEL KISSAM,

ZEB. SEAMAN, late

ZEB. WILLIAMS,

BENJAMIN SEAMAN,

Committee, &c.

To the Committee of Correspondence, of the General Assembly, of Connecticut.

*John Cruger, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of New York, to Metcalfe Bowler, Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

New York, June 27, 1774.

Sir:—Your letter of the 20th of June, enclosing the resolutions of your House of Representatives, respecting the alarming situation of the colonies, was received the day after our committee of correspondence broke up, and the members returned to the country.

The enclosed letter, to the committee of correspondence, of the House of Representatives, of the colony of Connecticut, will convey to you their sentiments of the propriety of a general congress, and of the power which they conceive given to them, by the General Assembly of this colony.

We shall doubtless soon receive accounts of the deliberations of the colony of Virginia and the other Southern colonies, on these important matters, when we shall again call together our committee, and communicate to you their resolutions thereon.

I have the honor to be with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN CRUGER.

To the Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.

*Census of Rhode Island, taken in June, 1774; as published in  
the Providence Gazette, July 2, 1774.*

The number of inhabitants in this colony, according to the lists given in by the several towns, at the late session of Assembly, is as follows:

<i>County of Newport.</i>		<i>Kings County.</i>		
Newport	- - - -	9,209	North Kingstown - - - - 2,472	
Portsmouth	- - - -	1,512	South Kingstown - - - - 2,835	
Jamestown	- - - -	563	Westerly - - - - 1,812	
Middletown	- - - -	881	Charlestown - - - - 1,821	
Tiverton	- - - -	1,957	Exeter - - - - 1,864	
Little Compton	- - - -	1,232	Richmond - - - - 1,257	
New Shoreham	- - - -	575	Hopkinton - - - - 1,805	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		15,929	13,866	
<i>County of Providence.</i>		<i>County of Kent</i>		
Providence	- - - -	4,321	Warwick - - - - 2,438	
Smithfield	- - - -	2,888	West Greenwich - - - - 1,764	
Scituate	- - - -	3,601	East Greenwich - - - - 1,663	
Glocester	- - - -	2,945	Coventry - - - - 2,023	
Cranston	- - - -	1,834	<hr/>	
Cumberland	- - - -	1,756	7,888	
Johnston	- - - -	1,031	<i>County of Bristol.</i>	
North Providence	- - - -	1,830	Bristol - - - - 1,209	
		<hr/>	Warren - - - - 979	
		19,206	Barrington - - - - 601	
			<hr/>	
			2,789	
Whites	- - - -	- - - -	- - - - 54,435	
Indians	- - - -	- - - -	- - - - 1,482	
Blacks	- - - -	- - - -	- - - - 3,761	
			<hr/>	
Total	- - - -	- - - -	- - - - 59,678	

*Proceedings of the House of Representatives, of New Hampshire,  
July 21, 1774.*

Province of New Hampshire.

At a meeting of deputies, appointed by the several towns, in this province, held at Exeter, in the county of Rockingham, 21st of July, 1774, for the election of delegates, on behalf of this province, to join the general congress proposed.

Present, eighty-five members.

The Hon. John Wentworth, Esq., in the chair.

It being moved from the chair, whether it was expedient to send delegates on the part of this province, to the general congress,—

Resolved unanimously, that, under the present perplexed situation of the public affairs of the colonies, it is expedient and necessary, to send such delegates to the general congress.

Voted, that Col. Nathaniel Folsom and Major John Sullivan, Esqs., be appointed and empowered, as delegates, on the part of this province, to attend and assist in the general congress of delegates from the other colonies, at such time and place as may be appointed, to devise, consult and adopt such measures as may have the most likely tendency to extricate the colonies from their present difficulties; to secure and perpetuate their rights, liberties and privileges, and to restore that peace, harmony and mutual confidence, which once happily subsisted between the parent country, and her colonies.

Voted, that the £200, lawful money, generously contributed by the several towns, and sent by their respective deputies, agreeably to the recommendation of the members of the late House of Representatives, be paid to the treasurer that may be appointed to receive the same, to defray the expense of sending the delegates.

Voted, that John Giddinge, Esq., be appointed treasurer to receive the same money or any other, that may be given for that purpose; and to pay the same to the delegates, and take their receipts therefor.

Voted, that the Hon. John Wentworth, Esq., the Hon. Mescach Weare, Col. Josiah Bartlett, Col. Christopher Toppan and John Pickering, Jr., Esqs., be a committee, in behalf of the deputies appointed by the several towns, to give general instructions to the delegates, chosen in behalf of this province; that the same committee be invested with full power, by, and in behalf of, the deputies present, in case one or both the delegates elected, should be providentially hindered from going to the general congress, to elect other delegate or delegates in his or their room; and that the delegate shall account with the committee, for the money received.

Voted unanimously, that the deputies recommend it to their respective towns, to take into consideration the distressed, unhappy condition of the town of Boston, and liberally to contribute towards the relief of the poor of that town, according to the noble and laudable example of their sister colonies.

### *Proceedings of the House of Representatives, of Pennsylvania.*

Pennsylvania.

In Assembly,  
July 22d, 1774. A. M. }

The House taking into their most serious consideration, the unfortunate differences which have long subsisted between Great Britain and the American colonies, and have been greatly increased by the operation and effects of divers late acts of the British Parliament,—

Resolved, that there is an absolute necessity that a congress of deputies from the several colonies, be held as soon as conveniently may be, to consult together upon the present unhappy state of the colonies; and to form and adopt a plan for the purposes of obtaining a redress of American grievances, ascertaining American rights upon the most solid and constitutional principles, and for establishing that union and harmony between Great Britain and the colonies, which is indispensably necessary to the welfare and happiness of both; therefore—

Resolved, that the Hon. Joseph Galloway, speaker; Samuel Rhoads, Thomas Mifflin, Charles Humphreys, John Morton, George Ross and Edward Biddle, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, on the part of this province, for the purposes, aforesaid; and that they, or any four of them, do meet such committees or delegates, from the other colonies, as have been, or may be, appointed, either by their respective Houses of Representatives, or by convention, or by the provincial or colony committees, at such time and place, as shall be generally agreed on by such committees; and that the speaker of this House be directed, in a letter to the speakers of the Houses of Representatives, of the other colonies, to inform them of these resolves.

Extract from the journals :

CHARLES MOORE,  
Clerk of Assembly.

*The Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Pennsylvania,  
to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode  
Island.*

Philadelphia, July 24th, 1774.

Sir:—By order of the House of Representatives, of Pennsylvania, I have the honor to enclose a copy of certain resolutions entered into by them, respecting the present alarming state of the colonies; and appointing a committee, to meet the committees of the other colonies, in congress.

I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,  
JOSEPH GALLOWAY, Speaker.

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.

*The Committee of Correspondence, of North Carolina, to the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

North Carolina, 28th July, 1774.

Sir:—We are favored with your letter of the 20th of June, directed to the speaker of late House of Assembly, of this province.

The Governor, some time before we had notice of the proceedings of the British Parliament, relative to the town of Boston, dissolved the Assembly of this province, and has not hitherto thought proper to convene the members, who have been since elected.

We are now endeavoring to procure a meeting of the representatives as soon as possible; and doubt not but they will agree in sentiment, and adopt similar resolutions with your Assembly.

We are, with the greatest respect, sir,

Your most obedient servants,

JOHN HARVEY,  
EDWARD VAIL,  
JOHN ASHE,

WILL. HOOPER,  
SAML JOHNSTON,  
JOSEPH HEWES,

Committee, &c., &c.

To the speaker of the House of Representatives of Rhode Island.

*The Committee of Correspondence, of Delaware, to the Speaker  
of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Newcastle-upon-Delaware, }

August 2d, 1774. }

Sir:—We are ordered by the representatives of the freemen of the government of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex, upon Delaware, who assembled here yesterday, at the request of the said freemen, and adjourned until this day, to inform you that they have unanimously appointed Caesar Rodney, Thomas M'Kean and George Read, Esqs., or any two of them, deputies, in behalf of this colony, to attend at the much expected congress, for the British colonies at Philadelphia, on the first Monday of September next, or at such other time and place, as shall be generally agreed on.

As the time and place agreed upon, have been proposed by many of the other provinces, we hope they will prove agreeable.

We are, sir, with the utmost regard, the committee of correspondence, for said government, appointed by the House of Assembly,—

And your most obedient, humble servants,

CÆSAR RODNEY,                    JNO. M. KINLY,  
GEO. READ,                        THOS. ROBINSON.  
THO. M'KEAN,

To the Honorable the Speaker of the House of Assembly, of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, to be communicated to the Committee of Correspondence.

*The Committee of Correspondence, of New Hampshire, to the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Province of New Hampshire, }

August 8th, 1774. }

Sir:—We have had, some time since, the pleasure of receiving your favor of the 20th June, containing the resolutions of your colony, upon the alarming situation of the American governments; and have now the satisfaction to enclose you the proceedings of this province, upon the same important matters.

From the unanimity in sentiments and measures, which prevail in all the colonies, we are constrained to flatter ourselves, that a firm and steady perseverance therein, will soon work out our political salvation.

We are, sir, with the greatest regard,

Your most humble servants,

SAMUEL CUTTS.

Signed per order of the Committee of Correspondence, }

for the Province of New Hampshire. }

To the Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.



*Subscription for the Relief of the Inhabitants of Boston and Charlestown, in the town of East Greenwich.*

East Greenwich, August 29, 1774.

We, the subscribers, inhabitants of the town of East Greenwich, in the colony of Rhode Island, taking into the most serious consideration the present alarming situation of our brethren in the towns of Boston and Charlestown, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, occasioned by the late cruel, malignant and worse than savage acts of the British Parliament; and whereas, a tame submission to the first approaches of lawless power, will undoubtedly involve this extensive continent in one scene of misery and servitude, than which, a glorious death, in defence of our unquestionable rights, is far more eligible; convinced likewise, that the only true glory and unfading grandeur of the British monarch consists in governing his extensive empire with equal and impartial laws, founded in reason, and rendered sacred by the wisdom of ages; and that every attempt to impair that noble constitution, which hath ever been the envy and terror of Europe, constitutes the blackest treason—from the most unfeigned loyalty to our sovereign—from the most settled abhorrence to the deep laid schemes of his prime minister, whom we esteem the most determined foe to royalty; and from an ardent love to our country, which nothing but death can abate, we do promise and engage to pay, by the 1st day of October next, the respective sums to our names annexed, to James Mitchell Varnum, Esq.; Messrs. Preserved Pearce, A. Mumford and William Pearce, to be laid out and expended in such articles of provisions, for our said distressed brethren, as the majority of us shall agree upon, to be sent to the committee of ways and means for employing the poor in Boston, by the first conveyance.—*Providence Gazette.*

*Declaration of Stephen Arnold, of East Greenwich, relative to certain tumultuous proceedings, in the Town of Providence.*

Providence, September, 1774.

At 2 o'clock, in the morning, on Tuesday last, an express arrived in this town, from East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, with advice that a mob was raised, consisting of some hundreds of people, who threatened, and were hourly expected to come and destroy said town of East Greenwich, in order to show their resentment of the injury which they said had been offered to Stephen Arnold, of Warwick, Esq., one of the justices of the inferior court of common pleas in that county, who had been charged with industriously propagating principles unfriendly to American liberty, and had been hung in effigy, by some of the people at East Greenwich.

This intelligence was immediately communicated to His Honor the Deputy Governor, who ordered the sheriff, with the companies of Cadets and Light Infantry of this town, and others of the militia, to arm themselves, and proceed immediately to East Greenwich, to assist the sheriff of said county in dispersing said mob.

The companies of militia accordingly armed, marched immediately, and arrived there by 9 o'clock, the same morning, where a committee was appointed and sent to the mob, about two miles distant from the town, to warn them of the bad conse-

quences of their unlawful proceedings, and to demand some of the principal persons among them, to come immediately into town, and settle the affair.

Whereupon, the said Stephen Arnold, Esq., and some others, came from the mob, and met the militia; and a great number of people convened at the court house, where, after being made acquainted with their resolute determination, he signed the following declaration and confession:

*Confession.*

“Whereas, I, the subscriber, having lately in this town, received great indignity, by being hung in effigy, by some evil minded persons, to me unknown; and from many reports which have been circulated in the country, I was led to think my person and family unsafe; and being actuated by the motives of fear and resentment, without maturely considering the consequences, have been concerned, by officiating with divers people of this country, with the intention of repairing to this town, and making a declaration of that right, which as a subject, I apprehended I was entitled to.

And whereas, the said assembly, was unlawful, which hath occasioned much fear and distress to the inhabitants of this town in particular, and many others, in general; for all which, I do hereby express my hearty sorrow, and wish to obtain the favorable opinion of this public assembly; especially, as I am a friend to the liberty of my country, and disapprove of those measures which have been calculated to tax America, without her consent.

STEPHEN ARNOLD.”

“East Greenwich, September 13, 1774.

P. S. I do further declare, that I will discourage to the utmost of my power, all such unlawful assemblies for the future, and that already assembled in particular.—

STEPHEN ARNOLD.”

*Providence Gazette.*

*Samuel Ward to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Philadelphia, October 3, 1774.

Sir:—We should, with pleasure, have communicated to you, the proceedings of the congress from time to time, but the resolution to let nothing transpire without express direction, would not admit it; but we may, with propriety, we believe, observe, that from the resolutions unanimously come into by the congress, upon the resolves of the county of Suffolk, which were immediately published with those resolves, some estimate may be formed of the general sentiments of the congress.

We take this early opportunity of acquainting Your Honor, that a non-importation from Great Britain and Ireland, is agreed upon, to take place the 1st day of December next, and a general non-exportation on the 10th day of September next. Non-exportation of several commodities to different parts, to commence immediately, or very soon, is under consideration, and we think will probably be resolved upon.

Whenever any measures are adopted, the communication of which, will either give pleasure to the colony, or promote its interest, we shall (the moment we are at liberty,) give you the earliest intelligence of them.

The magnitude of the subjects before the congress, the peculiar circumstances of delicacy and intricacy in which they are involved, the danger of taking a false step in a matter of such vast importance, and the necessity of adopting of every proper measure, cannot fail to lengthen the session.

What has been done, we hope will be honored with the approbation of the colony.

Much still remains to be done; and however striking the ideas of our friends and connexions at home may be, after a long absence, we shall cheerfully continue here as long as the service of our country requires it; and we hope faithfully to exert our utmost endeavors in this arduous undertaking for the common good of America.

We are, with regard,

Your Honor's most obedient, and most humble servants,

SAM. WARD.

To the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq.

P. S. When the above was written, Mr. Hopkins was expected in town; but not being yet returned, and the vessel ready to sail, I am forced to write singly.

*Lord Dartmouth to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

[Circular.]

Whitehall, 19th October, 1774.

Gentlemen:—His Majesty having thought fit, by his order in Council, this day, to prohibit the exportation from Great Britain, of gunpowder, \* \* \* \* \* or any sort of arms or ammunition, I herewith enclose to you a copy of the order; and it is His Majesty's command, that you do take the most effectual measures for arresting, detaining and securing any \* \* \* \* \* gunpowder, or any sorts of arms or ammunition, which may be attempted to be imported into the province under your government, unless the master of the ship, having such military stores on board, shall produce a license from His Majesty, or the Privy Council, for the exportation of the same, from some of the ports of this kingdom.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

DARTMOUTH.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Lord Dartmouth to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

[Circular.]

Whitehall, November 2, 1774.

Sir:—The lords commissioners for trade and plantations, having complained that they are frequently put under great difficulties from the Governors of His Majesty's colonies neglecting to transmit, at regular periods, returns of the state of their respective Councils, I am commanded by the King, to signify to you, His Majesty's pleasure, that you do regularly, every three months, or oftener, transmit to their lordships a list of the names of the Council of the province under your government; noting such as are absent, for what time they have been absent, and with what license.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

DARTMOUTH.

To Governor Wanton.

*Lord Dartmouth to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

[Circular.]

Whitehall, December 10, 1774.

Sir:—Enclosed, I send you, by His Majesty's commands, printed copies of His Majesty's most gracious speech to his Parliament, and of the address and answer thereto, which were passed in both Houses, by a very great majority.

The declaration which His Majesty has been most graciously pleased to make, of his firm and steadfast resolution to withstand every attempt to weaken or impair the authority of the supreme legislature over all His Majesty's dominions; the resolution of both Houses, to support those great constitutional principles by which His Majesty's conduct hath been governed, and their entire approbation of the steps His Majesty has taken, for carrying into execution the laws passed in the last session, will, I trust, have the effect to remove those false impressions which have been made upon the minds of His Majesty's subjects in America, and put an end to those expectations of support in their unwarrantable pretensions, which have been held forth by artful and designing men.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

DARTMOUTH.

To Governor Wanton.

*Extract of a letter from Captain Wallace, to Vice Admiral Graves, dated on board His Majesty's ship Rose, at Newport, Rhode Island, December 12, 1774.*

"Yesterday I arrived in this port, with His Majesty's ship under my command, from New London, on a cruise, of which I had the honor to acquaint you, the 8th instant.

Since my absence from this place, I find the inhabitants (they say here of Providence) have seized upon the King's cannon that was upon Fort Island, consisting of six twenty-four pounders, eighteen eighteen-pounders, fourteen six-pounders and six four-pounders (the latter, they say, formerly belonged to a province sloop they had here), and conveyed them to Providence.

A procedure so extraordinary, caused me to wait upon the Governor, to inquire of him, for your information, why such a step had been taken. He very frankly told me, they had done it to prevent their falling into the hands of the King, or any of his servants; and that they meant to make use of them, to defend themselves against any power that shall offer to molest them.

I then mentioned, if, in the course of carrying on the King's service here, I should ask assistance, whether I might expect any from him, or any others in the government.

He answered, as to himself, he had no power; and in respect to any other part of the government I should meet with nothing but opposition and difficulty. So much from Governor Wanton.

Then I endeavored to get the best information of what they were at, from all quarters, and enclosed I send it to you. Among some of their votes, you will find they intend to procure powder and ball and military stores of all kinds, whenever they can get them."

[The speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island, received the following letter from Messrs. Bollan, Franklin and Lee, three of the colony agents.]

*William Bollan, Benjamin Franklin and Arthur Lee, Agents in London for the Colony of Rhode Island, to Metcalfe Bowler, Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

London, December 24, 1774.

Sir:—This is just to inform you, that, having received the petition of the General Congress, to the King, we immediately communicated the same to Lord Dartmouth, secretary of state, for the American department, as the regular official method, and that by which only we could have expectation of obtaining an answer.

His Lordship this day informed us, that he had laid the same before the King; that His Majesty had been pleased to receive it very graciously, and to say it was of so great importance, that he should, as soon as they met, lay it before his two Houses of Parliament. We can only add, that—

We are, with great respect, sir,

Your most obedient, and most humble servants,

WILLIAM BOLLAN,  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,  
ARTHUR LEE.

To the Honorable the Speaker of the lower House of Assembly, of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the 22d day of April, 1775.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Thomas Freebody and William Greene, and Joshua Babcock, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to proportion to the several towns in this colony two thousand five hundred pounds of the powder, and one quarter part of the lead, bullets and flints, belonging to the colony; and that the following persons be, and

hereby are, appointed to procure and receive each town's proportion thereof, to wit :

For Newport, Mr. Thomas Freebody ; for Providence, Col. John Mathewson ; for Portsmouth, Metcalfe Bowler, Esq. ; for Warwick, Mr. Samuel Tillinghast ; for Westerly, Mr. David Maxson ; for New Shoreham, the town treasurer for that town ; for North Kingstown, Mr. Benjamin Davis ; for South Kingstown, William Potter, Esq. ; for East Greenwich, Mr. Gideon Mumford ; for Jamestown, the town treasurer for that town ; for Smithfield, Mr. Arnold Pain ; for Scituate, Col. Ezekiel Cornell ; for Gloucester, Jonah Steere, Esq. ; for Charlestown, Mr. Joseph Hoxsie ; for West Greenwich, Mr. Nathaniel Brown ; for Coventry, Mr. James Waterman ; for Exeter, John Chapman, Esq. ; for Middletown, Mr. John Barker ; for Bristol, Mr. John Howland ; for Tiverton, Capt. John Cooke ; for Little Compton, Mr. George Wood ; for Warren, Mr. Shubael Burr ; for Cumberland, Mr. John Dexter ; for Richmond, George Webb, Esq. ; for Cranston, Mr. Peter Burlingame, 3d ; for Hopkinton, Mr. Jesse Maxson ; for Johnston, Edward Fenner, Esq. ; for North Providence, Mr. Joseph Olney ; for Barrington, Mr. Thomas Allen.

Whereas, the Company of the Train of Artillery, and the Company of Fuziliers, and other inhabitants of the town of Providence, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, praying that the charter, with the said petition presented, for uniting the said companies into one, may be granted ; that Daniel Tillinghast, Esq., may be appointed colonel ; Daniel Hitchcock, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; John Crane, Esq., major ; and Levi Hall, captain of the said united company ; and that £40, lawful money, may be granted to the said company, for furnishing pioneers, to draw the cannon, or field pieces ; and the said petition being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, granted ; and that the sum of £40, therein mentioned, be paid out of the general treasury to, and be under the direction of, the officers of the said company.

An Act for establishing a military company, by the name of the United Company of the Train of Artillery, in the town of Providence.

Whereas, the committee appointed to proportion the powder, &c., to the several towns, reported the following proportion to each town, to wit :

*Report of the Committee appointed to proportion the Powder, &c., to the several Towns.*

	Lbs. powder.	Lbs. lead.	Flints.		Lbs. powder.	Lbs. lead.	Flints.
Newport	- 389	623	2492	Coventry	- 56	90	360
Providence	- 148	237	948	Exeter	- 60	97	388
Warwick	- 119	190	760	Middletown	- 81	130	520
Portsmouth	- 115	184	738	Bristol	- 68	108	422
Westerly	- 69	110	440	Tiverton	- 89	142	568
New Shoreham	31	49	196	Little Compton	78	125	500
North Kingstown	120	180	480	Warren	- 24	38	152
South Kingstown,	227	372	1488	Cumberland	- 44	71	284
East Greenwich, -	59	95	380	Richmond	- 44	71	284
Jamestown	- 50	80	320	Cranston	- 83	132	528
Smithfield	- 121	194	776	Hopkinton	- 58	93	372
Scituate	- 90	143	572	Johnston	- 34	54	216
Glocester	- 77	123	492	North Providence,	29	47	188
Charlestown	- 57	91	370	Barrington	- 26	42	168
West Greenwich -	42	67	268				

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that the 11th day of May next, be set apart as a day of fasting, prayer and humiliation ; and that His Honor the Governor, be, and he is hereby, requested to issue a proclamation, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esq. and William Bradford, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to wait on the General Assembly of the

colony of Connecticut, to consult with them, upon measures for the common defence of the four New England colonies ; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. James Angell, Col. John Mathewson and Col. Joseph Nightingale, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby, appointed a committee, to take the care and have the direction of all the cannon, powder and all other warlike stores, in the magazine, at Providence ; and to deliver the same out, agreeably to the orders of the General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the trustees appointed in the several towns, to receive the powder, lead and flints, be, and they are hereby, authorized to deliver the same out to the captain or commanding officer of each company, in their respective towns, taking receipts for the quantities so delivered ; and that the captain or commanding officer of each company distribute the same amongst the soldiery, as occasion may require ; he keeping a regular account thereof, and holding his company accountable for all such quantities as are not consumed in the government's service ; which shall not be accounted for in value, but in the articles themselves.

At this very dangerous crisis of American affairs ; at a time when we are surrounded with fleets and armies, which threaten our immediate destruction ; at a time when the fears and anxieties of the people, throw them into the utmost distress, and totally prevent them from attending to the common occupations of life ; to prevent the mischievous consequences that must necessarily attend such a disordered state, and to restore peace to the minds of the good people of this colony, it appears absolutely necessary to this Assembly, that a number of men be raised and embodied, properly armed and disciplined, to continue in this colony, as an army of observation, to repel any insult or violence that may be offered to the inhabitants.

And also, if it be necessary for the safety and preservation of any of the colonies, to march out of this colony, and join and co-operate with the forces of the neighboring colonies.

It is therefore voted and resolved, that fifteen hundred men



be enlisted, raised and embodied, as aforesaid, with all the expedition and dispatch, that the nature of the thing will admit of.

*Protest of Governor Wanton, and others, against the above Resolution.*

We, the subscribers, professing true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Third, beg leave to dissent from the vote of the House of Magistrates, for enlisting, raising and embodying an army of observation, of fifteen hundred men, to repel any insult or violence that may be offered to the inhabitants; and also, if it be necessary for the safety and preservation of any of the colonies, to march them out of this colony, to join and co-operate with the forces of the neighboring colonies.

Because we are of opinion that such a measure will be attended with the most fatal consequences to our charter privileges; involve the country in all the horrors of a civil war; and, as we conceive, is an open violation of the oath of allegiance which we have severally taken, upon our admission into the respective offices we now hold in the colony.

JOSEPH WANTON,

THOMAS WICKES,

DARIUS SESSIONS,

WILLIAM POTTER.

In the Upper House, }  
 Providence, April 25, 1775. }

It is voted and resolved, that all the small arms belonging to the colony, dispersed and being in the several towns, be forthwith repaired, and fitted with bayonets, at the charge of the colony.

That all such persons who have, at their own expense, so repaired any of the colony arms, upon bringing in their bills, shall be paid therefor, out of the general treasury; and that the same persons who are appointed to receive each town's proportion of powder, &c., take care to procure said arms to be fitted up.

It is voted and resolved, that the military officers throughout the colony, or any other gentlemen who shall be willing, do forthwith enlist fifteen hundred good, effective men, for the service of the colony; and that each man who shall enlist, shall receive a bounty of \$4, and be entitled to the monthly wages of £1 16s.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathaniel Greene, be, and he is hereby, appointed in the room of the Hon. Samuel Ward,

Esq. (who is going to the Continental Congress), to wait on the General Assembly of the colony of Connecticut, to consult upon measures for the common defence of the four New England governments.

Inasmuch, as there is a most apparent urgent occasion, that the General Assembly should be holden in some place, other than the town of Newport, at the approaching annual election, for the year 1775;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the General Assembly, for the election of general officers, and for the transacting such business as may be laid before them, on the first Wednesday in May next, be held at the colony house, in Providence; and that the secretary publish a copy of this vote in the next Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, the first Wednesday of May, 1775.*

The Hon. Joseph Wanton, Governor.

The Hon. Darius Sessions, Deputy Governor.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged :

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. Samuel Dyre,  
Mr. John Collins,  
Mr. Ambrose Page,  
Mr. John Sayles, Jr.,  
Mr. John Jepson,

Mr. James Arnold,  
Mr. Jonathan Randall,  
Mr. Peter Phillips,  
Mr. Joseph Hazard,  
Mr. Thomas Church,

## DEPUTIES.

*Newport.*

Mr. John Wanton,  
*Providence.*

Mr. Stephen Hopkins,

Mr. John Jenckes,

Mr. John Smith,

Col. John Matthewson.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Metcalfe Bowler,

Mr. Jonathan Freeborn,

Mr. Job Durfee.

*Warwick.*

Mr. Jacob Greene,

Mr. Thomas Holden,

Mr. John Low.

*Westerly.*

Mr. Joshua Babcock.

*North Kingstown.*

Mr. John Northup,

Mr. Sylvester Gardner.

*South Kingstown.*

Mr. John Potter,

Mr. Carder Hazard.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. Job Gardner,

Mr. Allen Johnson.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Daniel Mowry, Jr.,

Mr. Stephen Whipple.

*Scituate.*

Mr. Ezekiel Cornell,

Mr. Rufus Hopkins.

*Gloicester.*

Mr. Silas Williams,

Mr. Daniel Owen.

*Charlestown.*

Mr. Joseph Hoxsie,

Mr. Samuel Kinyon.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. William Nichols,

Mr. Thomas Gorton.

*Coventry.*

Mr. John Rice,

Mr. Nathaniel Greene, Jr.

*Exeter.*

Mr. George Pierce,

Mr. Jeffrey Wilcox.

*Bristol.*

Maj. Gen. Simeon Potter,

Mr. William Bradford.

*Tiverton.*

Capt. John Cooke.

*Little Compton.*

Capt. Thomas Brownell,

Mr. William Richmond.

*Warren.*

Mr. Cromwell Child.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. John Dexter,

Mr. Jeremiah Whipple.

*Richmond.*

Mr. George Webb,

Mr. Richard Bailey, Jr.

*Cranston.*

Capt. Richard Searle,

Mr. William Field.

*Hopkinton.*

Capt. Abel Tanner,

Mr. Thomas Wells, 3d.

## DEPUTIES.

*Johnston.*

Mr. Emmor Olney,  
Mr. Ebenezer Sprague.

*North Providence.*

Mr. Joseph Olney,  
Major Thomas Olney.

*Barrington.*

Col. Nathaniel Martin,  
Mr. Thomas Allen.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, speaker ; Mr. Josias Lyndon, clerk.

Mr. Henry Ward, secretary.

Mr. Henry Marchant, attorney general.

Mr. Joseph Clarke, general treasurer.

Stephen Hopkins, Esq., chief justice of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery.

## SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Jabez Champlin. Providence county—Mr. Paul Tew. Kings county—Mr. Beriah Brown. Bristol county—Mr. Richard Smith. Kent county—Mr. Henry Rice.

## FIELD OFFICERS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

- William Bradford, Esq., major general of the forces of this colony.

Newport county—Mr. John Malbone, colonel ; Mr. George Champlin, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. John Cooke, major.

Providence county, first regiment of militia—Mr. James Angell, colonel ; Mr. Jabez Bowen, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. John Innis Clark, major.

Second regiment—Mr. Chad Brown, colonel ; Mr. Elisha Mowrey, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. John Fisk, major.

Third regiment—Mr. Christopher Lippitt ; Mr. John Colwell, Jr., lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Joseph Knight, major.

Kings county, first regiment—Mr. Joseph Noyes, colonel ; Mr. Jesse Champlin, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Jesse Maxson, major.

Second regiment—Mr. Robert Brown, colonel ; Mr. George Peirce, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Joshua Davis, major.

Kent county, first regiment—Mr. John Waterman, colonel ; Mr. John Low, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Joseph Fry, major.

Second regiment—Mr. Stephen Potter, colonel ; Mr. Nathaniel Brown, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Archibald Kasson, major.

Bristol county—Mr. Nathaniel Martin, colonel ; Mr. Thomas Gray, lieutenant colonel ; Mr. Benjamin Bosworth, major.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer remove, with the colony's treasure, to the town of Providence ; and that, for the charge of his removing, together with the extraordinary trouble he is likely to have in doing the business of the said office, during the present year, he be allowed the sum of £90, lawful money, including his annual salary.

Whereas, the secretary hath removed the colony's records, and his office, to the town of Providence, and prayed this Assembly, in case the removal be approved, to order the expense thereof to be paid out of the general treasury ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said removal of the colony's records, be, and it is hereby, approved ; and that an account of the expense thereof, be laid before this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to receive the town of Portsmouth's proportion of the colony's arms, in the room of the town treasurer, whose religious principles will not admit of his receiving the same.

It is voted and resolved, that that part of the militia act, obliging the companies to train once in every month, be, and the same is hereby, suspended for three months, from and after the rising of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. James Mitchel Varnum, Col. Daniel Hitchcock and Col. John Mathewson, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to prepare a bill for the regulation of the army, ordered to be raised for the defence of the colony.

That they also prepare the form of a commission for the officers of the said army; and that they lay the same before this Assembly.

Whereas, the collector of taxes, for the town of South Kingstown, hath refused to serve in the said office; and the time limited for the payment of the said town's proportion of the last colony's tax is expired,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, empowered and directed to issue his warrant to such collector as shall be appointed by the said town, to collect the said tax, with the interest, in as full and ample a manner as though such warrant had been timely granted.

It is voted and resolved, that each of the gentlemen appointed delegates, to represent this colony in the Continental Congress, to be holden in the city of Philadelphia, on the 10th instant, draw the sum of £60, lawful money, out of the general treasury, to bear their expenses.

Whereas, Daniel M'Cann, of Providence, in the county of Providence, tailor, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that on the 13th day of September, A. D. 1774, he was committed to His Majesty's jail, in the county, aforesaid, by virtue of a mittimus, signed by the judges of His Majesty's superior court, charging him with felony, in maiming and wounding Joseph Nightingale, Esq., in which jail he hath been confined ever since.

That, at the court of assize, held in said county, in March, A. D. 1775, he was indicted, not for the felony he was charged with, in the mittimus, but for a riot, and was fined £5, and ordered to stand committed, until he should pay the same, together with all the charges of prosecution; and that, by his

being so long confined, he is reduced to an absolute state of indigence, and rendered utterly incapable of paying the said fine and cost.

And thereupon, the said Daniel M'Cann prayed this Assembly, to give him relief, either by remitting the said fine and cost, or by letting him go at large, whereby, he may be enabled to earn the money to pay the same ; and the said petition being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be granted, upon condition that the petitioner, with his family, leave this colony immediately, under the conduct of an officer ; and that, if he be found in the colony, after the officer shall leave him, he be re-committed to jail.

An Act for embodying, supplying and paying, the army of observation ordered to be raised for the defence of the colony.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that the fifteen hundred men ordered to be raised by this colony, be formed into one brigade, under the command of a brigadier general ; and consist of three regiments, each of which shall be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, and one major.

That there be one adjutant of brigade, or adjutant-major, for such purposes as appertain to that office.

That there be one adjutant, one surgeon, one surgeon's mate, and one quartermaster, to each regiment.

That each regiment consist of eight companies ; each field officer's company to be commanded, under such field officer, by one captain-lieutenant, one lieutenant and one ensign ; and each of the other companies by one captain, one lieutenant and one ensign ; and that one of the companies be a train of artillery, and have the use of the colony's field pieces.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each regiment be placed in the said brigade upon the flanks, and in the center, by rotation, so that a perfect equality in rank, be preserved ; and that a similar equality be preserved

among the field officers of the different regiments, by the brigadier general, in all the duties of a campaign.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each able bodied, effective man, who shall enlist into the service, and find himself a small arm, bayonet and other accoutrements, shall be allowed and paid forty shillings, as a bounty ; and each able bodied, effective man, not finding himself a small arm, bayonet and other accoutrements, shall receive twenty-four shillings, as a bounty.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that each officer and soldier shall receive the following monthly wages, while in the service, to wit :

	£	s.		£	s.
Each colonel	-	15	00	Each adjutant of a reg-	
“ lieutenant colonel,		12	00	iment	- - 5 10
“ major	- -	10	00	“ surgeon	- - 7 10
The adjutant of brig-				“ surgeon’s mate	4 00
ade, or adjutant ma-				“ quartermaster	- 3 00
ajor,	- - -	9	00	“ sergeant	- 2 08
Each captain and cap-				“ corporal	- - 2 04
tain-lieutenant,		6	00	“ drummer and fifer	2 04
“ lieutenant	-	4	00	“ each private man	40
“ ensign	-	3	00		

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each field officer be allowed ten shillings per week, and each other officer and soldier, six shillings per week, for billet, while in this colony, after enlistment, and before the regiments are embodied ; and each soldier shall also have a blanket and knapsack, given him by the colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each officer and soldier be paid his wages, and the weekly billet that shall be due, as soon as may be ; and that one month’s wages be paid in advance, before the troops march out of the colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that



each soldier be enlisted, by signing the following enlistment, to wit :

*Form of the Oath of Enlistment.*

“ I, the subscriber, hereby solemnly engage and enlist myself as a soldier in His Majesty’s service, and in the pay of the colony of Rhode Island, for the preservation of the liberties of America, from the day of my enlistment, to the last day of December next, unless the service admit of a discharge sooner, which shall be at the discretion of the General Assembly ; and I hereby promise to submit myself to all the orders and regulations of the army, and faithfully to observe and obey all such orders as I shall receive from time to time, from my officers.”

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no officer or soldier be arrested, prosecuted, or detained in jail, for any debt, whatsoever, less than £15, lawful money, due to one creditor ; and that every apprentice who shall enlist into the said army, shall be entitled to the whole of the bounty, and one half of his wages ; his master receiving the other half.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that, for supplying the troops with arms, provisions, &c., five hundred barrels of flour, three hundred barrels of pork, one hundred barrels of beef, fifteen hundred blankets and knapsacks, and fifteen hundred small arms and bayonets, with suitable accoutrements, be immediately procured on the colony’s account.

And, that the said troops may be supplied with clothing and other necessaries,—

It is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a commissary be appointed, who shall go suttler to the troops, and have one and an half per cent. upon all the business he shall transact.

And such commissary is hereby directed and required to deliver unto the soldiers such things as the colony shall send, for

the use of the regiments, at the prime cost, including all charges that may accrue thereon.

Provided, that the said officer deliver nothing to any soldier, without an order from the captain or commanding officer of the company, for the time being, to which such soldier belongs; and the officers are hereby restricted and forbid drawing any order or orders on the commissary, exceeding the monthly wages due to the soldier that applies for the same.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that whoever shall be appointed commissary and sutler, shall give security to the general treasurer, in the penal sum of £2,000, for the faithful performance of his duty; and shall not carry with him, on his own account, any necessaries of the same kind with those that shall be sent by the government.

And as such commissary may want assistance, he is hereby authorized to appoint a deputy or deputies under him; he being accountable for the conduct of his deputies.

And for the purposes aforesaid,—

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a committee of safety, be chosen by this Assembly; one of whom, shall reside in each county, excepting the county of Providence, which shall have two, to furnish and pay the officers and soldiers in such county; and that each committee-man shall give bond, with surety, to the general treasurer, in the sum of £1,000, lawful money, for the faithful discharge of his trust.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said committee provide arms, tents, provisions and every other accoutrement, necessary for the army; and that they be allowed one and an half per cent. for transacting the business.

And for supplying the general treasury,—

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the sum of £20,000, lawful money bills, be immediately printed and signed by the Honorable Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., Henry Ward, Joseph Clarke, John Cole and Thomas Greene, Esqs.; that all bills under five shillings, be signed by one of the com-

mittee, and all the other bills, by two of the committee ; that the same shall be a lawful tender, in discharge of all contracts, debts, dues and demands, whether of a public or private nature ; that one-half of the said bills shall be redeemed within two years, and the other half within five years from the time of the emission ; together with the interest thereon accruing, at the rate of two and an half per cent. per annum, by a general tax, to be levied on the inhabitants of this colony ; and that the bills shall be of the following value, to wit :

2,000 bills, of forty shillings, each	-	-	-	£4,000
4,000 “ thirty “ “	-	-	-	6,000
4,000 “ twenty “ “	-	-	-	4,000
4,000 “ ten “ “	-	-	-	2,000
4,000 “ five “ “	-	-	-	1,000
4,000 “ four “ “	-	-	-	800
4,000 “ three “ “	-	-	-	600
6,000 “ two “ “	-	-	-	600
10,000 “ one “ “	-	-	-	500
8,000 “ nine pence “	-	-	-	300
8,000 “ six “ “	-	-	-	200
				£20,000

Which bills, shall be of the following form :

*“ The possessor of this bill, shall be paid, by the treasurer of the colony of Rhode Island, ———, lawful money, at the rate of six shillings and nine pence for one ounce of silver, within five years from the date hereof, with interest at two and an half per cent. per annum, until paid. By order of Assembly.*

*Providence, the 3d day of May, 1775.”*

And on the said bills, there shall be the same impression and motto as on the lawful money bills, heretofore emitted.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, appointed to receive the colony’s arms,

and distribute them where they are wanted, amongst the soldiers that shall enlist into the army of observation.

That the said committee, or any four of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed and fully empowered, during the recess of the General Assembly, to fill up all vacancies that shall happen amongst the officers that shall be appointed by the General Assembly for the said army; and that they procure all necessaries not particularly mentioned in the act for raising said army.

Both houses being joined in a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit :

*Names of the Committee of Safety.*

For the county of Newport—William Richmond, Esq.

For the county of Providence—Mr. John Smith and Daniel Tillinghast, Esq.

For the county of Kings county—John Northup, Esq.

For the county of Bristol—William Bradford, Esq.

For the county of Kent—Mr. Jacob Greene.

*Names of the Officers of the Army of Observation.*

Nathaniel Greene, Jr., Esq., brigadier general.

Peter Phillips, Esq., commissary.

Thomas Church, Esq., colonel; William Turner Miller, Esq., lieutenant colonel; and John Forrester, Esq., major of the regiment of the counties of Newport and Bristol.

Daniel Hitchcock, Esq., colonel; Ezekiel Cornell, Esq., lieutenant colonel; and Israel Angell, Esq., major of the regiment of the county of Providence.

James Mitchell Varnum, Esq., colonel; James Babcock, Esq., lieutenant colonel; and Christopher Greene, Esq., major of the regiment of King's county and Kent.

John Crane, captain; and Joseph Balch, captain-lieutenant, of the Train of Artillery.

William Ladd, captain-lieutenant; Nathaniel Church, lieutenant; and Cornelius Briggs, ensign of the colonel's company, of the regiment of Newport and Bristol.

Matthew Allen, captain-lieutenant ; James Smith, lieutenant ; and James Brown, Jr., ensign of the lieutenant colonel's company, of the regiment of Newport and Bristol.

John Topham, captain-lieutenant ; George Tenant, lieutenant ; and Stephen Tripp, ensign, of the major's company, of the regiment of Newport and Bristol.

Sion Martindale, captain ; Benjamin Diamon, lieutenant ; and James Child, 2d, ensign of a company in the regiment of Newport and Bristol.

Thomas Tew, captain ; Jonathan Simmons, lieutenant ; and Christopher Bennett, ensign of a company in the regiment of Newport and Bristol.

Jonathan Brownell, captain ; Sylvanus Shaw, lieutenant ; and Godfrey Brown, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Newport and Bristol.

Benjamin Seabury, captain ; Gilbert Manchester, lieutenant ; and Israel Church, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Newport and Bristol.

Simeon Thayer, captain-lieutenant ; John Spurr, lieutenant ; and William Potter, ensign, of the colonel's company of the regiment of Providence.

Stephen Kimball, captain-lieutenant ; Jonathan Smith, lieutenant ; and George Derrance, Jr., ensign, of the lieutenant colonel's company of the regiment of Providence.

John Field, captain-lieutenant ; David Richmond, lieutenant ; and Samuel Black, ensign, of the major's company of the regiment of Providence.

Andrew Waterman, captain ; William Aldrich, lieutenant ; and David Dexter, Jr., ensign, of a company in the regiment of Providence.

John Angell, captain ; Coggeshall Olney, lieutenant ; and Stephen Olney, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Providence.

Christopher Olney, captain ; Ephraim Bowen, Jr., lieutenant ; and Cyprian Sterry, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Providence.

Jeremiah Olney, captain ; Levi Tower, lieutenant ; and

Nathaniel Field, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Providence.

Nathaniel Blackmar, captain; Samuel Thornton, lieutenant; and Abraham Tourtellot, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Providence.

Archibald Crary, captain-lieutenant; and John Singer Dexter, lieutenant, of the colonel's company of the regiment of Kings county and Kent.

John Hoxie, captain-lieutenant; Jonathan Bates, Jr., lieutenant; and Joseph Holloway, ensign, of the lieutenant colonel's company of the regiment of Kings county and Kent.

Edmund Johnson, captain-lieutenant; John Reynolds, lieutenant; John Holden, son of Charles, ensign, of the major's company of the regiment of Kings county and Kent.

Thomas Holden, captain; Joseph Barton, lieutenant; and Joseph Arnold, son of Caleb, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Kings county and Kent.

Samuel Ward, Jr., captain; Elijah Lewis, lieutenant; and Joshua Collins, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Kings county and Kent.

James Gardner, captain; Thomas Phillips, lieutenant; and Samuel Bissell, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Kings county and Kent.

Christopher Gardner, Jr., captain; Nathaniel Hawkins, lieutenant; and William Potter, son of Ichabod, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Kings county and Kent.

John Randall, captain; Oliver Clarke, lieutenant; and Stephen Wells, ensign, of a company in the regiment of Kings county and Kent.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety in the several counties, be, and they are hereby, appointed muster-masters of the troops now ordered to be raised for their respective counties.

Whereas, the ministry and Parliament of Great Britain, sacrificing the glory and happiness of their sovereign, and the good of Britain and the colonies, to their own ambitious and

lucrative views, have entered into many arbitrary, illegal resolutions, for depriving His Majesty's subjects in America of every security for the enjoyment of life, liberty and property ; and sent, and are still sending, troops and ships of war into these colonies, to enforce their tyrannical mandates ; and have actually begun to shed the blood of the innocent people of these colonies ; in consequence whereof, this Assembly, at the session held on the 22d day of April last, passed an act for raising fifteen hundred men, as an army of observation, and to assist any of our sister colonies.

And whereas, the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq., then Governor of this colony, did enter a protest against the said act, conceived in such terms as highly to reflect upon the General Assembly, and upon the united opposition of all America, to the aforesaid tyrannical measures.

And whereas, the said Joseph Wanton, Esq., hath neglected to issue a proclamation for the due observation of Thursday, the 11th of May, instant, as a day of fasting and prayer, agreeably to an act passed at the said session.

And whereas, the said Joseph Wanton, Esq., hath been elected to the office of Governor of this colony, for the present year, and been duly notified thereof, by this Assembly ; notwithstanding which, he hath not attended at this General Assembly, and taken the oath required by law.

And whereas, the said Joseph Wanton, Esq., hath positively refused to sign the commissions for the officers appointed to command the troops so ordered to be raised ; by all which, he hath manifested his intentions to defeat the good people of these colonies, in their present glorious struggle to transmit inviolate to posterity, those sacred rights they have received from their ancestors.

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the Deputy Governor and assistants be, and they are hereby, forbidden to administer the oath of office to the said Joseph Wanton, Esq., unless in free and open General Assembly, according to the unvaried

practice in this colony, and with the consent of such Assembly; that until the said Joseph Wanton, Esq., shall have taken the oath of office, as aforesaid, it shall not be lawful for him to act as Governor of this colony, in any case, whatever; and that every act done by him, in the pretended capacity of Governor, shall be null and void in itself; and shall not operate as a warrant or discharge to any person acting by his orders, or under his authority.\*

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that Henry Ward, Esq., secretary of the colony, be, and he is hereby, directed, and fully authorized and empowered, to sign the commissions for all officers, civil and military, chosen by this Assembly, as well those going in the service, abovesaid, as others; he receiving therefor, out of the general treasury, two shillings and eight pence, for each commission.

And that such commission, so signed, with the colony seal affixed, shall be as full and effectual warrant and warrants to every and all such officer and officers so chosen, for the faithful discharge of his and their duty, as if the same were signed by a Governor of this colony, duly elected and engaged, according to law; any law, custom or usage, to the contrary, hereof, in any wise, notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, be requested, and fully authorized and empowered, to call the General Assembly together, upon any emergency, to meet at such time and place as he shall think most for the interest of the colony.

Whereas, the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq., who is elected Governor of this colony, for the present year, hath not attended this Assembly, and taken the oath of office, and cannot therefore appoint a naval officer, until he shall be sworn in before the General Assembly; —

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the naval office be kept by James Clarke, Esq., who hath for some time past kept it,

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\* See documents printed at the close of the proceedings of this session.



until further orders from this Assembly ; and that he account to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, directed to make out the account of the expenses of raising and equipping the fifteen hundred men ordered to be raised by this colony, as an army of observation, and for the assistance of any of the neighboring colonies, as soon as the said troops are fully equipped, and transmit the same to the delegates of this colony, at the Continental Congress, to be by them laid before the Congress ; that the colonies which have not been, or shall not be, at a proportionate expense, in the defence of our common rights, may contribute their proportion towards reimbursing this colony such part of the expenses of raising and equipping the said fifteen hundred men, as shall be more than this colony's proportion towards the common defence.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport, be, and he is hereby, directed to deliver to William Richmond, Esq., who is one of the committee of safety for the said county, all the colony arms, pistols, cutlasses, &c., which are in the town of Newport.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Carter be, and he is hereby, empowered to receive of the general treasurer, the plates, escutcheons and other ornaments, for printing bills of credit ; that he draw money out of the general treasury, for purchasing paper for that purpose.

And that David Wilkinson, Esq., and Mr. Ebenezer Thompson, be appointed, one or the other of them, to attend the press continually, during the time the bills are printing.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the lieutenant general, brigadier general, and the committee of safety, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby fully authorized and empowered, to order and direct when and in what manner the forces, or any part thereof, shall march out of this colony, to the assistance of any colony in distress.

It is voted and resolved, that the brigadier general draw up

the several regiments to be raised in this colony, either singly or together ; and that the captains of the several companies, not belonging to the field officers, thereof, shall draw lots for their places and stations in the regiments, aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that the form of a commission to a colonel of a regiment, in the army of observation, now laid before this Assembly, be, and the same is hereby, approved ; and that similar commissions, *mutatis mutandis*, be issued to the other officers of said army.

It is voted and resolved, that the speaker of the lower House be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit to the speaker of the House of Assembly of the colony of Connecticut, and to the committee of inspection for the city of New York, copies of the proceedings of this Assembly, relative to the present disputes between Great Britain and the colonies.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that any military officer, commissioned to command any part of the army of observation, be removed for any misbehavior, or neglect of duty ; and another appointed in his stead, by a general court martial, to be holden for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that Jeshua Babcock, Esq., be requested to carry the proceedings of this General Assembly, respecting the raising an army of observation, &c., to the General Assembly of the colony of Connecticut ; and to request of them to transmit to this Assembly their proceedings and transactions, relative to the present alarming crisis of affairs.

It is voted and resolved, that the following monthly wages shall be allowed and paid, unto the following respective officers and men, in the army of observation ; that is to say :

	£	s.	d.
To the brigadier general, in the Train of Artillery,	20	00	0
“ captain - - - - -	9	00	0
“ captain-lieutenant - - - - -	7	04	0
“ first lieutenant - - - - -	5	08	0
“ second lieutenant - - - - -	3	12	0

	£	s.	d.
To the lieutenant fire-worker - . - - -	3	12	0
“ two bombardiers, each - - - -	2	14	0
“ two sergeants, each - - - -	2	08	0
“ four gunners, each - - - -	2	06	0
“ privates and fifers - - - -	2	04	0

This Assembly do vote and resolve, that an embargo be set on all provisions going out of this colony, excepting what shall be necessary for victualing vessels sailing out of this colony, and for the use of the army; and that this act be in force immediately.

God save the King.

*Address of both Houses of Parliament, to the King,  
February 7, 1775.*

Most gracious sovereign:—We, Your Majesty’s most dutiful and loyal subjects, the \* \* \* \* \* Commons, in Parliament assembled, return Your Majesty our most humble thanks for having been graciously pleased to communicate to us, the several papers relating to the present state of the British colonies in America, which, by Your Majesty’s commands, have been laid before us.

We have taken them into our most serious consideration; and we find that a part of Your Majesty’s subjects, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, have proceeded so far to resist the authority of the supreme legislature, that a rebellion at this time, actually exists within the said Province; and we see, with the utmost concern, that they have been countenanced and encouraged by unlawful combinations and engagements entered into by Your Majesty’s subjects in several of the other colonies, to the injury and oppression of many of their innocent fellow subjects, resident within the kingdom of Great Britain, and the rest of Your Majesty’s dominions.

This conduct, on their part, appears to us the more inexcusable, when we consider with how much temper Your Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament have acted in support of the laws and constitution of Great Britain.

We can never so far desert the trust reposed in us, as to relinquish any part of the sovereign authority over all Your Majesty’s dominions, which, by law, is vested in Your Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament; and the conduct of many persons in several of the colonies, during the late disturbances, is alone sufficient to convince us how necessary this power is, for the protection of the lives and fortunes of all Your Majesty’s subjects.

We have ever been, and always shall be, ready to pay attention and regard to any real grievances of any of Your Majesty’s subjects which shall, in a dutiful and constitutional manner, be laid before us; and whenever any of the colonies shall make a proper application to us, we shall be ready to afford them every just and reasonable indulgence.

At the same time, we consider it as our indispensable duty, humbly to beseech Your Majesty, that you will take the most effectual measures to enforce due obedience to the laws and authority of the supreme legislature: and we beg leave, in the most solemn manner, to assure Your Majesty, that it is our fixed resolution, at the hazard of our lives and properties, to stand by Your Majesty against all rebellious attempts in the maintenance of the just rights of Your Majesty, and the two Houses of Parliament.

*The King's Answer to the Address.*

My Lords and Gentlemen:—I thank you for this very dutiful and loyal address, and for the affectionate and solemn assurances you give me of your support in maintaining the just rights of my crown, and of the two Houses of Parliament; and you may depend on my taking the most speedy and effectual measures for enforcing due obedience to the laws and the authority of the supreme legislature.

Whenever any of my colonies shall make a proper and dutiful application, I shall be ready to concur with you in affording them every just and reasonable indulgence; and it is my ardent wish that this disposition may have a happy effect on the temper and conduct of my subjects in America.

*Resolution of the House of Commons, February 27, 1775.*

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that when the governor, council, and assembly, or general court, of any of His Majesty's provinces or colonies, in America, shall propose to make provision, according to the condition, circumstances, and situation of such province or colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defence (such proportion to be raised under the authority of the general court, or general assembly of such province or colony, and disposable by Parliament), and shall engage to make provision also for the support of the civil government, and the administration of justice, in such province or colony, it will be proper if such proposal shall be approved by His Majesty and the two Houses of Parliament; and for so long as such provision shall be made accordingly, to forbear, in respect of such province or colony, to levy any duty, tax, or assessment, or to impose any further duty, tax, or assessment, except only such duties as may be expedient to continue to levy or to impose for the regulation of commerce; the nett produce of the duties last mentioned, to be carried to the account of such province or colony, respectively.

*The Earl of Dartmouth to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.*

[Circular.]

Whitehall, 3d March, 1775.

Gentlemen:—You will have seen in the King's answer to the joint address of both Houses of Parliament on the 7th of February (which address and answer, have already been transmitted to you), how much attention His Majesty was graciously pleased to give to the assurance held out in that address, of the readiness of Parliament to afford every just and reasonable indulgence to the colonies, whenever they

should make a proper application on the ground of any real grievance they might have to complain of; and therefore, I have the less occasion now to enlarge upon the satisfaction it hath given His Majesty to see that address followed by the enclosed resolution of the House of Commons; which, whatever may be the effect of it (I trust a happy one), will for ever remain an evidence of their justice and moderation; and manifest the temper which has accompanied their deliberations upon that question, which has been the source of so much disquiet to His Majesty's subjects in America, and the pretence for acts of such criminal disorder and disobedience.

His Majesty, ardently wishing to see a reconciliation of the unhappy differences which have produced those disorders, by every means through which it may be obtained, without prejudice to the just authority of Parliament, which His Majesty will never suffer to be violated, approves the resolution of his faithful Commons, and commands me to transmit it to you, not doubting that this happy disposition to comply with every just and reasonable wish of the King's subjects in America, will meet with such a return of duty and affection on their part, as will lead to a happy issue of the present disputes, and to a re-establishment of the public tranquility on those grounds of equity, justice and moderation which this resolution holds forth.

The King has the greater satisfaction in this resolution, and the greater confidence in the good effects of it, from having seen, that, amidst all the intemperance into which a people, jealous of liberties, have been unfortunately misled, they have nevertheless avowed the justice, and the propriety of subjects of the same state, contributing according to their abilities and situation, to the public burthens; and I think I am warranted in saying, that this resolution holds no proposition beyond that.

I am unwilling to suppose that any of the King's subjects in the colonies, can have so far forgotten the benefits they have received from the parent state, as not to acknowledge that it is to her support, held forth at the expense of her blood and treasure, that they principally owe that security which has raised them to their present state of opulence and importance.

In this situation, therefore, justice requires that they should in return contribute according to their respective abilities to the common defence: and their own welfare and interest demand that their civil establishment should be supported with a becoming dignity.

It has been the care, and I am persuaded it is the firm determination, of Parliament, to see that both these ends are answered; and their wisdom and moderation have suggested the propriety of leaving to each colony to judge of the ways and means of making due provision for those purposes; reserving to themselves a discretionary power of approving or disapproving what shall be offered.

The resolution neither points out what the civil establishment should be, nor demands any specific sum, in aid of the public burthens; in both these respects, it leaves full scope for that justice and liberality, which may be expected from colonies, that, under all their prejudices have never been wanting in expressions of an affectionate attachment to the mother country, and a zealous regard for the general welfare of the British empire.

And therefore, the King trusts that the provision they will engage to make for the support of the civil government, will be adequate to the rank and station of every necessary officer; and that the sum to be given in contribution to the common defence, will be offered on such terms, and proposed in such a way, as to increase or diminish, according as the public burthens of this kingdom are, from time to time, augmented or reduced, in so far as those burthens consist of taxes and duties, which are not a security for the national debt.

By such a mode of contribution, the colonies will have full security that they can never be required to tax themselves without Parliament's taxing the subjects of this kingdom in a far greater proportion.

And there can be no doubt that any proposition of this nature, made by any of the colonies, and accompanied with such a statement of their facilities and abilities as may evince the equity of the proposal, will be received with every possible indulgence; provided, it be at the same time unaccompanied with any declarations, and mixed with any claims which will make it impossible for the King, consistent with his own dignity, or for Parliament, consistent with their constitutional rights, to receive it.

But I will not suppose that any of the colonies will, after this example of the temper and moderation of Parliament, adopt such a conduct. On the contrary, I will cherish the pleasing hope, that the public peace will be restored, and that the colonies, forgetting all other trivial and groundless complaints, which ill humor hath produced, will enter into the consideration of the resolution of the House of Commons, with that calmness and deliberation which the importance of it demands; and with that good will and inclination to a reconciliation, which are due to the candor and justice with which Parliament has taken up this business, and at once declared to the colonies what will be ultimately expected from them.

I have already said that the King entirely approves the resolution of the House of Commons; and His Majesty commands me to say, that a compliance therewith, by the General Assembly of Rhode Island, will be most graciously considered by His Majesty, not only as a testimony of their reverence for Parliament; but also, as a mark of their duty and attachment to their sovereign, who has no object nearer to his heart, than the peace and prosperity of his subjects in every part of his dominions.

At the same time, His Majesty considers himself as bound by every tie, to exert those means the constitution has placed in his hands, for preserving that constitution entire, and to resist with firmness every attempt to violate the rights of Parliament, to distress and obstruct the lawful commerce of his subjects; and to encourage in the colonies ideas of independence, inconsistent with their connection with this kingdom.

I am, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

DARTMOUTH.

To the Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

*Message of Governor Wanton to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.*

Newport, May 2d, 1775.

To the General Assembly of the English colony of Rhode Island, &c., to be holden at Providence, within and for said colony, on the third Wednesday in May, 1775:

Gentlemen:—As indisposition prevents my meeting you in General Assembly, that candor which I have so often experienced from the representatives of the free-men of this colony, encourages me to hope that you will excuse my personal attendance at this session.

Since the last session of the General Assembly, at Providence, I have had the honor of receiving a letter from the Earl of Dartmouth, one of His Majesty's principal secretaries of state, dated Whitehall, the 3d March, 1775, enclosing the resolu-

tion of the House of Commons, respecting the provision which they expect each colony or province, in America, to make for the common defence; and also for the support of the civil government, and the administration of justice in such colony—both which, I have directed to be laid before you; and also a letter from the committee of the provincial congress, which are all the public letters I have received during the recess.

As the dispute between Great Britain and the colonies, is now brought to a most alarming, dangerous crisis, and this once happy country threatened with all the horrors and calamities of a civil war, I consider myself bound by every tie of duty and affection, as well as from an ardent desire to see a union between Britain and her colonies, established upon an equitable, permanent basis, to entreat you to enter into the consideration of the resolution of the House of Commons; and also His Lordship's letter, which accompanied that resolution, with that temper, calmness and deliberation which the importance of them demands; and with that inclination to a reconciliation with the parent state, which will recommend your proceedings to His Majesty and both Houses of Parliament.

The prosperity and happiness of this colony, is founded in its connexion with Great Britain: "for if once we are separated, where shall we find another Britain to supply our loss? Torn from the body to which we are united by religion, liberty, laws and commerce, we must bleed at every vein."

Your charter privileges are of too much importance to be forfeited; you will therefore duly consider the interesting matters now before you with the most attentive caution, and let me entreat you not to suffer your proceedings for accommodating those disputes, which have already too long subsisted between both countries, to have the least appearance of anger or resentment; but that a kind, respectful behavior towards His Majesty and both Houses of Parliament, accompany all your deliberations.

I shall always be ready to join with you, in every measure which will secure the full possession of our invaluable charter privileges to the latest posterity, and preserve the good people of this colony from that ruin and destruction, which, in my opinion, some of the orders of the late Assembly, must invariably involve them in, if they are not speedily repealed; for besides the fatal consequences of levying war against the King, the immense load of debt that will be incurred, if the late resolutions for raising an army of observation of fifteen hundred men within this colony, be carried into execution, will be insupportable, and must unavoidably bring on universal bankruptcy throughout this colony.

If I have the honor of being re-elected, I shall, as I ever have done, cheerfully unite with you in every proceeding (which may be consistent with that duty and allegiance which I owe to the King and the British constitution), for increasing the welfare and happiness of this government.

I am, with great respect, and esteem, gentlemen,

Your most humble servant,

J. WANTON.

To the General Assembly.

*Metcalfe Bowler, Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island, to Governor Wanton.*

Providence, May 3d, 1775.

Sir:—I am requested by the General Assembly, to inform Your Honor that you are, by the general election, held here this day, chosen Governor of the colony; and to desire you would return them an immediate answer whether you will accept of the office of Governor of the colony or not; and if you accept, you would be pleased to attend the Assembly, as soon as possible.

This you will receive per Mr. Tears, who is dispatched express for Your Honor's answer.

I am, with due regard, Your Honor's, &c.,

METCALFE BOWLER, Speaker.

To the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq.

*Governor Wanton to Metcalfe Bowler, Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Newport, 4th May, 1775.

Sir:—I received your favor by Mr. Tears; and in answer thereto, say: that the honor done me, by the freemen of the colony, in re-electing me their chief magistrate, I shall accept of, as I wrote the Assembly of the 2d instant; but cannot possibly attend this session, on account of my indisposition, unless should be better than at present.

I am, with regards to the gentlemen of the Assembly, theirs, and—

Your friend, and humble servant,

J. WANTON.

To the Hon. Metcalf Bowler, Esq.

*Metcalfe Bowler, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Rhode Island, to Governor Wanton.*

Providence, May the 5th, 1775.

Sir:—I am requested by the General Assembly, to transmit to Your Honor, the form of a blank commission, proposed to be given to the commissioned officers of the troops that are already voted to be raised by this colony, as an army of observation, and request Your Honor's immediate answer whether Your Honor will sign, as commander in chief of this colony, such commissions, when they are presented to Your Honor, for that purpose?

This is sent express, per Mr. Tears, who is ordered to return immediately with Your Honor's answer; as this Assembly does not propose to rise before the return of this express.

I am, with regard, Your Honor's most obedient servant,

METCALFE BOWLER, Speaker.

To the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq.



*Governor Wanton, to Metcalfe Bowler, Speaker of the House of Representatives, of Rhode Island.*

Newport, 5th May, 1775.

Sir:—In answer to your favor of this date, requesting to know whether I would sign, as commander in chief of this colony, the commissions of the officers of the army about to be raised, say: that I cannot comply with it; having heretofore protested against the vote for raising men, as a measure inconsistent with my duty to the King, and repugnant to the true and real interest of this government.

I am, with regards to the gentlemen of the Assembly, theirs, and—

Your friend, and humble servant,

J. WANTON.

To the Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the second Monday in June, 1775.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Job Randall, Stephen Hopkins and Charles Harris, Esqs, who were appointed a committee to revise the road called Plainfield Road, presented unto this Assembly, a plan of the said road, as revised by them, and the following report, to wit:

*Report of the Committee, appointed by the General Assembly, relative to the Plainfield Road.*

In pursuance of our appointment, by the General Assembly, we have revised the road, called Plainfield Road, from a black birch pole, in Bennett's Brook, near Jonathan Olney's, to the Seven Mile Line, or to Scituate east boundary; and do present this as a plan, thereof.

JOB RANDALL,  
STEPHEN HOPKINS,

Providence, Dec. 10, 1774.

CHARLES HARRIS.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

This Assembly, at the session held at Providence, on the first Wednesday in May last, having passed an act prohibiting His Honor the Deputy Governor, and assistants, from administering the oath of office to the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq., who was elected Governor of this colony, for the present year; and declaring all acts by him done in the pretended capacity of Governor, null and void, until he shall be engaged in open General Assembly, and with the consent of the General Assembly, &c; and the said Joseph Wanton having appeared before this Assembly, and demanded that the oath of office be administered to him; and this General Assembly having taken the same into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said Joseph Wanton hath not given satisfaction to this Assembly; that the said recited act, passed at the last session, continue and be in force until the rising of the General Assembly at the next session; and that this act be immediately published, by inserting a copy, thereof, in the Newport Mercury, and Providence Gazette.\*

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\* *Governor Wanton to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.*

East Greenwich, June 13th, 1775.

Gentlemen:—The charter of this colony, granted by His Majesty King Charles the Second, expressly ordains, “that all and every Governor, elected and chosen by virtue of that charter, shall give his engagement before two or more of the assistants of the colony, for the time being;” notwithstanding which, I observe, by an act of yours, passed at the session, at Providence, on the first Wednesday in May, and published in the Newport Mercury, you have thought fit to forbid the Deputy Governor or assistants to administer the oath of office to me, until I appear in open Assembly; and even then, not without your consent.

As I had the honor of being chosen Governor of this colony at the election held at Providence, on the first Wednesday in May; but through indisposition could not attend at that session, I now appear, in order to take the oath of office prescribed by law, and request that you would give the necessary directions for the due administering of the same.

As you have been pleased to arraign my administration, by charging me with manifesting an intention to defeat these colonies in their struggles for the preservation of their rights, I shall here take the freedom to answer the several allegations you have exhibited against me, with as much conciseness as possible.

I have ever considered it as the distinguishing privilege of an Englishman, to give his opinion upon any public transaction, wherein the welfare and happiness of the community

An Act for dividing the First Company of Trained Bands in Scituate, in the County of Providence, into two.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to write to James Wallace, Esq., commander of His Majesty's ship *Rose*, now in the harbor of Newport, and demand of him the reason of his conduct towards the inhabitants of this colony, in stopping and de-

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to which he belonged, was immediately concerned, without incurring a public censure therefor.

Upon this principle, I presumed to exercise the right of private judgment, when I protested against the vote for raising troops within this colony; for I conscientiously believed it was a measure replete with the most injurious consequences to the good people of this government; and therefore, from an anxious concern for their happiness, bore my public testimony against it. I cannot conceive that in so doing, I have been guilty of any misdemeanor, and consequently not reprehensible for that, which ought only be considered by those of a different sentiment, as an error in judgment.

As to the second allegation, for not issuing a proclamation for the due observance of the 11th of May, as a day of fasting and prayer throughout the colony, I shall only observe that the proclamation was begun and would have been published and sent into the colony, on Monday, the 8th of May, had you not, by your own vote, on the 7th, divested me of that power which might have been thought necessary for enjoining the due observance thereof. I had no design to counteract your intentions in that matter; for in a time of such universal distress, it is my opinion, we cannot act a more proper and rational part, than confessing our manifold sins before Almighty God, and deprecating his judgments.

The third allegation, you have thought proper to adduce against me, of non-attendance at the session, in Providence, is without the least colorable pretext, after having twice informed you, during that session, that indisposition prevented my attending; I again confirm it, and am extremely sorry to find, by any of your proceedings, it should be doubted.

To the fourth allegation, you have been pleased to exhibit against me, of not signing the commissions for the officers appointed to command the troops to be raised by this colony, the following observation, I imagine, if considered with candor, will be a sufficient justification of my conduct, in that affair.

The vote for raising of men, upon very mature deliberation, I had considered, as a measure pregnant with the most fatal consequences to the good people of this colony; upon that principle, I protested against the vote; it would, therefore, have been highly improper in me to have given commissions for the execution of a measure, which, in my opinion, was subversive of the true interest of this government.

Upon the strictest examination into my past administration, I cannot impeach myself with the least intention of having designedly executed any measure, which might prove detrimental to the rights of this colony.

I am closely united to the inhabitants, by every endearing tie; and their happiness I consider as inseparably connected with mine; I shall therefore, whether in public or private life, constantly pursue such a line of conduct, as, in my opinion, will have a tendency to increase the reputation and felicity of every part of this once happy colony.

I am, gentlemen, your sincere friend and humble servant,

J. WANTON.

To the Hon. the General Assembly of Rhode Island, &c.,  
now sitting at East Greenwich. }

taining their vessels ; and also to demand of him the packets which he detains.\*

Whereas, Mr. John Carter exhibited unto this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for printing fifty-eight thousand lawful money bills, one thousand six hundred inlistments for the army of observation, the proceedings

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\* *The Deputy Governor of Rhode Island, to Capt. James Wallace, Commander of His Majesty's Ship Rose.*

East Greenwich, June 14th, 1775.

Sir:—Long have the good people of this colony been oppressed by your conduct, in interrupting their lawful trade, and preventing the importation of the provisions necessary for their subsistence.

The acts of the British Parliament, already filled with restrictions of trade, oppressive in the highest degree, seem by you, to be thought too lenient.

Not controlled by those you affect to call your masters, you have detained the persons and taken away the properties of His Majesty's American subjects, without any warrant from the acts of trade ; by which, you have greatly impeded the intercourse between this and the other colonies, as well as between the different parts of this colony. The inhabitants, expecting the interposition of the lawful authority of the colony, have borne these outrages with a patience almost criminal.

The Legislature have heard their complaints, and in consequence of an act passed by the General Assembly this day, I demand of you the reason of your conduct towards the inhabitants of this colony, in stopping and detaining their vessels. And I also demand of you, that you immediately restore the two packets, belonging to some inhabitants of the town of Providence ; and all other vessels belonging to the inhabitants, of this colony which you have taken and unjustly detained.

So long as you remain in the colony, and demean yourself as becomes your office, you may depend upon the protection of the laws, and every assistance for promoting the public service, in my power. And you may also be assured that the whole power of this colony will be exerted to secure the persons and properties of the inhabitants against every lawless invader.

An immediate answer is requested to this letter.

I am, sir, your most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To Capt. James Wallace.

*Capt. James Wallace, of His Majesty's Ship Rose, to the Deputy Governor of Rhode Island.*

His Majesty's Ship Rose, }  
Rhode Island, June 15, 1775. }

Sir:—I have received your letter of the 14th inst. ; although I am unacquainted with you, or what station you act in ; suppose you write in behalf of some body of people ; therefore, previous to my giving an answer, I must desire to know *whether or not*, you, or the people on whose behalf you write, are not in open rebellion to your lawful sovereign, and the acts of the British legislature!

I am, sir your most humble and most obedient servant,

JAS. WALLACE.

To Nicholas Cooke, Esq.

ings of this Assembly, at the sessions in April and May last, &c. ; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that £59 13s. 5d., lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid the said John Carter, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that no soldier belonging to the army of observation, raised by this colony, be allowed to take up of the commissary any more than one-third part of his monthly wages for his own use ; and that whatever more the commissary shall supply or pay to the soldiers, shall be at his own risk.

An Act dividing the Company of Militia, in the town of Johnston, into two companies.

It is voted and resolved, that the allowance to the soldiers in camp, be as followeth to wit :

One pound of bread, one pound of beef or pork, a half penny for vegetables, half a gill of rice, one pint of milk, one quart of beer per day, and one pint of molasses, per week.

That once a week, instead of meat, they have a pound of fish, an ounce of butter and half a pint of vinegar ; that if they have no milk, they be allowed a gill and an half of rice per day ; that if the half penny per day, for vegetables, be not sufficient, the brigadier general be empowered to increase the same to a sufficient allowance ; and that the commissary furnish them with the same quantity of soap as is allowed by the colony of the Massachusetts Bay, to their troops.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. William Blodget be, and he is hereby, appointed secretary to the army of observation raised by this colony ; and that he be allowed the wages of £4 10s., lawful money, per month.

It is voted and resolved, that the following rules and orders, for regulating the army of observation, raised by this colony, be, and they are hereby, approved ; and that the secretary

procure the same to be printed, and supply the brigadier general, each field officer, the commissary and each commissioned officer, with a copy thereof.

*Rules and Orders of the Army of Observation, of the Colony of Rhode Island.*

Whereas, the lust of power, which of old oppressed, persecuted and exiled our pious and virtuous ancestors, from their fair possessions in Britain, now pursues, with tenfold severity, us, their guiltless children, who are unjustly and wickedly charged with licentiousness, sedition, treason and rebellion; and being deeply impressed with a sense of the almost incredible fatigues and hardships our venerable progenitors encountered, who fled from oppression for the sake of civil and religious liberty for themselves and their offspring, and began a settlement here on bare creation, at their own expense.

And having seriously considered the duty we owe to God, to the memory of such invincible worthies, to the King, to Great Britain, our country, ourselves and posterity, do think it an indispensable duty, by all lawful ways and means in our power, to recover, maintain, defend and preserve, the free exercise of all those civil and religious rights and liberties, for which many of our forefathers fought, bled and died; and to hand them down entire, for the free enjoyment of the latest posterity.

And whereas, the keeping a standing army in any of these colonies, in times of peace, without the consent of the legislature of that colony, in which such an army is kept, is against law.

And whereas, such an army, with a large naval force, is now placed in the harbor of Boston, for the purpose of subjecting us to the power of the British Parliament.

And whereas, we are frequently told by the tools of the administration, dupes to ministerial usurpation, that Great Britain will not, in any degree, relax in her measures, until we acknowledge her "right to make laws binding upon us, in all cases, whatsoever;" and that if we refuse to be slaves; if we persist in our denial of her claim, the dispute must be decided by arms, in which it is said by our enemies, "we shall have no chance, being undisciplined, cowards, disobedient, impatient of command, and possessed of that spirit of levelling, which admits of no order, subordination, rule or government."

And whereas, from the ministerial army and fleet now at Boston, the large reinforcement of troops expected, the late circular letters to the governors upon the continent, the general tenor of intelligence from Great Britain, and the hostile preparations making here; as also from the threats and frequent insults of our enemies, we have reason to apprehend that the sudden destruction of this colony is in contemplation, if not determined upon.

And whereas, the great law of self preservation hath required our raising and keeping an army of observation and defence, in order to prevent or repel any farther attempts to enforce the late cruel and oppressive acts of the British Parliament, which are evidently designed to subject us, and the whole continent, to the most ignominious slavery.

And whereas, in keeping such an army, it will be necessary that the officers and soldiers in the same, be fully acquainted with their duty; and that the articles, rules,

and regulations thereof, be made as plain as possible; and having great confidence in the honor and public virtue of the inhabitants of this colony, that they will readily obey their officers, and will cheerfully do their duty, when known, without any such severe articles and rules (except in capital cases), and cruel punishments, as are usually practised in standing armies, and will submit to all such rules and regulations as are founded in reason, honor and virtue.

It is therefore resolved, that the following articles, rules and regulations, for the army, raised by this colony, for the defence and security of our lives, liberties and estates, be, and hereby are, established, and required to be strictly adhered to, by all officers, soldiers and others concerned, as they regard their own honor, and the public good; and upon the penalties and forfeitures hereinafter mentioned.

Article 1. All officers and soldiers, not having just impediment, shall diligently frequent divine service and sermon, in the places appointed for assembling of the regiment, troop, or company, to which they belong; and such as wilfully absent themselves, or being present, behave indecently or irreverently, shall, if commissioned officers, be brought before a regimental court martial, there to be publicly and severely reprimanded by the president; if non-commissioned officers or soldiers, every person so offending, shall, for his first offence, forfeit one shilling, to be deducted out of his wages; for the second offence, he shall not only forfeit one shilling, but be confined, not exceeding twenty-four hours; and for every like offence, shall suffer and pay in like manner; which money, so forfeited, shall be applied to the use of the sick soldiers of the troop or company to which the offender belongs.

Art. 2. Whatsoever non-commissioned officer, or soldier, shall use any unlawful oath or execration, shall incur the penalty of six pence; and if a commissioned officer be thus guilty of profane cursing and swearing, he shall forfeit and pay for each and every such offence, the sum of nine pence, lawful money.

Art. 3. Any officer or soldier, who shall behave himself with contempt or disrespect towards the general or generals, or commander in chief of the Rhode Island forces, or shall speak words tending to his or their hurt or dishonor, shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, by the judgment of a general court martial.

Art. 4. Any officer or soldier, who shall begin, excite, cause, or join in any mutiny or sedition, in the regiment, troop, or company, to which he belongs, or in any other regiment, troop, or company, of the Rhode Island forces, either by land or sea, or in any party, post, detachment, or guard, on any pretence, whatsoever, shall suffer such punishment as by a general court martial shall be ordered.

Art. 5. Any officer, non-commissioned officer, or soldier, who being present at any mutiny, or sedition; does not use his utmost endeavors to suppress the same; or coming to the knowledge of any mutiny, or intended mutiny, does not, without delay, give information thereof, to the commanding officer, shall be punished by order of a general court martial, according to the nature of his offence.

Art. 6. Any officer or soldier, who shall strike his superior officer, or draw, or offer to draw, or shall lift up any weapon, or offer any violence against him, being in the execution of his office, on any pretence, whatsoever, or shall disobey any lawful commands of his superior officer, shall suffer such punishment as shall, according to the nature of his offence, be ordered by the sentence of a general court martial.

Art. 7. Any non-commissioned officer, or soldier, who shall desert, or without leave of his commanding officer, absent himself from the troop or company to which

he belongs, or from any detachment of the same, shall, upon being convicted thereof, be punished according to the nature of his offence, at the discretion of a general court martial.

Art. 8. Whatsoever officer or soldier, shall be convicted of having advised or persuaded any other officer or soldier to desert, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court martial.

Art. 9. All officers, of what condition soever, shall have power to part and quell all quarrels, frays, and disorders, though the persons concerned should belong to another regiment, troop, or company, and either order officers to be arrested, or non-commissioned officers or soldiers to be confined and imprisoned, till their proper superior officers shall be acquainted therewith; and whoever shall refuse to obey such officer (though of an inferior rank), or shall draw his sword upon him, shall be punished at the discretion of a general court martial.

Art. 10. No officer or soldier shall use any reproachful or provoking speeches or gestures to another; nor shall presume to send a challenge to any person, to fight a duel; and whoever shall knowingly and willingly suffer any person, whatsoever, to go forth to fight a duel; or shall second, promote, or carry any challenge, shall be deemed as a principal; and whatsoever officer or soldier shall upbraid another for refusing a challenge, shall also be considered as a challenger; and all such offenders, in any of these or such like cases, shall be punished at the discretion of a general court martial.

Art. 11. Every officer, commanding in quarters, or on a march, shall keep good order, and, to the utmost of his power, redress all such abuses, or disorders, which may be committed by any officer or soldier under his command; if upon any complaint made to him, of officers or soldiers, beating, or otherwise ill-treating any person, or of committing any kind of riot, to the disquieting of the inhabitants of this continent; he, the said commander, who shall refuse or omit to see justice done on the offender or offenders, and reparation made to the party or parties injured, as far as the offender's wages shall enable him or them, shall, upon due proof thereof, be punished as ordered by a general court martial, in such manner as if he himself had committed the crimes or disorders complained of.

Art. 12. If any officer shall think himself to be wronged by his colonel, or the commanding officer of the regiment, and shall, upon due application made to him, be refused to be redressed, he may complain to the general, or commander in chief of the Rhode Island forces, in order to obtain justice, who is hereby required to examine into said complaint, and see that justice be done.

Art. 13. If any inferior officer or soldier, shall think himself wronged by his captain or other officer, commanding the troop or company to which he belongs, he is to complain thereof, to the commanding officer of the regiment, who is hereby required to summon a regimental court martial, for the doing justice to the complainant; from which regimental court martial, either party may, if he thinks himself still aggrieved, appeal to a general court martial; but if, upon a second hearing, the appeal shall appear to be vexatious and groundless, the person so appealing, shall be punished at the discretion of the general court martial.

Art. 14. Whatsoever non-commissioned officer, or soldier, shall be convicted, at a regimental court martial, of having sold, or designedly, or through neglect wasted the ammunition, arms or provisions, or other military stores, delivered out to him, to be employed in the service of this colony, shall, if an officer, be reduced to a private sen-



tinel ; and if a private soldier, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by a regimental court martial.

Art. 15. All non-commissioned officers and soldiers, shall be allowed the limits of one mile from the place of encampment, unless the commander in chief shall think proper to mark out shorter limitations. Every officer or soldier, found without those limits, without leave in writing, shall suffer such punishment as shall be inflicted by a regimental court martial.

Art. 16. No officer or soldier, shall lie out of his quarters or camp, without leave from the commanding officer of the regiment, upon penalty of being punished according to the nature of his offence, by order of a regimental court martial.

Art. 17. Every non-commissioned officer and soldier, shall retire to his quarters, or tent, at the beating of the retreat ; in default of which, he shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, by order of the commanding officer.

Art. 18. No officer, non-commissioned officer or soldier, shall fail of repairing, at the time fixed, to the place of parade or exercise, or other rendezvous, appointed by the commanding officer, if not prevented by sickness, or some other evident necessity ; or shall go from the said place of rendezvous, or from his guard, without leave from his commanding officer, before he shall be regularly dismissed or relieved, on penalty of being punished according to the nature of his offence, by the sentence of a regimental court martial.

Art. 19. Whatsoever commissioned officer, shall be found drunk on his guard, party or other duty, under arms, shall be cashiered for it ; any non-commissioned officer or soldier, so offending, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a regimental court martial.

Art. 20. Whatsoever sentinel shall be found sleeping upon his post, or shall leave it before he shall be regularly relieved, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court martial.

Art. 21. Any person belonging to the Rhode Island army, who, by discharging of fire-arms, beating of drums, or by any other means, whatsoever, shall occasion false alarms, in camp or quarters, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court martial.

Art. 22. Any officer or soldier, who shall, without urgent necessity, or without leave of his superior officer, quit his platoon or division, shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, by the sentence of a regimental court martial.

Art. 23. No officer or soldier, shall do violence, or offer any insult or abuse, to any person, who shall bring provisions or other necessaries, to the camp or quarters of the Rhode Island army ; any officer or soldier, so offending, shall, upon complaint being made to the commanding officer, suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by a regimental court martial.

Art. 24. Whatsoever officer or soldier, shall shamefully abandon any post committed to his charge, or shall speak words inducing others to do the like, in time of an engagement, shall suffer death immediately.

Art. 25. Any person belonging to the Rhode Island army, who shall make known the watch-word to any person who is not entitled to receive it, according to the rules and discipline of war, or shall presume to give a parole or watch-word, different from what he received, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court martial.

Art. 26. Whosoever, belonging to the Rhode Island army, shall relieve the enemy

with money, victuals or ammunition; or shall knowingly harbor or protect an enemy, shall suffer such punishment as by a general court martial shall be ordered.

Art. 27. Whosoever, belonging to the Rhode Island army, shall be convicted of holding correspondence with, or of giving intelligence to, the enemy, either directly or indirectly, shall suffer such punishment as by a general court martial shall be ordered.

Art. 28. All public stores, taken in the enemy's camp or magazines, whether of artillery, ammunition, clothing or provisions, shall be secured for the use of the colony of Rhode Island.

Art. 29. If any officer or soldier shall leave his post or colors, in time of an engagement, to go in search of plunder, he shall, upon being convicted thereof, before a general court martial, suffer such punishment as by said court martial shall be ordered.

Art. 30. If any commander of any post, entrenchment or fortress, shall be compelled, by the officers or soldiers under his command, to give it up to the enemy, or to abandon it, the commissioned officer, non-commissioned officers or soldiers, who shall be convicted of having so offended, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as may be inflicted upon them, by the sentence of a general court martial.

Art. 31. All sutlers and retailers to a camp, and all persons, whatsoever, serving with the Rhode Island army, in the field, though not enlisted soldiers, are to be subject to the articles, rules and regulations, of the Rhode Island army.

Art. 32. No general court martial shall consist of a less number than thirteen; none of which, shall be under the degree of a commissioned officer; and the president shall be a field officer; and the president of each and every court martial, whether general or regimental, shall have power to administer an oath to every witness, in order to the trial of offenders; and the members of all courts martial, shall be duly sworn by the president; and the next in rank on the court martial, shall administer the oath to the president.

Art. 33. The members, both of general and regimental courts martial, shall, when belonging to different corps, take the same rank which they hold in the army; but when courts martial shall be composed of one corps, they shall take their ranks according to their commissions, by which they are mustered in the said corps.

Art. 34. All the members of a court martial, are to behave with calmness, decency and impartiality; and in the giving of their votes, are to begin with the youngest or lowest, in the commission.

Art. 35. No field officer shall be tried by any person under the degree of captain; nor shall any proceedings or trials be carried on, excepting between the hours of eight in the morning, and three in the afternoon; except in cases which require an immediate example.

Art. 36. The commissioned officers of every regiment, may, by the appointment of their colonel, or commanding officer, hold regimental courts martial, for the inquiring into such disputes, or criminal matters, as may come before them, and for the inflicting corporeal punishments for small offences; and shall give judgment by the majority of voices; but no sentence shall be executed till the commanding officer (not being a member of the court martial,) shall have confirmed the same.

Art. 37. No regimental court martial shall consist of less than five officers; excepting in cases where that number cannot be conveniently assembled, when three may be sufficient; who are likewise to determine upon the sentence by the ma-

majority of voices ; which sentence, is to be confirmed by the commanding officer, not being a member of the court martial.

Art. 38. Every officer, commanding in any fort, castle or barrack, or elsewhere, where the corps under his command consists of detachments from different regiments, or of independent companies, may assemble courts martial for the trial of offenders, in the same manner as if they were regimental, whose sentence is not to be executed till it shall be confirmed by the said commanding officer.

Art. 39. No person whatsoever, shall use menacing words, signs or gestures, in the presence of a court martial, then sitting, or shall cause any disorder or riot, so as to disturb their proceeding, on the penalty of being punished at the discretion of the said court martial.

Art. 40. To the end that offenders may be brought to justice ; whenever any officer or soldier shall commit a crime deserving punishment, he shall, by his commanding officer, if an officer, be put in arrest ; if a non-commissioned officer, or soldier, be imprisoned, till he shall be either tried by a court martial, or shall be lawfully discharged by proper authority.

Art. 41. No officer or soldier, who shall be put in arrest or imprisonment, shall continue in his confinement, more than eight days, or till such time as a court martial can be conveniently assembled.

Art. 42. No officer commanding a guard, or provost marshal, shall refuse to receive or keep any prisoner committed to his charge, by an officer belonging to the Rhode Island forces ; which officer shall at the same time deliver an account in writing, signed by himself, of the crime with which the said prisoner is charged.

Art. 43. No officer commanding a guard, or provost marshal, shall presume to release any prisoner committed to his charge, without proper authority for so doing ; nor shall he suffer any prisoner to escape, on the penalty of being punished for it, by the sentence of a general court martial.

Art. 44. Every officer, or provost marshal, to whose charge prisoners shall be committed, is hereby required, within twenty-four hours after such commitment, or as soon as he shall be relieved from his guard, to give in writing to the colonel of the regiment to whom the prisoner belongs (where the prisoner is confined upon the guard belonging to the said regiment, and that his offence only relates to the neglect of duty in his own corps), or to the commander in chief, their crimes, and the names of the officers who committed them, on the penalty of being punished for his disobedience or neglect, at the discretion of a general court martial.

Art. 45. And if any officer under arrest, shall leave his confinement before he is set at liberty by the officer who confined him, or by a superior power, he shall be cashiered for it.

Art. 46. Whatsoever commissioned officer shall be convicted, before a general court martial, of behaving in a scandalous, infamous manner, such as is unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, shall be discharged from the service.

Art. 47. All officers, conductors, gunners, matrosses, drivers, or any other persons, whatsoever, receiving pay or hire, in the service of the Rhode Island artillery, shall be governed by the aforesaid rules and articles ; and shall be subject to be tried by courts martial, in like manner with the officers and soldiers of the Rhode Island troops.

Art. 48. For differences arising amongst themselves, or in matters relating solely to their own corps, the courts martial may be composed of their own officers ;

but where a number sufficient of such officers cannot be assembled, or in matters wherein other corps are interested, the officers of artillery shall sit in courts martial, with the officers of the other corps.

Art. 49. All crimes not capital, and all disorders and neglects which officers and soldiers may be guilty of, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, though not mentioned in the articles of war, are to be taken cognizance of, by a general or regimental court martial, according to the nature and degree of the offence, and be punished at their discretion.

Art. 50. No courts martial shall order any offender to be whipped, or receive more than thirty-nine stripes for any one offence.

Art. 51. The field officers of each and every regiment, are to appoint some suitable person, belonging to such regiment, to receive all such fines as may arise within the same, for any breach of any of the foregoing articles; and shall direct the same to be carefully and properly applied to the relief of such sick, wounded, or necessitous soldiers as belong to such regiment; and such person shall account with such officer for all fines received, and the application thereof.

Art. 52. All members sitting in courts martial, shall be sworn by the president of said courts; which president, shall himself be sworn by the officer in said court, next in rank. The oath to be administered, previous to their proceeding to the trial of any offender, in form following, to wit:

*“ You, A. B., swear that you will well and truly try, and impartially determine, the cause of the prisoner now to be tried, according to the rules for regulating the Rhode Island army. So help you God.”*

Art. 53. All persons called to give evidence in any case, before a court martial, who shall refuse to give evidence, shall be punished for such refusal, at the discretion of such court martial; the oath to be administered in the form following, to wit:

*“ You swear the evidence you shall give, in the case now in hearing, shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. So help you God.”*

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, directed to charter two suitable vessels, for the use of the colony, and fit out the same in the best manner, to protect the trade of this colony.

That the said vessels be at the risk of the colony, and be appraised, before they are chartered, by Messrs. Joseph Anthony, Rufus Hopkins and Cromell Child, or any two of them; who are also to agree for the hire of the said vessels.

That the largest of the said vessels be manned with eighty men, exclusive of officers; and be equipped with ten guns, four-pounders; fourteen swivel guns, a sufficient number of small arms, and all necessary warlike stores.

That the small vessel be manned with a number not exceeding thirty men.

That the whole be included in the number of fifteen hundred men, ordered to be raised in this colony, and be kept in pay until the 1st day of December next, unless discharged before, by order of the General Assembly.

That they receive the same bounty and pay as the land forces, excepting that the first and second lieutenants, and master, receive the same pay as the first lieutenant of the land forces; and the under or petty officers the same as the sergeants of the army.

And that the lieutenant general, brigadier general and committee of safety, or the major part of them, have the power of directing and ordering said vessels; and, in case it shall appear to them that the officers and men of the said vessels can be more serviceable on shore, than at sea, to order them on shore, to defend the sea-ports in this colony.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the following officers be, and are hereby, appointed to command the said vessels, to wit: of the largest vessel,—

Abraham Whipple, commander, with the rank and power of commodore of both vessels.

John Grimes, first lieutenant.

Benjamin Seabury, second lieutenant.

William Bradford, of Providence, master.

Ebenezer Flagg, quartermaster, at the wages of £4, lawful money, per month.

Of the smallest vessel, Christopher Whipple, commander.

William Rhodes, lieutenant.

Whereas, William Potter, Esq., presented unto this Assembly, the following memorial, to wit:

*Memorial of William Potter, to the General Assembly, relative to his Protest, &c.*

To the Honorable General Assembly, of the colony of Rhode Island, at the session to be holden in East Greenwich, on the second Monday in June, A. D. 1775.

I, William Potter, of South Kingstown, in the county of King's county, in the colony aforesaid, humbly show:

That a session of the General Assembly, held at Providence, on the 22d day of April last, an act was passed for the raising, with all expedition and dispatch, fifteen hundred men, as an army of observation, to repel any insult or violence that might be offered to the inhabitants.

And also, if necessary for the safety and preservation of the colonies, to march out of this colony, and join and co-operate with the forces of the neighboring colonies; against which act, I, as one of the upper house of Assembly, together with Joseph Wanton, Esq., the then Governor; Darius Sessions, Esq., the then Deputy Governor; and Thomas Wickes, Esq., then also one of the same upper house, did enter my protest; which hath given much uneasiness to the good people of this colony. To remove which, so far as respects myself, and as far as in me lieth, I beg leave to observe:

That a rough draught was drawn up, and delivered to a person to be corrected; which protest, as the same now stands, appears to me to be of a different import from my meaning at that time; and which, through the hurry attending the business before the House, was not so properly attended to, as it might have been, and in that haste was signed.

It is true, I was against the passing of the said act at that time, as I conceived the trade, and particularly the town of Newport, would be greatly distressed, which a little longer time might prevent; and because it was known that the very respectable Assembly of the colony of Connecticut would soon sit, of whose wise deliberations we might greatly avail ourselves. These were the true reasons of my conduct, however the contrary may appear from the protest signed.

No man hath ever been more deeply impressed with the calamities to which America is reduced, by a most corrupt administration, than myself. No man hath more exerted himself in private and public life, to relieve ourselves from our oppressions; and no man hath held himself more ready to sacrifice his life and fortune in the arduous struggles now making throughout America, for the preservation of our just rights and liberties; and in these sentiments, I am determined to live and die.

Sorry I am, if any of the good people of this colony should have conceived otherwise of me; and I greatly lament, that the unguarded expressions in that protest, should give cause therefor. Should I from thence, lose the confidence, just hopes and expectations of my countrymen, of my future conduct in the arduous American struggles, it might create an uneasiness of mind, for which nothing can ever compensate.

But should this public declaration ease the minds of friends, and the friends of liberty, and convince them of my readiness to embark, to conflict with them in every difficulty, and against every opposition, until our glorious cause shall be established upon the most firm and permanent basis, it will be a consideration that will afford me the highest satisfaction that human nature is capable of enjoying.\*

I am Your Honors' most humble servant,

WILLIAM POTTER.

And the said memorial being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be accepted; that it

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\* See page 311.

is satisfactory ; and that the said William Potter be, and he is hereby, reinstated in the favor of this General Assembly.

An Act dividing the regiment of militia in the county of Kings county into two regiments.

An Act dividing the regiment of militia in the county of Kent into two regiments.

*Officers to command the several Trained Bands, or Companies of Militia, in the Colony.*

Portsmouth : first company—Burrington Anthony, captain ; David Gifford, lieutenant ; Stephen Borden, ensign.

Warwick : first company—Abraham Lockwood, captain ; Sylvester Wickes, lieutenant ; Job Randall, ensign.

Second company—Reuben Wightman, captain ; Squire Milward, lieutenant ; James Jarauld, ensign.

Third company—Thomas Rice, son of Thomas, captain ; Anthony Holden, son of Charles, lieutenant ; Stukely Stafford, Jr., ensign.

Westerly : first company—Thomas Thompson, captain ; Joseph Pendleton, lieutenant ; Joshua Pendleton, ensign.

Second company—John Gavet, captain ; Stephen Saunders, Jr., lieutenant ; William Bliven, ensign.

New Shoreham company—John Sands, captain ; Samuel Rathbun, Jr., lieutenant ; William Littlefield, ensign.

North Kingstown : first company—Thomas Clarke, captain ; John Manchester, lieutenant ; William Reynolds, ensign.

Second company—Thomas Cole, captain ; Charles Dyre, lieutenant ; William Taylor, ensign.

Third company—Thomas Bissell, Jr., captain ; Timothy Deane, lieutenant ; Robert Potter, ensign.

South Kingstown : first company—Samuel Seagar, captain ; Gideon Babcock, lieutenant ; Daniel Williams, ensign.

Second company—Abial Brown, captain ; James Parker, lieutenant ; Barber Peckham, ensign.

East Greenwich : first company—Nathaniel Gardner, captain ; Ebenezer Spencer, lieutenant ; William Hall, ensign.

Second company—Allen Johnston, captain ; Michael Spencer, lieutenant ; Stephen Greene, ensign.

Scituate : first company—Peleg Fisk, captain ; Nathan Relph, lieutenant ; Nathan Bates, ensign.

Third company—Stephen Kimball, captain ; Joseph Davis, lieutenant ; James Williams, ensign.

Fourth company—Jeremiah Davis, captain ; Isaac Hopkins, lieutenant ; Oziel Smith, ensign.

Fifth company—Samuel Wilbur, captain ; Thomas Field, lieutenant ; William Potter, ensign.

Glocester : first company—Benajah Whipple, captain ; Simon Smith, lieutenant ; John Eddy, ensign.

Second company—Samuel Mayes, captain ; Ezekiel Phetplace, lieutenant ; Daniel Mathewson, ensign.

Third company—Abraham Winsor, captain ; Stephen Pain, lieutenant ; Richard Lewis, ensign.

Fourth company—Stephen Winsor, captain ; Aaron Arnold, lieutenant ; Isaac Ress, ensign.

Charlestown company—Thomas Sheffield, captain ; Jonathan Macomber, lieutenant ; Caleb Crandal, ensign.

West Greenwich : first company—Eleazar Carr, captain ; Abel Greene, lieutenant ; Abel Mathewson, 2d, ensign.

Second company—Jeremiah Austin, captain ; Benjamin Gorton, lieutenant ; Joseph Weaver, ensign.

Third company—John Mathewson, Jr., captain ; Jesiah Mathewson, lieutenant ; Samuel Reynolds, ensign.

Exeter : first company—Christopher Champlin, captain ; Abel Fowler, lieutenant ; Isaiah Wilcox, ensign.

Second company—John Hoxsie, captain ; George Sweet, lieutenant ; Eber Shearman, ensign.



Bristol company—Jeremiah Ingraham, captain ; Stephen Smith, lieutenant ; Hezekiah Munro, ensign.

Tiverton : first company—Christopher Manchester, captain ; Isaac Cooke, lieutenant ; Philip Manchester, ensign.

Second company—Benjamin Durfee, captain ; Ebenezer Slocum, lieutenant ; Jonathan Deval, ensign.

Little Compton company—George Simmons, captain ; Samuel Gray, lieutenant ; David Cooke, ensign.

Warren company—Amos Haile, captain ; John Ormsbee, lieutenant ; Smith Bowen, ensign.

Cumberland : first company—Enoch Weatherhead, captain ; Elisha Waterman, lieutenant ; Benjamin Wilkinson, ensign.

Second company—Levi Tower, captain ; Elias Philbrook, lieutenant ; Levi Ballou, ensign.

Cranston : first company—John King, Jr., captain ; Anthony Potter, lieutenant ; Josiah Potter, ensign.

Second company—Frederick Williams, captain ; Nathaniel Carpenter, lieutenant ; John Harris, ensign.

Third company—Edward Knight, captain ; William Field, 2d, lieutenant ; Joseph Potter, ensign.

Hopkinton : first company—Barker Wells, captain ; Oliver Babcock, Jr., lieutenant ; Elnathan Wells, ensign.

Second company—George Thurston, Jr., captain ; Matthew Randall, lieutenant ; Randall Wells, ensign.

Johnston : first company—Richard Thornton, captain ; Richard Fenner, Jr., lieutenant ; Daniel Sprague, Jr., ensign.

Second company—Emmor Olney, captain ; Daniel Angell, lieutenant ; Laban Waterman, ensign,

North Providence company—Job Olney, captain ; Charles Olney, Jr., lieutenant ; Eleazar Jenckes, ensign.

Barrington company—Thomas Allen, captain ; Samuel Bosworth, lieutenant ; Vial Allen, ensign.

It is voted and resolved, that this General Assembly will

join with the other colonies in establishing post offices and post riders, in order to preserve an intercourse between the different colonies, which will prove so beneficial to the public, as well as to individuals; and that this colony will, for the present, defray the expense of post riders throughout this colony, upon the usual post road.

It is further voted and resolved, that post offices be, and hereby are, established at the following places, to wit: at Newport, Providence, Bristol, Warren, Tower Hill, in South Kingstown and Westerly; and that the following persons be, and hereby are, appointed post masters, to wit:

For Newport, Mr. Nathaniel Otis; Providence, Mr. John Carter; Bristol, Mr. Jonathan Russell; Warren, Mr. Shubael Burr; Tower Hill, Mr. Ray Sands; Westerly, Mr. Joshua Babcock.

It is further voted and resolved, that the rates and duties for postage of letters, be as follows, to wit:

*Rates of Postage in the Colony of Rhode Island.*

	£	s.	d.
For any distance not exceeding sixty miles - - -	0	0	5 1-4
“ sixty miles, and not exceeding one hundred miles - - -	0	0	8
“ one hundred miles, and not exceeding two hundred miles - - -	0	0	10 1-4
“ two hundred miles, and not exceeding three hundred miles - - -	0	1	1
“ three hundred miles, and not exceeding four hundred miles - - -	0	1	4
“ four hundred miles, and not exceeding five hundred miles - - -	0	1	6 1-4
“ five hundred miles, and not exceeding six hundred miles - - -	0	1	9
“ six hundred miles, and not exceeding seven hundred miles - - -	0	2	0
“ seven hundred miles, and not exceeding eight hundred miles - - -	0	2	2 1-2
“ eight hundred miles, and not exceeding nine hundred miles - - -	0	2	5
“ nine hundred miles, and not exceeding one thousand miles - - -	0	2	8

The above rates to be paid in lawful money, of this colony, and are for the postage of a single letter. They are to be doubled for all double letters, trebled for all treble letters; and for every ounce weight, four times so much is to be charged as for a single letter.

It is further voted and resolved, that Mr. Peter Mumford be, and he is hereby, appointed the post rider from Newport to Providence; and Mr. Benjamin Mumford the post rider from Newport to New London; and that they neither receive nor

deliver any letters from any post office heretofore established in this colony.

It is further voted and resolved, that Messrs. Joshua Babcock, John Jenekes, William Bradford and Joseph Anthony, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to agree with the post masters and post riders, for their service ; and to give directions for the setting off and returns of the post riders ; and that the post masters account to the said committee for what they shall receive.

It is further voted and resolved, that all letters which the post rider for the time being, may receive, directed for the town of Boston, shall be first post paid, and submitted to the examination of the commander in chief of the American forces, at Cambridge, or of a committee that may be appointed by the provincial congress of the Massachusetts Bay, before they are permitted to go into Boston ; and that all letters coming out of Boston, be submitted to the like examination.

And it is further voted and resolved, that this act shall continue in force until this Assembly shall make some further order relative to the same.

It is voted and resolved, that the letter written by His Honor the Deputy Governor, to James Wallace, Esq., commander of His Majesty's ship *Rose*, and Capt. Wallace's answer, be published in the next *Newport Mercury*, and *Providence Gazette*.

It is voted and resolved, that £10,000, in lawful money bills of credit, be struck off, for the use of the colony ; that the same proportion of the different bills be printed ; that they be signed by the same persons who signed the former emission, and in the same manner ; that they be completed and lodged in the general treasury, as soon as may be ; and that the committee for signing the bills, procure the paper.

An Act to prevent desertion from the army of observation.

An Act dividing the First Trained Band, or Company of Militia, in the town of Coventry, into two companies.

An Act dividing the Second Trained Band, or Company of Militia, in the town of Coventry, into two companies.

Whereas, Thursday, the 20th day of July next, is recommended by the Honorable the Continental Congress to be observed as a day of public fasting and prayer throughout the colonies,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to issue a proclamation, to be published in the Newport Mercury, and Providence Gazette, earnestly recommending the same to be religiously observed by the inhabitants of this colony.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to write an answer to the letter from the delegates of this colony at the Continental Congress; and to transmit to them a copy of the proceedings of this Assembly.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on Wednesday, the 28th day of June, 1775.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that six companies, consisting of sixty men each, including officers, be immediately raised in this colony, in addition to those already ordered to be raised; that they be equipped with arms, ammunition and all other necessaries; that two companies be added to each regiment now in the service of this colony, and encamped near Boston, that as soon as twenty men in a company shall be raised, they be sent forward, under the care of one commissioned officer, and the whole as soon as possible.

That the same bounty and wages be allowed to them, as to those already raised ; and that, to defray the expense thereof, £10,000, in lawful money bills, be emitted and signed in the same manner and proportion as the first emission ; excepting that the bills now ordered to be emitted, be signed in the following manner, to wit : all the bills of five shillings, and upwards, by three signers ; and all under, by two signers.

An Act to repeal an act, entitled “ An act for regulating appeals to His Majesty in Council, in Great Britain.”

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that the act entitled “ An act for regulating appeals to His Majesty in Council, in Great Britain,” be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

It is voted and resolved, that the act to prevent the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq., from acting as Governor of this colony, until the oath of office shall be administered to him in open General Assembly, with the consent of the Assembly, &c., which was passed at the session held on the first Wednesday in May last, and continued by an act passed at the session held on the second Monday in June instant, be continued, and remain in force, until the rising of this Assembly, at the next session ; and that a copy of this act be inserted in the Newport Mercury, and Providence Gazette.

Whereas, it is absolutely necessary, for the well governing and exerting the force of an army, that the same should be under the direction of a commander in chief,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the army of observation raised by this colony, during the operations of the present campaign, be under the command and direction of the commander in chief of the combined American army, stationed in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay ; and that the secretary transmit a copy of this act to the commander in chief of the combined American army ; and to the brigadier general of the Rhode Island troops.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Gov-

ernor be, and he is hereby, requested to write an answer to the letter from the Governor of Connecticut ; and to the speech of the Oneida tribe of Indians to the four New England colonies.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Jabez Champlin, James Angell, Metcalfe Bowler, John Waterman, James Rhodes, John Sands, Sylvester Gardner, John Hawkins, Allen Johnson, Benjamin Underwood, Elisha Mowry, Jr., Rufus Hopkins, Asa Kimball, Joseph Stanton, Jr., Thomas Gorton, Stephen Potter, George Pierce, John Barker, Benjamin Bosworth, John Cooke, Thomas Brownell, Cromell Child, John Dexter, George Webb, Richard Searle, Abel Tanner, Emmor Olney, Thomas Olney and Thomas Allen, be, and they are hereby, appointed and directed to take an account, as soon as may be, of the powder, arms and ammunition, in the several towns in this colony, in which they respectively dwell, including private as well as public stock.

That they be, and hereby are, directed and empowered to go to the house of each person in their respective towns, to take an account of the powder, arms and ammunition.

That they make report to His Honor the Deputy Governor, that he may transmit an account thereof, to the Continental Congress ; and also make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

And that in case any of the persons hereby appointed, shall refuse to serve, the members of the General Assembly, of the town in which the person so refusing dwells, appoint another in his stead, who will undertake.

It is voted and resolved, that the committees of inspection in the several towns in this colony, be, and they are hereby, appointed to collect all the saltpetre and brimstone in the respective towns wherein they dwell, at the charge of the colony, and send the same with all possible dispatch, to the committee of inspection for the town of Providence, by them to be immediately forwarded to the Provincial Congress, at New York.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Charles Bowler be, and he is hereby, appointed baker to the army of observation raised by

this colony, and stationed near Boston ; and that he be paid five shillings, lawful money, for every hundred weight of flour he shall bake ; he finding the fuel for baking the bread.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Joseph Stanton, Jr., be, and he is hereby, appointed one of the committee of safety, for the county of Kings county, in respect to the soldiers now ordered to be raised by this Assembly.

That he be empowered to pay off the soldiers heretofore raised in the towns of Westerly, Charlestown and Hopkinton, all such wages as they have not yet received, and be allowed therefor, half per cent.

That John Northup, Esq., be allowed one per cent. for the same.

And that the said Joseph Stanton, Jr., receive of the said John Northup, the accounts he hath against the soldiers now in the service of the colony, who were raised in the said three towns, in order to settle with the soldiers, and to stop what shall appear to be due from them to the said John Northup.

It is voted and resolved, that the gunner, and all the soldiers at Fort George, be immediately discharged.

That Mr. Thomas Freebody have the care of the buildings on Goat Island, and let them out ; that he haul up the fort-boat, take particular care of her, and preserve her for the use of the colony ; that he procure the cannon to be brought over from the fort to Newport ; and that he advertise the guns which were stolen from the fort.

Both Houses being joined in a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit :

*Officers to Command the Six Additional Companies to the Army of Observation.*

Ebenezer Flagg, captain ; Joseph Perry, lieutenant ; and Noel Allen, ensign, of the eighth company, to be raised in the counties of Newport and Bristol.

Thomas Grey, captain ; Lemuel Bailey, lieutenant ; William

Southworth, ensign, of the ninth company, to be raised in the counties of Newport and Bristol.

Levi Tower, captain ; Silas Talbot, lieutenant ; Reuben Sprague, ensign, of the ninth company, to be raised in the county of Providence.

Israel Gorton, captain ; James Williams, lieutenant ; Joseph Harris, ensign, of the tenth company, to be raised in the county of Providence.

Ethan Clarke, captain ; Thomas Cole, lieutenant ; John Woodmansie, ensign, of the ninth company, to be raised in the counties of Kings county and Kent.

Christopher Smith, captain ; Thomas Sweet, lieutenant ; Oliver Tefft, ensign, of the tenth company, to be raised in the counties of Kings county and Kent.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Job Watson be, and he is hereby, appointed a post at Tower Hill, to give intelligence to the northern counties, in case any squadron of ships should be seen off ; that in case of an alarm, the northern counties be, and they are hereby, ordered to march to the town of Providence.

That a proclamation be immediately issued by His Honor the Deputy Governor, commanding every man in the colony, able to bear arms, to equip himself completely with arms and ammunition, according to law.

And that the town of Providence fix a beacon on the hill to the eastward of the said town, to alarm the country, in case of an invasion.

An Act for enlisting one-fourth part of the militia of the colony, as minute men.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that one-quarter part of the militia of this colony be enlisted as minute men, to meet together, and exercise themselves in military discipline, half-a-day, once in every fortnight.



And that the following persons be, and hereby are, appointed in the several towns to enlist them, to wit :

*Names of Persons appointed by the General Assembly as Enlisting Officers, in the Colony.*

Newport—The captains of the several companies of militia.

Providence—Messrs. John Demont and Nathaniel Frothingham.

Portsmouth—Mr. Burrington Anthony.

Warwick—Messrs. Malachi Hammet, Reuben Wightman and Thomas Rice, son of Thomas.

Westerly—Messrs. George Sheffield, Benjamin Hull and Joseph Stillman.

New Shoreham—The captain of the company of militia.

North Kingstown—Messrs. Charles Tillinghast, Jonathan Vaughan and Ezekiel Gardner, Jr.

South Kingstown—Messrs. Peleg Babcock and John Wait.

East Greenwich—Messrs. Allen Johnston and Wm. Arnold.

Jamestown—The captain of the company of militia.

Smithfield—Messrs. Andrew Waterman, Luke Arnold and Peleg Arnold.

Glocester—Messrs. John Wells, Gideon Burgess, Aaron Winsor and Samuel Mayes.

Charlestown—Messrs. Augustus Stanton and Beriah Lewis.

West Greenwich—Messrs. Eleazar Carr, Jeremiah Austin and John Mathewson, Jr.

Coventry—Messrs. Archibald Kasson, Yelverton Wait, Stutely Hudson and Benjamin Greene.

Exeter—Mr. George Pierce.

Middletown—The captain of the company of militia.

Bristol—Mr. Benjamin Bosworth.

Tiverton—Messrs. Joseph Almy and Pardon Cooke.

Little Compton—Mr. Peres Richmond.

Warren—Mr. William Barton.

Cumberland—Messrs. Elisha Waterman and Elias Philbrook.

Richmond—Mr. Simeon Clarke, Jr.

Cranston—Messrs. Andrew Harris, William Potter and the captain of the third company.

Hopkinton—Messrs. Thomas Wells, 3d, and Oliver Davis.

Johnston—Messrs. William Hawkins and Joseph Waterman.

North Providence—Mr. Job Olney.

Barrington—Mr. Luther Martin.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case any of the persons hereby appointed, shall refuse to serve, the deputies of the several towns to which they belong, be, and they hereby are, empowered to appoint others in their stead.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the following be the form of the enlistment for the said minute men, to wit :

*Colony of Rhode Island, &c.*

*We, the subscribers, voluntarily enlist ourselves to serve as minute men, in the service of this colony, to be under the immediate command of our superior officers, and subject to the law of this colony, for regulating the minute men.*

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the persons who are hereby appointed to enlist the said minute men, return the names of the persons they shall so enlist, unto the deputies who live within their respective regiments.

That the said deputies, or the major part of them, be, and hereby are, empowered to form them into companies, each to consist of as many men as they shall think proper and direct ; and also to appoint officers over them ; and that they return the names of the officers they shall appoint, to His Honor the Deputy Governor, to be commissioned by the secretary, in the same manner that the other officers have been commissioned.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said minute men march for the defence of the colony, when and as often as they shall be called upon by the colonel of the regiment to which they respectively belong.

And that the lieutenant general and major general of the colony be, and they are hereby, authorized and empowered to march them out of the colony, whenever they, or either of them, shall think it necessary.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the following wages be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the said officers and men, to wit :

For every time they shall meet and exercise, each captain shall receive two shillings and sixpence, lawful money.

Each lieutenant and ensign, two shillings, lawful money ; and each other person one shilling, lawful money.

And when they march for the defence of the colony, or out of the colony, each captain shall receive six shillings, lawful money, per day.

Each lieutenant, five shillings, lawful money, per day ; each ensign, four shillings, lawful money, per day ; and each other person, three shillings, lawful money, per day ; and shall also be billeted at the charge of the colony.

And that the commanding officer make his return once a month to the committee of safety, and draw the money.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the several independent companies in this colony, or such of them as shall think proper, form themselves into companies of minute men, under the same regulation and command as above mentioned, and exercise and do duty in the same manner ; and that they receive the same pay and allowance.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the secretary, as soon as may be, transmit copies of this act to the several sheriffs in the colony, who are hereby directed to forward them by the first safe hands, to the persons appointed to enlist the said minute men in their respective counties.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. John Grimes be, and he is hereby, appointed commander of the small sloop, chartered by the colony, in the room of Capt. Christopher Whipple, who refused.

That all other vacancies, in either of the sloops, chartered by the colony, be filled up by the committee of safety ; and

that the officers be commissioned by the secretary of this colony.

It is voted and resolved, that when the places of any commissioned officers in the army of observation, raised by this colony, shall happen to be vacant, the brigadier general of the said army, with the advice of the field officers, thereof, fill up all such vacancies with officers; who shall have full power to act by virtue of such appointment, until His Honor the Deputy Governor shall send them commissions, signed by the secretary.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the third Monday in August, 1775.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that all the neat cattle and sheep upon New Shoreham, excepting a sufficiency for the inhabitants, be brought off as soon as possible, and landed upon the continent; that two hundred and fifty men be sent upon that island, to secure the stock until it can be taken off.

That the remainder of the two companies raised in the counties of Kings county and Kent, which have not yet marched to join the army of observation, be employed in the said service; that to complete the number, one hundred and ninety men be immediately enlisted, who shall be allowed wages at the rate of three shillings a day, and be billeted.

That Mr. James Rhodes be the chief commander of the said men, and Gideon Hoxsie, Esq., the second in command.

That the said James Rhodes and Gideon Hoxsie, and George Sheffield, be, and they are hereby, empowered, at the expense of the colony, to take the most prudent and effectual measures for removing the said stock to some place upon the continent;

that the committee of safety supply the said men with the necessary arms, ammunition and provisions.

That the following persons be appointed to enlist men for the said service,—

Thomas Wells, 2d ; Thomas Tefft, and in case of his refusal, Richard Bailey, Jr. ; Stephen Sheldon, Ebenezer Sprague, Elisha Waterman, Andrew Waterman, James Albro, Abial Brown, Jonathan Haszard, Joseph Pendleton and George Peirce ; who shall be allowed wages, at the rate of six shillings a day, and shall have the command of the men by them respectively raised, subordinate to their superior officers above named ; that no one of the above named persons raise more than twenty men.

That each person appointed to enlist men, set out for the places of rendezvous, with the men he shall enlist, on Saturday next, at eight of the clock in the morning, which are as follows :

Those raised in the towns of Richmond and Charlestown, to rendezvous at Jesse Champlin's, in Charlestown.

Those raised in North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Johnston, Cumberland, Exeter and Smithfield, at John Potter's, Esq.

Those raised in the other towns, at Elias Thompson's, in Westerly.

That the said James Rhodes, Gideon Hoxsie and George Sheffield, or any two of them, be appointed to appraise the said stock, which is to be transported at the expense and risk of the colony.

That His Honor the Deputy Governor be requested to issue orders to the said two companies, belonging to Col. Varnum's regiment, to proceed to New Shoreham, and obey the orders of the said James Rhodes and Gideon Hoxsie during the said service.

That the said James Rhodes and Gideon Hoxsie be commissioned, *mutatis mutandis*, in the same manner as the officers of the army of observation are ; and that Mr. James Rhodes draw

out of the general treasury £200, lawful money, for the purposes, aforesaid.

In Council, was read the return of officers' names, chosen to command the Independent Company of Cadets, in Providence, viz. :

Joseph Nightingale, captain ; William Russell, first lieutenant ; Nathaniel Greene, second lieutenant ; Ebenezer Thompson, ensign.

Which being considered in Council,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

An Act to punish persons, who shall pilot any armed vessels in or out of any of the harbors, rivers or bays, in this colony, excepting vessels belonging to some one of the British colonies in America, or the inhabitants thereof.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that any person, being an inhabitant of any of the British colonies in America, who shall act as a pilot on board any armed ship or vessel, and pilot them in or out of any of the harbors, rivers or bays, in this colony, excepting vessels in the service of some one of the said colonies, or of the inhabitants thereof, shall, upon conviction thereof, by bill, plaint or information, before the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery of this colony, be punished at the discretion of the said court, by fine and imprisonment not exceeding a fine of £500, lawful money, nor more than twelve months imprisonment.

It is voted and resolved, that William Potter, Esq., be allowed to draw out of the general treasury the sum of £270 *Ss. 7 3-4d.*, for carrying on the building a new court house in Kings county.

It is voted and resolved, that this colony will purchase all the gunpowder that shall be imported here from parts beyond sea, before the 1st day of April next, at the rate of three shillings, lawful money, a pound.

It is voted and resolved, that the twenty-nine minute men, raised by Mr. Andrew Waterman, proceed with him immediately to New Shoreham ; and that they all be paid according to the act for raising men for the same purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, the members of the upper house, who live in the county of Providence ; the deputies of the town of Providence, Metcalfe Bowler, William Bradford, John Dexter, Joseph Anthony, Daniel Mowry, Jr. and Joshua Babcock, Esqs., or the major part of them, together with such other members of the General Assembly, as may be present, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, during the recess of the General Assembly, to act upon any sudden important emergency ; with full power of taking all prudent and necessary measures for the safety of this colony, and the colonies in general.

That they be particularly empowered to employ the two armed vessels in the service of this colony, or either of them, in such manner, and upon such voyage, as they shall think conducive to the public interest ; and that this act continue in force until the next session of Assembly.

Whereas, the ensigns in the respective companies of the Rhode Island forces, encamped on Prospect Hill, represented unto this Assembly, that by a resolve of the Provincial Congress of the Massachusetts Bay, the ensigns of the several battalions of that colony were advanced, and made second lieutenants, and their wages enhanced ten shillings a month ; and prayed that this Assembly would, in conformity to that resolve, make the same regulation respecting the ensigns in the Rhode Island forces ; on consideration whereof,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be granted ; that the said ensigns be advanced to equal rank and station with their brethren in the Massachusetts forces ; and that their wages be increased ten shillings a month.

It is voted and resolved, that the gentlemen mentioned in the following list, be, and they are hereby, chosen to serve in the offices, to their names respectively ascribed, to wit :

*Names of Persons chosen to the respective Military Offices, in the Colony, herein mentioned.*

Joseph Belcher, Esq., colonel ; John Cooke, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; and William Channing, Esq., major, of the regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Charles Dyer, Esq., major, of the regiment of militia, in Kings county.

William Barton, Esq., adjutant, of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Samuel Pearce, Jr., captain ; William Allen, son of William, lieutenant ; and George Allen, ensign, of the second company of militia, in Portsmouth.

William Taylor, captain ; John Cole, lieutenant ; and James Albro, ensign, of the second company of militia, in North Kingstown.

William Arnold, Esq., major of the regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Benjamin Underwood, captain ; John Carr, lieutenant ; and Benjamin Carr, Jr., ensign, of the company of militia, in Jamestown.

Samuel Hill, captain ; Thomas Jenckes, lieutenant ; and Samuel Day, ensign, of the first company of militia, in Smithfield.

James Smith, lieutenant, of the third company of militia, in Smithfield.

Joseph Whipple, captain ; Joseph Kinyon, lieutenant ; and Asaph Bennett, ensign, of the fourth company of militia, in Coventry.

Thomas Peckham, captain ; Samuel Bailey, lieutenant ; and Elisha Barker, ensign, of the company of militia, in Middletown.

Ezra Ormsbee, captain, of the company of militia, in Warren.

Vial Allen, lieutenant ; and Daniel Kinnicutt, ensign, of the company of militia, in Barrington.



It is voted and resolved, that two row-gallies be forthwith built and equipped at the expense of this colony, for its protection and defence ; that they be of a suitable bigness to carry sixty men, each ; to row with fifteen oars on a side, and to mount one eighteen-pounder in the bow, and a number of swivel guns ; and that they be built in such further and particular form, model and construction, as shall be judged most suitable and fitting, by the committee hereafter named, for answering the design and purpose of their building.

And that Ambrose Page, Esq., be the person for the above purpose, and that he be empowered to draw out of the general treasury, a sum not exceeding £300, to enable him to prosecute the building.

Whereas, the post rider hath been stopped by the ships of war in the harbor of Newport, and the mail hath been actually taken from him, by violence, which renders it necessary that the route be altered,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that Mr. John Lasell be employed as a post rider, to go the old post road, from Providence to New London ; that he set out from Providence for New London on every Tuesday, immediately upon the arrival of the post from Cambridge, and return as soon as possible ; that he be allowed from this colony at the rate of \$185, a year, and in that proportion for any lesser time, he finding good horses, and paying his own expenses.

That Mr. Benjamin Mumford be employed as a post rider from Newport to Cambridge ; that he set out from Newport on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock, to carry the Newport mail for the westward to Providence, and proceed immediately to Cambridge, with the mails for that post office, and set off from thence on Thursday, in the afternoon, for Providence ; and there take the mail from the westward, and proceed immediately to Newport ; that he be allowed for his services at the same rate as hath heretofore been allowed to the post rider between Newport and Boston ; and that the post rider pay the port of every letter to such office nearest to which he shall re-

ceive it, and be under oath for the faithful performance of his trust.

That this act continue in force until further orders from this Assembly.

That His Honor the Deputy Governor be requested to write to and transmit a copy of this act to the Governor of Connecticut, and speaker of the House of Representatives, of the Massachusetts Bay, requesting them to pay their proportions of the expense of the post riders, as usually practised.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene, Carder Hazard, Nathan Miller and Gideon Mumford, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed a committee to audit the accounts of the committee of safety, who are hereby directed to pay off the troops to the last day of this month, and to close their accounts on the 8th day of September next.

That the committee hereby appointed, meet at Providence, on the 15th day of September, to proceed upon the said business, and make report to this General Assembly, at the then next succeeding session.

And that His Honor the Deputy Governor, transmit the said accounts, as soon as may be, after they shall be audited, to the Honorable the Continental Congress.

Whereas, notwithstanding the humble and dutiful petition of the last Congress to the King, and other wise pacific measures taken for obtaining a happy reconciliation between Great Britain and the colonies; the ministry, lost to every sentiment of justice, liberty and humanity, continue to send troops and ships of war into America, which destroy our trade, plunder and burn our towns, and murder the good people of these colonies,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that this colony most ardently wish to see the former friendship, harmony and intercourse, between Britain and these colonies restored, and a happy and lasting connection established between both countries, upon terms of just and equal liberty; and will concur

with the other colonies in all proper measures for obtaining those desirable blessings.

And as every principle, divine and human, require us to obey that great and fundamental law of nature, self-preservation, until peace shall be restored upon constitutional principles; this colony will most heartily exert the whole power of government, in conjunction with the other colonies, for carrying on this just and necessary war, and bringing the same to a happy issue.

And amongst other measures for obtaining this most desirable purpose, this Assembly is persuaded, that the building and equipping an American fleet, as soon as possible, would greatly and essentially conduce to the preservation of the lives, liberty and property, of the good people of these colonies; and therefore instruct their delegates, to use their whole influence, at the ensuing Congress, for building, at the Continental expense, a fleet of sufficient force, for the protection of these colonies, and for employing them in such manner and places as will most effectually annoy our enemies, and contribute to the common defence of these colonies.

And they are also instructed to use all their influence for carrying on the war in the most vigorous manner, until peace, liberty and safety, be restored and secured to these colonies upon an equitable and permanent basis.

It is voted and resolved, that the delegates for this colony, to the Congress, to be holden by adjournment, at Philadelphia, on the 5th day of September next, be, and they are hereby, fully authorized and empowered to receive of the Continental treasurer, the money due from the United Colonies, to this colony, for the several sums of money advanced, for raising of forces, purchasing arms, tents, provisions, clothing and warlike stores, for the defence of the said United Colonies; and transmit the same to the general treasurer of this colony, by such faithful person or persons, as they can trust, and under such guard as they shall judge expedient and necessary.

Whereas, the Honorable Samuel Ward, Esq., one of the delegates from this colony, to the Congress, held at Philadelphia,

on the 10th day of May last, hath made a report unto this Assembly, of many of the proceedings and resolves of the said Congress, consisting of measures by them taken for defending the United Colonies against the attacks of our cruel and unnatural enemies, measures for the security of the frontiers, the preservation of peace and friendship with the people of Canada and the Indian nations, the emission of a Continental currency for defraying the expenses of the war, a petition to the King, an address to the people of England, an address to the people of Ireland, a letter to the lord mayor of London, a letter to the Assembly of Jamaica, the establishment of a general post office, and some occasional resolutions

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the said report be, and the same is hereby, accepted and approved, and that the thanks of this Assembly be given to the delegates of the Continental Congress, in general, and to the delegates of this colony, in particular, for their wise, spirited, and faithful discharge of the important trust reposed in them.

It is voted and resolved, that the delegates from this colony, to the Congress, to be holden at Philadelphia, by adjournment, on the 5th day of September next, be, and they are, empowered to apply to their own respective uses \$200, each, of the money which they may receive of the Continental treasurer in behalf of this colony, on account of their expenses and services at the Congress; and that they be severally accountable to the colony therefor.

It is voted and resolved, that the Continental currency emitted by the Congress, at their last session in Philadelphia, on the 10th day of May last, be, and it is hereby, made a lawful tender, at the rate of six shillings, lawful money on a dollar, and in the same proportion as to gold and silver, in all payments, whatsoever, whether of a public or private nature; and whether due in lawful money, dollars, gold or silver coin, sterling money, bills of exchange, or any other currency, whatsoever.

And it is further voted and resolved, that whosoever shall counterfeit the said Continental currency or bills, or pass the same in this colony, knowing the same to be counterfeit, such person or

persons, upon legal conviction thereof, shall be liable to, and suffer the same pains, penalties and punishments, as by law persons counterfeiting the lawful money bills of this colony are liable to.

It is voted and resolved, that eight field pieces be provided and prepared for the use of the colony ; and that Mr. Nicholas Power be, and he is hereby, appointed to provide and prepare six of said field pieces, and Mr. Jacob Greene, the other two ; and that the said Nicholas Power put in order the carriages of the colony guns, placed in the Providence battery.

It is voted and resolved, that a bounty of three shillings a pound, be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury, on every pound of saltpeter that may be made in this colony, by the 26th day of August, A. D. 1776, suitable to be manufactured into gunpowder ; and three shillings a pound for every pound of such saltpeter, exclusive of said bounty.

And that Mr. Joseph Brown, Jabez Bowen, Esq. and the secretary of this colony, be, and they are hereby, appointed inspectors and provers of the quality thereof ; and that no person be entitled to said bounty and value, until he shall have first made oath before the secretary, that the saltpeter offered for inspection was actually made in this colony ; and that in order to its being so proved, that the manufacturers thereon convey the same to the town of Providence ; and that the same be delivered to, and deposited with the general treasurer.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, be requested to write a letter to His Excellency General Washington, informing him of the steps this colony have taken to secure the stock upon the islands lying within this jurisdiction ; and to request His Excellency to use his authority, that such of said stock as may be fit for market, be received by the commissary general, for the use of the army.

It is voted and resolved, that the monthly wages of Abraham Whipple, captain of the colony sloop, be raised from £7 10s., to £9, from the time he entered on board said sloop.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. James Rhodes, Gideon Hoxsie, George Sheffield, Joshua Babcock, Abel Tanner, Jo-

seph Hoxsie and William Potter, be, and they, or any three of them, are hereby, appointed a committee to take possession of the stock that may be brought off from New Shoreham, by order of this Assembly ; and such of said stock as may be fit for a market, immediately to send to the army ; that such of said stock as may not be fit for a market, they immediately sell and dispose of to the best advantage, either at public or private sale, unless the owners of said stock shall choose to take their own stock into possession at their own risk ; and that they make report thereof, to the next General Assembly.

An Act dividing the Second Company, or Trained Band, in the town of Scituate, into two companies, appointing officers, &c.

It is voted and resolved, that the act to prevent the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq., from acting as Governor of this colony, until the oath of office shall be administered to him in open General Assembly, with the consent of the Assembly, &c., which was passed at the session held on the first Wednesday in May last, and continued by an act passed at the session held on the second Monday in June last, and further continued by an act passed at the session held on Wednesday, the 28th day of the same June, be still continued, and remain in force, until the rising of this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., one of the delegates of this colony, at the Continental Congress, be empowered to receive £80, lawful money, out of the general treasury, on account of his expenses and services at said Congress, from the time he last set out for Philadelphia, to the time of the last adjournment of said Congress ; and that he be accountable to the colony.

Whereas, the Honorable Samuel Ward, Esq., one of the delegates for this colony, at the Continental Congress, exhibited unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the colony, for his services at said Congress ; and sundry expenses in going to, during his residence at, and returning from, Philadelphia ; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that the balance thereof, being £83 19s. 3d., lawful money, be paid the said Samuel Ward, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the late proceedings of the members of the committee of inspection of South Kingstown, and several other towns, respecting the stopping and regulating the passing of a number of neat cattle over the ferries to Newport from South Kingstown, belonging to George Irish, be approved of ; and that it is expected and requested, that the committees of inspection for the towns, do, at all times, use their utmost endeavors that stock be not suffered to pass over any of the ferries to Newport, in larger numbers than two at a time, except sheep, and of those but five at a time, while any danger may remain of their being taken by our enemies ; and that the proprietors of the ferries and their ferrymen, govern themselves accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Samuel Aborn, Col. John Low, Richard Smith, Esq., Mr. Benjam'in Bosworth, Sylvester Gardner, Esq. and Mr. Benjamin Gardner, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to cause all the cattle and sheep, that are fit to be killed, to be forthwith removed and carried off all the islands in this colony, Rhode Island excepted ; and Block Island, for which provision hath already been made.

To this end, the committee are to request the owners to remove them, and to give them assistance ; and if the owners refuse, then this committee are to cause them to be appraised by proper persons of their appointment, and to transport them to the main land, to be sent to the camp and sold, for which the owners shall be indemnified.

That the stock on Prudence and Hog Islands be removed to Bristol, by the said Richard Smith and Benjamin Bosworth.

And the stock on Jamestown be removed to South Kingstown, by the said Sylvester Gardner and Benjamin Gardner.

That said committee be empowered to take such assistance,

vessels and boats, as they shall think necessary, and all at the expense of the colony.

And the said committee are also empowered to order the two armed vessels belonging to the colony, to assist in removing said cattle and sheep; that William Bradford, Esq., send those cattle and sheep to the camp, that may be brought to Bristol; and that John Northup, Esq., send those cattle and sheep to the camp, that may be brought to South Kingstown or North Kingstown.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, with the advice of the committee appointed to transact public matters during the recess of the Assembly, be requested to write an answer to the letter from the Council of the colony of Massachusetts Bay, dated August 18, 1775, to the Deputy Governor, and to take such orders respecting the prisoners therein referred to, as they shall think proper.

It is voted and resolved, that if any person or persons shall refuse to take the paper money emitted by this colony, the paper money emitted by the Continental Congress, or by any of the American colonies, in payment for any debt, duty or demand of a pecuniary nature, he shall incur the displeasure of this General Assembly; and ought to be held and esteemed as an enemy to its credit, reputation and happiness; and totally destitute of that regard and obligation he is under to his country and the cause of liberty, which they are deeply engaged to support and defend; and that the good people of this colony and America ought to withdraw all communication from such person or persons.

God save the King.



*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on Tuesday, the 31st day of October, 1775.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Deputy Governor.

Whereas, Edward Cole, Esq., presented unto this Assembly the following petition and declaration, to wit :

*Petition of Edward Cole, to the General Assembly.*

To the Honorable General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., now sitting at Providence, humbly sheweth Edward Cole, of Newport,—

That he is called by business of great importance to himself, to Carlisle, in the province of Pennsylvania.

That having, some time past, in common conversation, spoken in such a manner as to induce many people to think he was inimical to this, his native country (although he never, in any way, whatever, either by giving information or intelligence, or otherwise, did any thing to the prejudice of America), he thought proper to apply to His Honor the Deputy Governor, to give him a pass to proceed through the country, lest from the prejudice, aforesaid, he might meet with some interruption in his intended journey; who did not choose to comply with his request, unless by the advice of the committee.

That the committee being empowered to act only during the recess of the General Assembly, he is under the necessity of applying to Your Honors. He begs leave to represent, that he hath no other intention in pursuing his said journey, than transacting his own private business; and to assure Your Honors, that during the course of it, he will, in every respect, conduct himself as a real well wisher and a hearty friend to his country, as he in truth, is, and will abide by, and be governed by, the resolutions of the Continental Congress.

He therefore humbly prays Your Honors to request His Honor the Deputy Governor, to grant him a pass or certificate, that he may pursue his said journey, without danger of interruption from misapprehension of his principles or intentions.

And, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

EDWARD COLE,

*Declaration of Edward Cole, to the General Assembly.*

I, the subscriber, dreading censure from my countrymen, on the score of what mistakenly may have been apprehended to be my political principles, now seriously declare and avow my principles to be the following, to wit :

That I solemnly declare, that I justify and voluntarily adopt the resolutions of this General Assembly, in using force against force, at or near to Boston, in opposing the ministerial troops : and that we, of this colony, have good cause to withstand, and to our utmost, oppose the mandatory edicts of the British Parliament, to enslave the inhabitants of this country, and compel them by force to submit to vassalage ; and, in consequence of which, an army has been sent into Boston, and is now there ; and from henceforward I (if needed,) will co-operate with my countrymen in their opposition, &c.

EDWARD COLE.

And the said petition and declaration being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said declaration be accepted by this Assembly ; and that His Honor the Deputy Governor, be requested to grant the petitioner a pass, agreeably to the prayer of his petition.

It is voted and resolved, that five hundred good and effective men, be immediately raised, as soldiers for the defence of the colony, for one year, unless dismissed before ; that proper officers be appointed to command them ; and that John Sayles, Jr., Eseek Hopkins and Henry Marchant, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to prepare an act accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that John Dexter, William Greene, Paul Mumford and Thomas Church, Esqs., be a committee, to examine the prisoners taken into custody by General Hopkins, and make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be ; and that General Hopkins be requested to attend said committee.

It is voted and resolved, that the soldiers on Jamestown, be reinforced with a sufficient number of men, to be immediately raised by John Northup, Esq., if necessary, with the assistance of Col. Brown.

And that Col. Brown send such officer or officers to command such men, as he shall think proper ; and that said troops be under the commanding officer now on Jamestown.

It is voted and resolved, that the conduct of General Hopkins, in respect to taking into his possession, in behalf of the colony, the estates of George Rome, Benjamin Brenton, the heirs of Andrew Oliver, Esq., deceased ; Jahleel Brenton and Thomas Hutchinson, as persons inimical to the true interest of

the colony, be approved of ; and that the said estates be kept in the possession of those persons appointed by the general, in behalf of the colony ; and that they account to the colony for the back and future rents, and profits thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Kings county, be, and he is hereby, directed to take possession, in behalf of the colony, of a certain farm on Point Judith, in the county of Kings county, in the possession of Silas Niles, and of the stock of every kind thereon, belonging to Samuel Sewall, now in Boston ; and that the said farm and stock be let out ; that the said Silas Niles account for all back rents due to the said sheriff, in behalf of the colony.

That the said sheriff be, and he is hereby, ordered to take into possession a certain farm in Exeter, in said county, belonging to the said Samuel Sewall, with all the stock thereon, belonging to the said Sewall, and to let out the same in behalf of the colony, and account therefor, on demand ; that David Austin, the present tenant account with the said sheriff, in behalf of the colony, for all back rents due.

That the said farms be rented to the present tenants, they giving bond to the general treasurer, for the payment to the said general treasurer, of the rents back, and the rents hereafter arising.

And that in like manner the said sheriff take into his possession the estate of Dr. Thomas Moffatt, situate in North Kingstown, in said county, now in possession of Charles Dyer ; and that he act and do therewith, as above ordered, respecting the estate of the said Samuel Sewall.

It is voted and resolved, that the real estate lately belonging to John Borland, late of Cambridge, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, deceased, lying in the county of Bristol, in this colony, with the stock thereon, be forthwith taken into possession by the sheriff of said county of Bristol, in behalf of this colony ; and that he rent the same to the present tenant, provided he will give as high rent for the same, as any other person ; and that he give bond to the general treasurer for the payment of all back rents, and for all rents hereafter arising.

That the sheriff of the county of Kings county, take into his possession all such real estate in that county, lately belonging to the said John Boriand, with such stocks as may belong to the heirs of the said John Borland ; and that he rent the same to the present tenants, provided they will give as much therefor, as any other person, and give bond to the general treasurer for the payment of all back rents due, and for such rents as shall hereafter arise.

It is voted and resolved, that this Assembly, having a due sense of the spirited conduct of Col. Robert Brown, of South Kingstown, in his late exertions for the relief of the town of Jamestown, do hereby present him the thanks of this Assembly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that he be requested to give his attendance before this Assembly for their further information.

It is voted and resolved, that a messenger be immediately dispatched to Lieut. Col. Pierce, and to Capt. Simeon Clarke, Jr., of Richmond, requiring their immediate attendance on this Assembly.

An Act dividing the First Trained Band, or Company of Militia, in the town of South Kingstown, into two companies.

It is voted and resolved, that the further consideration of the bill for freeing negro slaves, now pending before this Assembly, be referred to the next session.

That in the mean time, a copy thereof, be published in the Newport and Providence newspapers.

And that the deputies of each town in the colony, lay the same before their constituents, in town meeting, and obtain their opinions thereon, and present the same to this General Assembly, at their next session.

Whereas, Messrs. James Rhodes and Gideon Hoxsie, who were appointed a committee to remove all the stock from Block

Island, exhibited unto this Assembly an account of the stock taken from said island, belonging to sundry persons, together with the valuation, thereof, as follows, to wit :

*Account of Sheep and Lambs taken by the Colony, from Block Island, September 2, 1775.*

	£	s.	d.
Giles Pierce, two hundred and forty-one fat sheep and lambs, at £6 10s., per score	-	-	78 06 6
John Paine, seventy-eight sheep, at £6 10s., per score	-	-	25 03 0
Walter Rathbun, seventeen " " " "	-	-	5 10 6
Abel Franklin, thirty-two " " " "	-	-	10 18 0
John Littlefield, sixty-two " " " "	-	-	20 03 0
Capt. John Sands, one hundred and five sheep, at £6 10s., per score,			34 02 6
Edward Sands, Jr., twenty	-	"	6 10 0
Joshua Sands, Esq., five	-	"	1 12 6
Henry Willis, Jr. fifteen	-	"	5 07 6
Samuel Rathbun, four	-	"	1 06 0
John Barber, ninety-six	-	"	31 04 0
Thomas Dickens, eleven	-	"	3 11 6
John Mott, two lambs	-	"	0 13 0
Hezekiah Dodge, three lambs	-	"	0 17 6
Benjamin Sheffield, six	"	"	1 19 0
Henry Littlefield, two	"	"	0 13 0
John Mitchell, five	"	"	1 12 6
Thomas Mitchell, nine	"	"	2 18 6
Jeremiah Mitchell, one	"	"	0 06 6
John Littlefield, forty three lambs	-	"	13 19 6
Capt. John Sands, one hundred and sixty-nine store sheep and lambs, at £5, per score	-	-	42 05 0
John Littlefield, one hundred and forty-eight sheep, at £5, per score,			37 00 0
John Barber, one hundred and seventy-five " " "	-	-	43 15 0
Thomas Mitchell, twenty-seven	-	"	6 15 0
John Mitchell, ten	-	"	2 10 0
Jonathan Mitchell, ten	-	"	2 10 0
Joseph Mitchell, three	-	"	0 15 0
George Franklin, eight	-	"	2 00 0
Henry Littlefield, five	-	"	1 05 0
Nathaniel Littlefield, twelve	-	"	3 00 0
Edward Sands, Jr., twenty-nine	-	"	7 95 0
Joshua Sands, four	-	"	1 00 0
Ezekiel Sheffield, fourteen	-	"	3 10 0
Henry Willis, two	-	"	0 10 0
John Mott, one	-	"	0 05 0
Giles Pierce, four hundred and forty-one	"	"	110 05 0
Abel Franklin, twenty-eight	-	"	7 00 0
John Paine, twenty-three	-	"	5 15 0

	£	s.	d.
Walter Rathbun, nine sheep, at £5, per score	-	-	2 05 0
Nathaniel Littlefield, Jr., six sheep, at £5, per score	-	-	1 10 0
Henry Willis, Jr., ten	"	"	2 16 0
Tornut Rose, six	"	"	1 10 0
Daniel Mott, four	"	"	1 00 0
Jeremiah Mitchell, three	"	"	0 15 0
Ezekiel Rose, four	"	"	1 00 0
Total sheep and lambs, one thousand nine hundred and eight.			£534 09 6

And the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £534 9s. 6d., lawful money, be paid out of the general treasury to the persons to whom the same is respectively due, as mentioned in said account.

Whereas, Mr. Sylvester Gardner and Benjamin Gardner, who were appointed a committee, to remove the stock from Jamestown, and to appoint a committee to appraise the same, presented unto this Assembly the following account of the stock removed from the said island, and appraisement thereof, to wit:

*Account of Stock taken by the Colony, from Jamestown,  
August 30, 1775.*

	£	s.	d.
Samuel Carr, one ox, one cow and twelve sheep	-	-	20 10 0
		£	s. d.
Isaac Howland, six oxen, two heifers	-	-	64 04 0
" " thirty-four sheep and one lamb, at 9s. 5 1-2d.,	16 10 9	80 14 9	
Pain Hammond, four oxen and two bulls	-	-	45 00 0
Joseph and Benjamin Underwood, two oxen and one cow	21 00 0		
" " " seventeen sheep, at 8s. 3d.	7 00 3	28 00 3	
Daniel Weeden, Jr., one heifer and one steer	-	-	8 08 0
" " twenty-five sheep	-	-	12 16 3
Edward Carr, two oxen and one cow	-	-	28 04 0
Nicholas Carr, two oxen	-	-	21 10 0
Benjamin Carr, two oxen	-	-	15 18 0
" " twenty-one sheep, at 9s.	-	-	9 09 0
George Tew, one ox	-	-	11 08 0
John Eldred, one cow	-	-	7 17 6
" " twenty-four sheep, at 9s.	-	-	10 16 0
		18 13 6	

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Isaac Pierce, four oxen, one cow, four heifers and one steer,	68	18	0			
“ “ one cow - - - - -	6	00	0			
“ “ one hundred and twenty-five sheep, at 9s.	- 56	05	0	131	03	0
Gershom Remington, two oxen - - - - -				21	00	0
Hazard Knowles, three oxen and two heifers - - - - -	- 31	17	6			
“ “ three heifers, two steers and one bull - - - - -	- 19	16	0			
“ “ twenty-nine sheep, at 8s. 3d.	- 11	19	3	66	12	9
Daniel Carpenter, five heifers - - - - -	24	00	0			
“ “ two oxen - - - - -	- 19	00	0			
“ “ one hundred sheep, at 9s.	- 45	00	0	88	00	0
James Carr, Jr., two oxen - - - - -	- 18	00	0			
“ “ three heifers - - - - -	- 9	12	0	27	12	0
Josiah Arnold, Esq., one cow, four heifers and two bulls - - - - -				35	09	6
John Howland, two oxen - - - - -	- 19	16	0			
“ “ twenty-six sheep - - - - -	- 11	14	0	31	11	6
William Battey, two oxen - - - - -				21	00	0
Thomas Fowler, two heifers and one steer - - - - -	- 12	18	0			
“ “ one cow - - - - -	- 5	05	0			
“ “ twenty sheep, at 9s.	- 9	00	0	27	03	0
James Carr, two oxen - - - - -	- 14	17	0			
“ “ ten sheep - - - - -	- 4	10	0	19	07	0
Daniel Weeden, two oxen - - - - -	- 24	00	0			
“ “ one cow - - - - -	- 5	16	0			
“ “ one heifer - - - - -	- 5	00	0	34	16	0
Abraham Chace, two oxen - - - - -	- 19	04	0			
“ “ one heifer - - - - -	- 3	06	0	22	10	0
John Martin, two oxen - - - - -				23	12	6
				£850 09 0		

And the said account being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £850 9s., lawful money, be paid out of the general treasury, to the several persons to whom the same is respectively due, as mentioned in said account.

Whereas, the town council of the town of Newport, presented a memorial to this Assembly, setting forth the distressed situation of the town, occasioned by the withholding from the ministerial fleet, stationed in the harbor of Newport, their usual supplies of fresh beef, beer, &c.; in consequence of which, the ferry boats, market boats, fish boats and wood vessels, are prevented from coming to the town with their usual supplies of provisions and fuel, for the use of the inhabitants;

by means, whereof, together with a stagnation of trade, they are now exposed to all those dreadful consequences which must inevitably arise through the want of the common necessaries of life.

And thereupon prayed this Assembly to take into their most serious consideration, the truly affecting state of that once happy town, and to grant them such relief in the premises, as shall be thought proper, consistently with the common interest; and this Assembly taking the subject matter of the said memorial into their most serious consideration,—

It is voted and resolved, that the town of Newport may, for the safety thereof, as far as may consist with the general safety, negotiate with Capt. Wallace, for the supplying the ships there with beef, beer, &c., as heretofore, upon his stipulating that the ferry boats, wood boats, with their passengers, &c., pass and repass unmolested, with the common supplies for the town, of the common and usual necessaries of life.

That the commander in chief upon the said island, be instructed to permit said negotiation, and regulate the supplies for said ships.

And that he, from time to time, remove the troops under his command, from place to place, as he shall think may best tend to the general safety, and the peace and happiness of the town of Newport; paying the greatest attention to, and having the tenderest concern for, the true and lasting peace, support and relief, thereof; still having an eye and just preference to the general safety, and the common cause of America.

It is voted and resolved, that the declaration made by Col. Edward Cole, and by him signed before this Assembly, be printed in the Providence newspaper.

It is voted and resolved, that £200, lawful money, be allowed for the relief of the poor of the town of Newport, and paid out of the general treasury, to the overseers of the poor of said town of Newport.

That the moneys be first applied towards the immediate removal of such of the poor as are not now chargeable, and are not able, but are willing, to remove from the town; and that



the remainder be appropriated for the support of such poor persons as may choose to remain there.

That William Vernon and John Read, be added to the overseers, to assist about the removal of such poor.

That those poor persons who shall be immediately removed, carry a certificate with them ; and if they become chargeable in such towns, that they be maintained by the colony.

An Act establishing an independent company in the county of Kings county, by the name of the Kingstown Reds.

[See printed Schedule, for this act.]

An Act establishing an independent troop of horse in the county of Providence, by the name of the Captain General's Cavaliers, for the county of Providence.

[See printed Schedule, for this act.]

It is voted and resolved, that the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Ambrose Page, Esq., James Arnold, Jr., Esq., Jonathan Randall, Esq., John Sayles, Jr., Esq. and Henry Ward, Esq. ; Metcalfe Bowler, Joseph Anthony, William Bradford, Joshua Babcock, John Jenckes, John Smith, John Mathewson, John Dexter, Job Olney, Stephen Whipple, William Greene, Paul Mumford and John Potter, Esqs., or any seven of them, together also with all such members of the General Assembly, as shall be present, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to act during the recess of the General Assembly, upon any sudden important emergency, with full power to take all prudent and necessary measures for the safety of the United Colonies in general, and this colony, in particular.

That they be empowered to employ the two armed vessels, and the whole force of the colony, in such manner as they shall think the public interest and safety shall require ; and that this act continue in force until the next session of the Assembly.

Complaint being made to this Assembly, that divers people, taking an undue advantage of the consternation and distresses of the town of Newport, have exacted most exorbitant prices

for the removal and wharfage of the goods of the inhabitants of said town ;—

It is therefore resolved, that William Richmond, John Cooke, Samuel Dyer, John Barker and John Jepson, Esqs., or the major part of them, be, and hereby are, appointed a committee to state the price for every cart load of goods from the said town to the different parts of the island ; and also of the wharfage and transportation, thereof, over any of the ferries from Rhode Island.

That any one of the said committee be, and hereby are, empowered to press carts and teams for the removal of the goods of the said inhabitants.

And that in case any person shall demand a greater price than shall be so fixed, for the removal of goods, he or they, so offending, shall forfeit and pay, as a fine (one half to the informer, and the other half to and for the use of the town where the offence shall be committed), the sum of £3, lawful money, to be recovered by the town treasurer, before any justice of the peace in the county of Newport.

An Act for embodying, supplying and paying a regiment, consisting of five hundred men, for the defence of the United Colonies in general, and of this colony, in particular.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that five hundred men, field and commissioned officers included, be enlisted, raised and embodied, with all expedition and dispatch, and be formed into one regiment, under the command of one colonel, one lieutenant colonel and one major ; that there be one adjutant and one quartermaster.

That each field officer's company be commanded, under such field officer, by one captain-lieutenant, one lieutenant and one ensign ; and each of the other companies, by one captain, one lieutenant and one ensign ; and that said regiment consist of eight companies.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

each able bodied man, who shall enlist into the service, and find himself a small arm, bayonet and other accoutrements, shall be allowed and paid sixteen shillings, therefor.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each officer and soldier shall receive the following monthly wages, while in the service, to wit :

	£	s.
The colonel	15	00
“ lieutenant colonel	12	00
“ major	10	00
“ captain-lieutenants and each captain	6	00
“ lieutenant	4	00
“ ensign	3	10
“ adjutant	5	10
“ quartermaster	3	00
“ sergeant	2	08
“ corporal, drummer and fifer	2	04

Each private man, forty shillings per month ; and that his first month's wages be advanced at the time of his enlistment.

And be it further enacted, that each soldier shall have a blanket and knapsack given him by the colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each soldier be enlisted by signing the following enlistment, to wit :

*Form of Enlistment.*

*I, the subscriber, hereby solemnly engage and enlist myself as a soldier, in the pay of the colony of Rhode Island, for the preservation of the liberties of America, and the defence of the United Colonies in general, and of this colony in particular, from the day of my enlistment for one year, unless the service admit of a discharge sooner, which shall be at the discretion of the General Assembly ; and I hereby promise to submit myself to all the orders and regulations of the army, and faithfully to observe and obey all such orders as I shall receive from time to time, from my officers.*

And be it further enacted, that no officer or soldier be arrested, prosecuted or detained in jail, for any debt, whatsoever, less than £15, lawful money, due to one creditor.

And that every apprentice who shall enlist into the said regiment, shall be entitled to three-quarters of his wages, he finding his own clothes; and his master the other quarter; provided, he deliver to such enlisted apprentice all the wearing apparel he shall then be possessed of; but in case he shall not do so, that then the said apprentice shall take the whole of his wages.

And be it further enacted, that Eseek Hopkins, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed commander in chief of said regiment, and the regiments of militia in the county of Newport, with the title and rank of brigadier general.

That he be empowered to fill up all vacancies of commissioned officers, till further order of the General Assembly; and that he be allowed the sum of £20 per month.

And be it further enacted, that said regiment be embodied for twelve months, from the rising of the General Assembly, unless sooner disbanded.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John Jenckes and John Potter be a committee to purchase of Mr. John Brown, for the use of the colony, all the powder he has to sell.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Providence, forthwith take into possession the shop and house, situate, lying and being in the town of Providence; being the estate of Gilbert Deblois, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, merchant; together with all other interest and estate of the said Gilbert Deblois, in the county of Providence.

That he lease the same to the present tenant, he paying as much therefor, as any other person, and giving security to the general treasurer for the payment of all rents now due, and that may hereafter arise.

That the said sheriff take into his possession all the goods in said shop, together with the books of accounts of James Hill;

notifying him to attend this House, forthwith, that he may be examined touching the property of the said Gilbert Deblois.

And that the said sheriff take into his possession the shop of John and Jonathan Simpson, of said Boston, situate in said Providence, and lease the same to the present tenants, they giving as much therefor, as any other person; and giving security to the general treasurer for the payment of all rents already due, and for such as shall become due, to the said general treasurer.

An Act dividing the Company of Militia in the town of Richmond, into two companies.

[See printed Schedule, for this act.]

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport, take into his possession the house and estate of Ralph Inman, situate in Newport, now in possession of the widow Partridge; and that he lease the same to the present tenant, she paying therefor as much as any other person, and giving security to the general treasurer for the payment of all rents due, and that may hereafter arise.

Whereas, Messrs. Joseph Dennison, 2d, and Company, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by them charged against the colony, for the amount of the schooner Polly, taken by the enemy while in the colony's service, removing stock from Block Island; and also for the amount of the charter of the sloop Hector, employed in the abovementioned service, and charges of provision, wages, &c.; and also for sundries supplied the soldiers, who went on Block Island in said service; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £374 1s. 10d., lawful money, be paid to the said Joseph Dennison, 2d, and Company, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. Benjamin Bosworth, who was appointed to remove the stock from the island of Prudence, belonging to sun-

dry persons, and to cause the same to be valued, presented unto this Assembly an account and valuation thereof, as follows, to wit :

[The total appraisement, in lawful money, amounted to £530 6s. 10d.]

An Act for the punishment of persons who shall be found guilty of holding a traitorous correspondence with the ministry of Great Britain, or any of their officers or agents ; or of supplying the ministerial army or navy, that now is, or may be, employed in America, against the United Colonies, with provisions, cannon, arms, ammunition, warlike or naval stores, or of acting as pilots on board any of their ships and vessels.

Whereas, the ministry of Great Britain, have, for several years last past, steadily pursued a plan for subjecting the inhabitants of the British colonies, in America, to an absolute, unconditioned state of slavery ; and have proceeded at length to the burning of our towns, and spreading desolation and slaughter, as far as it hath been in their power, through the country, in a manner totally inconsistent with the practice of civilized nations, and unworthy of the reputation formerly sustained by British troops.

And whereas, the aforesaid colonies have been reduced to the fatal necessity of taking up arms, in defence of those inestimable rights and liberties, which they derive from the unerring laws of nature, and the fundamental principles of the British constitution ; and which they cannot resign, but with their lives.

And whereas, several of the inhabitants of the said colonies, lost to every generous sentiment of liberty, of love to their country, and posterity, have kept up a traitorous correspondence with, and supplied the ministerial troops and navy ; and some of them have acted as pilots on board their ships and vessels, whereby the safety and liberties of the said colonies may be greatly endangered.

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by

the authority thereof, it is enacted, that if any of the inhabitants of the said colonies, within this colony, or any of the inhabitants of this colony, within any other colony, shall be found guilty of holding a traitorous correspondence with the ministry of Great Britain, or any of their officers or agents; or of supplying the ministerial army or navy, that now is, or may be, employed in America, against the United Colonies, with provisions, cannon, arms, ammunition, warlike or naval stores; or of acting as pilots on board any of their ships or vessels, he or they, so offending, shall suffer the pains of death, as in cases of felony; and shall forfeit his lands, goods and chattels, to the colony, to be disposed of by the General Assembly, as they shall think fit; all necessary charges of prosecution, condemnation and execution, being first deducted.

And that all offences against this act, shall be cognizable before the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery of this colony.

Provided, nevertheless, that the negotiation and treaty of the town council with Capt. Wallace, respecting the supplying the ships of war stationed in the harbor of Newport, and the regulations thereof, by the commanding officer, allowed of by this General Assembly, at this present session, be, and the same is hereby, excepted out of this act.

And be it further enacted by this General Assembly, that this act be in force in ten days after the rising of this Assembly; and that a copy, thereof, be published in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that £20,000, lawful money bills, be immediately printed, to supply the treasury, for paying off and discharging all the colony's debts, whether on security or otherwise; and that the bills be signed by Metcalfe Bowler, Henry Ward, Joseph Clarke, John Cole, Thomas Greene, John G. Wanton and John Dexter, Esqs.

That all bills under five shillings, be signed by two of the committee, and all the other bills by three of the committee.

That the same shall be a lawful tender in discharge of all

contracts, debts, dues and demands, whether of a public or private nature ; that said bills carry no interest.

That the whole of said bills be redeemed in five years from the time of emission, by a general tax, to be levied on the inhabitants of this colony ; and that said bills shall be of the following value, to wit :

1,500, of forty shillings, each, is	-	-	£3,000
3,000, “ thirty “ “	-	-	4,500
4,000, “ twenty “ “	-	-	4,000
5,000, “ ten “ “	-	-	2,500
6,000, “ five “ “	-	-	1,500
8,000, “ three “ “	-	-	1,200
12,000, “ two “ “	-	-	1,200
20,000, “ one “ “	-	-	1,000
16,000, “ nine pence “	-	-	600
20,000, “ six “ “	-	-	500
			<hr/>
Total	-	-	£20,000

Which bills, shall be of the following form :

*The possessor of this bill shall be paid, by the general treasurer of the colony of Rhode Island, ———, lawful money, within five years from the date hereof. By order of the General Assembly. Providence, the 6th day of November, A. D. 1775.*

And on the said bills, there shall be the same impression and motto, as on the lawful money bills, heretofore emitted ; and that said bills shall be redeemed at the rate of one silver Spanish milled dollar for every six shillings, or other silver and gold equivalent, agreeably to the law of this colony, declaring what shall be lawful money.

And that said bills be signed in the council chamber, in Providence, and not elsewhere.

Whereas, the Viper sloop of war, took the sloop Polly,



Samuel Barnes, master, belonging to New York, bound from Antigua to New York, and put a midshipman as prize master, with several hands, on board, with orders to proceed with the said vessel and cargo to Boston; and also put on board Isaac Eslick, of Bristol, in this colony, as pilot of said sloop; promising the said Eslick, that in case he piloted the said sloop faithfully into the harbor of Boston, they would deliver up to him a boat taken from him, with the goods on board her, then in the possession of one of the enemy's ships.

But the said Eslick, with two of the men belonging to said sloop, who were left on board, having with great address brought the said sloop into Seaconnet River, so that she, with her cargo, were recovered out of the hands of the enemy, and taken into the possession and care of General Eseck Hopkins, and thereby the said Isaac Eslick hath lost all hopes of recovering his said boat and goods; and, as in justice and equity, satisfaction and encouragement, in such cases, ought to be made and given,—

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of \$250, be paid to the said Isaac Eslick, and \$50, to each of the other persons, instrumental in saving the said sloop and cargo out of the enemy's hands, out of the value of the said sloop and cargo, in proportion to the properties of the several owners.

And that, upon the payment of the said sum, together with all the costs and charges that have arisen upon the said sloop and cargo, since her being in the possession of the said Eseck Hopkins, and upon proof of their respective properties, the said Eseck Hopkins deliver the said sloop and cargo to the owners of the same, respectively; David Currie, one of the principal freighters of the goods on board the said sloop, having appeared before this House, and declared himself satisfied with the above order.

It is voted and resolved, that the inhabitants of Nantucket, upon producing certificates from the committee of correspondence, of Falmouth, specifying any particular articles of provisions and necessaries, with the quantities, may purchase and ship from any town in this colony, such articles, first applying

to the committee of correspondence ; and having inserted in the certificate, the quantity of each article, and giving his or their security, in double the value of the goods, to transmit to the said committee of Falmouth, within four months from receiving the same, an account, thereof, with a certificate from the selectmen of Nantucket, that the same was landed there, and was necessary for the internal consumption of the inhabitants.

It is voted and resolved, that Ambrose Page, Esq., be requested to procure the two row galleys, belonging to the colony, to be immediately completed fit for service ; and that he draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £400, lawful money, for the purpose, aforesaid.

Whereas, a number of accounts were laid before this Assembly, by sundry persons, charged against the colony, for their respective services, and sundries by them supplied, for the use of the troops who went to Bristol, on the alarm of the 7th inst. ; and the said accounts being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and are hereby, allowed ; and that the several sums by them charged, be paid out of the general treasury, to the persons to whom the same are due respectively.

Whereas, a number of persons, considering the distressed situation of their debtors, occasioned by the restrictions of trade, have not commenced suits against them, for the recovery of their just debts ; and thereby, if the statute of limitations in personal actions, should continue in force, may lose the same ;—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that the statute of limitations in personal actions, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

An Act declaring the office of Governor of this colony, vacant.

Whereas, this General Assembly, at the session held at Providence, on the first Wednesday in May last, made and passed an act (for divers weighty reasons therein mentioned,)

to prevent the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq., who was chosen Governor of this colony, at the general election held on the said first Wednesday in May, from acting in the said office ; which act hath been continued from session to session, until now, without proceeding to declare the said office vacant, from a tender regard to the said Joseph Wanton ; and in order to give him an opportunity of making due satisfaction for his former conduct, and of convincing this General Assembly of his friendly disposition to the United Colonies, in general, and to this colony, in particular.

And whereas, the said Joseph Wanton, by the whole course of his behaviour, since the passing of the said act, hath continued to demonstrate that he is inimical to the rights and liberties of America, and is thereby rendered totally unfit to sustain the said office.

And whereas, the calamities of the present times, make it necessary for this General Assembly to avail themselves of the advantages given them by charter, and the fundamental principles of the constitution ;—

This General Assembly do therefore resolve and declare, and by the authority thereof, it is resolved and declared, that the said Joseph Wanton hath justly forfeited the office of Governor of this colony ; and that thereby the said office is become vacant.

Whereas, sundry persons laid before this Assembly, accounts by them charged against the colony, for billeting a number of persons who went to the assistance of the town of East Greenwich, to disperse the rioters assembled with Stephen Arnold, Esq., in September last ; and the said accounts being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that upon the said Stephen Arnold's paying £15, lawful money, of said expense, the following sums be paid out of the general treasury, to wit :

	£	s.	d.
To William Arnold	-	-	-
Preserved Pearce	-	-	-
Oliver Arnold	-	-	-
	10	00	03
	5	05	07
	4	01	00

	£	s.	d.
Richard Mathewson	11	07	10
Caleb Arnold	1	05	05

Whereas, Henry Ward, Esq., exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the colony, for his attendance upon His Honor the Deputy Governor, at Cambridge, to assist the committee appointed by the Continental Congress, to confer with General Washington, upon the best methods for forming, establishing and regulating a Continental army; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £7 4s., lawful money, be paid the said Henry Ward, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that any and all deeds or conveyances of any of the real estates of George Rome, Jahleel Brenton and Benjamin Brenton, all of Newport; of Ralph Inman, Gilbert Deblois and Samuel Sewall, all of Boston; of Thomas Hutchinson, late of Boston; of Thomas Moffatt, now or late of New London; of the heirs of Andrew Oliver and John Borland, both late of Boston, deceased, lying and being within this colony, made and executed by any of them since the 5th day of October last past, and not placed to record at or before that time; or that hereafter may be made, be, and the same are hereby, declared void, to all intents and purposes, whatever.

It is voted and resolved, that the rules and orders for regulating the army of observation, raised by this colony, made and passed by the General Assembly, at the session held at East Greenwich, on the second Monday in June last, be, and the same are hereby, extended to the regiment now ordered to be raised and embodied for the defence of this colony; and that said regiment be governed thereby.

It is voted and resolved, that all the mortgage deeds, bonds and other securities, belonging to the grand committee's office, be immediately removed from the town of Newport, to the town of Providence, by the keeper of the said office; and in

case that he shall decline removing the same, it be done by the sheriff of the county of Newport ; and that they be lodged in the secretary's office, until further orders from the General Assembly.

Whereas, Mr. Benjamin Crane, presented unto this Assembly the following confession and declaration, to wit :

*Confession and Declaration of Benjamin Crane, to the General Assembly.*

To the Honorable General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, now sitting in Providence :

Some time about the 12th instant, I was on board a sloop, near Hope Island, that formerly belonged to Mr. John Brown, of Providence, and then in the care of Thomas Gilbert.

The reason I went on board said sloop was, that I heard said Gilbert was on board, and thought he might be serviceable to me, in getting some money which I have due in Boston ; and when I was about to return home, I was persuaded by said Gilbert to take a number of letters to his friends in the country ; and I acknowledge I am heartily sorry I have been guilty of so imprudent a conduct, as it since appears to me to be ; and I heartily beg forgiveness of Your Honors, and promise that my future conduct shall be agreeable to my confession, as I am fully determined to risk my life and fortune in the cause of American liberty.

These are the free and voluntary sentiments of Your Honors's most humble servant,—

BENJAMIN CRANE.

And the said confession and declaration being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be satisfactory to this General Assembly, and therefore the said Benjamin Crane is discharged from his confinement ; and that his boat be delivered to him, he paying all the charges of his being apprehended, and of his confinement.

Whereas, Mr. Ambrose Cleveland presented unto this Assembly, the following confession and declaration, to wit :

*Confession and Declaration of Ambrose Cleveland, to the General Assembly.*

To the Honorable General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, now sitting at Providence :

Whereas, the memorial of Ambrose Cleveland, acknowledges he is wrong in signing Brigadier Ruggles's Association, under Colonel Gilbert, and training under said

Gilbert for two days, and going to Boston, and working at the King's works; and likewise of my saying I could pilot the fleet as far as Bowers's; all which, I am heartily sorry for, and for the future I am determined to stand for the rights and liberties of my country, as far as lies in my power.

I therefore beg the Honorable House will forgive me, and pray that I may be received as a friend to my country.

I am, with regard, Your Honors' most obedient, humble servant,  
AMBROSE CLEVELAND.

And the said memorial being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Ambrose Cleveland be discharged from his confinement, upon condition that he immediately proceed to Freetown, of which he is an inhabitant; and that he does not, on any pretence, remove out of said town for one year from the date hereof, and paying all the charges of his being apprehended, and his confinement.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Joseph Brown and Eseck Hopkins, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to go through this colony, and determine in what places it may be necessary to erect batteries or entrenchments for the defence of this colony; and in what towns to provide field pieces, specifying the number, the bore and the weight of metal; and also whether any fire ships are necessary, and what number, and in what places it will be proper to sink hulks, &c.

That the said committee make report to the grand committee of safety, appointed to act during the recess of the General Assembly.

That the commander in chief of this colony call the said grand committee together, to consider of the said report, by advertising them, and all the members of the General Assembly, of the time and place of meeting, by an advertisement to be inserted in the Newport Mercury (if continued to be published,) and Providence Gazette, one week before the time of meeting.

That the said grand committee take the same into consideration; and in case they shall approve the said report, or any part thereof, the said Joseph Brown and Eseck Hopkins be

empowered to carry the same into execution ; and, under the direction of the said grand committee, to draw such sums of money out of the general treasury, as shall, from time to time be necessary for the said purposes ; and that the troops ordered at this session to be raised, be employed in the aforesaid service, as much as may be.

Whereas, Mr. George Wightman, Jr., presented unto this Assembly, the following petition and declaration, to wit :

*Petition and Declaration of George Wightman, to the General Assembly.*

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., now sitting at Providence :

Whereas, Your Honors have been pleased to admit of my presence, wherein I endeavored to relate the plain truths respecting my being accused of supplying the enemy, and now have no just reason to imagine that I have deviated from it, except that I am too apt to speak with an unbecoming warmth, in justification of my own conduct.

Therefore, I pray Your Honors may forgive and consider my weakness and inability to address such a number of worthy members, who are constituted to represent this our unhappy colony, and again be entreated to hear patiently your humble petitioner's present unhappy situation, with those of my aged and honored parents, wife and children.

I hereby acknowledge that I have heretofore, from time to time, as opportunity in public and private may have offered, been inimical to the just rights and privileges of this, my native country, and was fully persuaded that the right and power of His present Majesty, and all the laws enacted by him and his ministers, were and ought ever to be binding in all cases on every subject in Britain and America ; but Your Honors may be, and are hereby, assured that I never have supplied or agreed to supply, any ship or vessel belonging to His Majesty, except by compulsion, notwithstanding I was of this sentiment.

And seeing the present destruction and calamities of my country in general, and this colony, in particular, with the cruel and horrid exertions of His Majesty's forces put in execution against us, I utterly deny and abhor these their proceedings ; and if Your Honors may be entreated to suffer me again to be admitted to your favors, and to the favor of all my distressed countrymen, I hereby heartily engage, from a just conviction of my erroneous sentiments, that I will, for the time to come, lend all my reasonable assistance in endeavoring to oppose the present proceedings of His Majesty's ministers against this once happy country, and do hereby sincerely implore the forgiveness of this Honorable General Assembly.

And that I may be restored to their favors, I do hereby promise that my future conduct shall be subservient to the rules of the Honorable the Continental Congress, and the orders of this Honorable Assembly.      GEORGE WIGHTMAN, JR.

And the said memorial being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be satisfactory to this General Assembly ; and that the petitioner be discharged, upon condition that he does not go a freighting in his own boat or any other, for the term of six months from the date hereof ; and pay all charges which have arisen upon his being apprehended and confined.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, Thos. Greene and Gideon Mumford, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed to wait on the Honorable the Continental Congress as soon as conveniently may be, to receive of the said Congress what is due from the United Colonies, to this colony, and to give discharges ; and that they carry all the accounts and vouchers with them.

It is voted and resolved, that the delegates of this colony at the Continental Congress, and Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, Esqs., who are appointed a committee to receive the money due from the United Colonies, to this colony, or any three of them, are hereby fully empowered finally to adjust the accounts carried by the said committee, and to make such deductions therefrom, as shall appear to them contrary to the allowances made to the other colonies, and reasonable.

Whereas, the Honorable Darius Sessions, Esq., presented unto this Assembly, the following memorial, to wit :

*Memorial of Darius Sessions, to the General Assembly.*

To the Honorable General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, to be holden at Providence, the 31st day of October, A. D. 1775 :

The memorial of Darius Sessions, of said Providence, humbly sheweth :

That at a session of the General Assembly, in April last, an act passed for raising and embodying fifteen hundred men, for the defence of the colony, &c. ; against which, your memorialist entered a protest,\* expressed in terms which greatly displeased the General Assembly and the good people of the colony, for which he is very sorry, and now craves their forgiveness ; and as he is in principle a friend to

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\* See page 311.



the liberties of America, it is his determination to unite and co-operate with his countrymen in defending all our invaluable rights and privileges.

I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,  
DARIUS SESSIONS.

And the said memorial being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be accepted ; that it is fully satisfactory to this General Assembly ; and that the Honorable Darius Sessions, Esq., be received into their favor and friendship.

The return of the choice of officers, for the United Artillery Company, in the county of Providence, was read in Council, and is as follows, to wit :

*Names of the Officers of the Providence United Company of Artillery.*

Levi Hall, was chosen lieutenant colonel, in the room of Daniel Hitchcock.

Elihu Robinson, major, in the room of John Crane.

Robert Taylor, captain, in the room of Elihu Robinson.

Daniel Stillwell, lieutenant fire-worker.

Which being duly considered by the Council,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby are, approved.

Whereas, Mr. John Dennis presented unto this Assembly, the following memorial, to wit :

*Memorial of John Dennis, to the General Assembly.*

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., now sitting at Providence :

The humble representation and memorial of John Dennis, of Prudence Island, in the township of Portsmouth, in said colony, merchant, humbly sheweth :

That your memorialist deems it his greatest happiness to have been born and educated in a country where the love of liberty, to an eminent degree, is the characteristic of its inhabitants ; and rejoices that he is allowed the favor of making application to this Honorable Assembly, who have nobly exerted themselves, in a most just and patriotic opposition to that system of tyranny and despotism designed for en-

slaving the American colonies. He has ever gloried in being a freeman of this colony, and a warm friend and well wisher to the liberties of America.

He has always justified the measures of the Continental Congress, in opposition to the British ministry, and is ready to contribute his full proportion, and give all reasonable assistance, towards prosecuting the present war, justly undertaken in defence of the United American colonies.

That these have been his general sentiments, he appeals to those who have been conversant and acquainted with him ever since this unhappy dispute subsisted between Great Britain and the colonies; but, *humanam est errare*; it is peculiar to mankind to commit errors, and the best may slip at an unguarded hour.

It is a great grief to your memorialist, that he has by any means given cause for any to suspect him as inimical to his country; he prays liberty to represent the circumstances which have occasioned this suspicion.

It is true, some conversation passed between him, Mr. Aaron Chace and Mr. Thomas Dennis, as contained in the evidence; he never thought of supplying the least article to our enemies, until it was accidentally mentioned in that discourse; but the prospect of a very great profit arising therefrom, and not properly minding that which chiefly ought to have been considered, the inestimable value of the American cause, the cause of our country, ourselves and posterity, led him foolishly to entertain discourse respecting the matter so far as he did.

But upon the reception of Mr. Chace's advice, and when he came seriously to reflect upon the folly and wickedness of supplying our inveterate enemies, although the gain might be ever so great, he was immediately sorry that he had expressed any thing that might have a tendency that way, and never did any thing in consequence of that conversation.

With respect to the evidence given in by Mr. Thomas Dennis, your memorialist saith, that he had been applied to by several gentlemen in Newport, to procure them potatoes, for the use of their respective families; and therefore he applied to him to freight them to Newport.

In regard to those potatoes which he has now by him at Prudence, he solemnly declares that he had not the least view or intention of selling them for the use of the British army or navy, or any of our enemies, or of putting them in such a situation that they would probably fall in their way; but that he purchased them with a sole view of sending them to Carolina; to these facts, he is ready to make solemn oath.

These are the circumstances which have caused a suspicion, that he is inimical to the American colonies; a suspicion, which gives him the greatest anxiety, because he is conscious of his innocence, and is very loth to incur the displeasure of the public.

He can have no ill design against his country; it would be contrary to his interest and principles; his expressions in his conversation, have never favored of disaffection or malice to the liberties of his countrymen; he has spoken two orations in their favor, at public commencements in this town; he has only offended in the aforementioned instance, for which he is extremely sorry; and as he wishes well to the American cause, and is heartily willing to do his best endeavors to assist in supporting it, he hopes that Your Honors will not be severe against him for that offence; he is extremely sorry that his imprudence has given Your Honors this trouble.

He prays for your clemency and compassion; and that if Your Honors are satisfied with this, his declaration, which he solemnly affirms to be true, that you would be pleased to dismiss him from his present arrest; and as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

JOHN DENNIS.

And the said memorial being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted ; that it is satisfactory, and that therefore the petitioner be discharged.

Whereas, Mr. Arthur Dennis presented unto this Assembly, the following petition, &c., to wit :

*Petition of Arthur Dennis, to the General Assembly.*

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., now sitting at Providence :

Arthur Dennis, of Providence Island, humbly sheweth :

That some time in the month of July last past, he was informed that Mr. Samuel Pearce had said that he, the said Arthur, had given intelligence to Capt. Wallace, respecting the packet which was taken by Capt. Abraham Whipple, of which the said Arthur was entirely innocent.

This caused him to enter into conversation with the said Pearce about the matter, as mentioned in his evidence now before Your Honors ; when he told him that he possibly might have an opportunity of conveying intelligence, and making much thereby ; but that he scorned doing such a thing ; but upon being threatened to be confined on board Captain Whipple's privateer, and other conversation passing, the said Arthur was put in a violent passion, which caused him to express himself in a very indecent, unbecoming manner, as mentioned in Mr. Pearce's evidence.

Soon after, Mr. William Pearce told him that the said Samuel Pearce designed to have him put on board Capt. Whipple's sloop ; which made the said Arthur very imprudently express himself in the manner as mentioned in said William Pearce's evidence, respecting giving intelligence to said Wallace, in order that he might take the said Samuel Pearce.

But he, the said Arthur, never did give any such intelligence ; and has since, although much unwell, appeared under arms in defence of the colony, when the town of Bristol was inhumanly attacked and fired upon by the ships of war.

He, the said Arthur, also did imprudently express himself to Capt. Angell and Samuel Olney, as in their several evidences before Your Honors, owing to passion and sudden surprise.

But, he the said Arthur, humbly represents to Your Honors, that although the said expressions were rash and unadvised, yet he has always been a friend and well wisher to all the measures undertaken in opposition to that system of tyranny, designed by the British Parliament to the American colonies ; and he is now both in principle and inclination, determined to support and maintain the defence of American liberty by all means in his power, against those unjust and tyrannical measures which are now pursuing by the British ministry ; and is determined at the risk of his life and fortune, to stand or fall with the Americans, in their present defence.

He is very sorry for this trouble which he has given Your Honors, and the loss of his reputation ; but he promises to Your Honors that his future conduct shall be according to the resolutions of the Continental Congress, and this House ; and there-

fore prays Your Honors that he may be restored to your favorable opinion and protection.

The said Arthur being now very much unwell, prays Your Honors that he may be dismissed; and, as in duty bound, will ever pray.      ARTHUR DENNIS.

And the premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said acknowledgment and declaration, be, and the same is hereby, accepted; that it is satisfactory to this Assembly, and that therefore the petitioner be discharged.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of King's county immediately take possession of those lands and estates, lying partly in North Kingstown and partly in Exeter, in said county, lately claimed by Samuel Sewall, and now in possession of Nicholas Gardner, Esq.; that he rent the same to the present tenant at the rent he now gives; provided, he gives bond to the general treasurer for the rent, as well for the back rent as the future.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. James Arnold, Jr., be empowered to procure plank and timber, for making platforms for the guns at the battery, at Pawtuxet.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Joseph Brown, Jabez Bowen and Joseph Snow, Jr., or any two of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to carry on, at the expense and risk of the colony, the manufacture of saltpeter.

That they collect as great a quantity of materials as they think they shall be able to use.

That they draw the sum of £150, out of the general treasury, for the said purpose; and that this Assembly will make them a suitable allowance for their services.

It is voted and resolved, that General Hopkins have power to appoint a secretary for the regiment now raising for the defence of the colony; and that he have the same wages as General Greene's secretary has.

It is voted and resolved, that there be a commissary and sutler appointed for the troops, under the command of General Hopkins; that he be allowed one and a half per cent. commis-

sions ; and that he give bond to the general treasurer, with one surety, in the sum of £500.

It is voted and resolved, that the trained band, or Company of Militia, in the town of Charlestown, be divided into two companies, by a line beginning where the Meadow Brook empties itself into the Salt Pond ; and thence running northerly, to Quacompaug Pond ; from thence, to the Great Cedar Swamp ; and from thence, as the brook runs through the said swamp, until it comes to the Great River ; and that the east part of said town, be the Second Company.

Both Houses being resolved into a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit :

*Officers of the Regiment Ordered to be Raised at the present Session.*

William Richmond, Esq., colonel ; Gideon Hoxsie, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; and Benjamin Tallman, Esq., major.

Caleb Gardner, captain ; Benjamin Fry, lieutenant ; and Jonathan Wallen, ensign, of the first company.

Peter Church, captain ; Caleb Carr, lieutenant ; and Peleg Heath, ensign, of the second company.

Job Pearce, captain ; Malachi Hammet, lieutenant ; and Benjamin Burlingham, ensign, of the third company.

Thomas Wells, 2d, captain ; Augustus Stanton, lieutenant ; and Peleg Berry, ensign, of the fourth company.

Christopher Manchester, captain ; Walter Palmer, lieutenant ; and Jonathan Deval, Jr., ensign, of the fifth company.

William Barton, captain-lieutenant ; and Squire Fiske, ensign, of the colonel's company.

Peter Wanton, captain-lieutenant, James Wallace, lieutenant ; and John Rogers, ensign, of the lieutenant-colonel's company.

Charles Dyer, captain-lieutenant ; Zerobabel Westcoat, lieutenant ; and Royzel Smith, ensign, of the major's company.

Nathan Miller, commissary and sutler to the troops under the command of General Hopkins.

Benjamin Page, captain of the first row-galley, that shall be equipped.

*Officers for the Militia.*

Joseph Pendleton, captain ; Joshua Pendleton, lieutenant ; and John Pendleton, ensign, of the first company, in Westerly.

Joseph Case, Jr., captain ; John Mowry, lieutenant ; and John Brown, Jr., ensign, of the third company, in North Kingstown.

Amos Greene, Jr., captain ; Beriah Lewis, lieutenant ; and Peleg Hoxsie, ensign, of the second company, in Charlestown.

Thomas Tefft, captain ; Jonathan Maxson, lieutenant ; and Newman Herring, ensign, of the second company, in Richmond.

Smiting Potter, ensign, of the first company, in Richmond.

William Peckham, ensign, of the first company, in South Kingstown.

Ray Sands, captain ; and Samuel Potter, Jr., lieutenant, of the third company, in South Kingstown.

Joseph Jenckes, captain ; Sylvanus Bucklin, lieutenant ; and William Wilbur, ensign, of the company of minute men, in Smithfield.

The Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., Governor. Engaged.

The Honorable William Bradford, Esq., Deputy Governor, Engaged.

Joshua Babcock, Esq., major general of the colony's forces.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, be requested to write to His Excellency General Washington, reminding him of the forces stationed on New Shoreham, in the Continental service, that the time of their enlistment will soon be up ; of their want of pay, clothing, &c. ; and whether he proposes to take any method for the engaging the officers in that deparment, and enlisting the soldiers ; and to advise as to their future station on said island, or elsewhere ; and also to give His Excellency a statement of the stock there.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Paul Allen be appointed

to adjust all the accounts for the supply of the troops, under the command of General Hopkins, up to the present time ; and that, upon the said accounts being passed by the general, the said Paul Allen draw a sufficient sum of money out of the general treasury to pay the same.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the several captains of the said troops make out the muster rolls of their several companies ; which being certified by the general, and returned to the respective proper members of the committee of safety, shall entitle the officers and men to their wages.

It is voted and resolved, that Brigadier General Eseck Hopkins be appointed to have the care, charge and management of the several estates by him ordered to be taken into the sheriff of Newport, until further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the regiment now to be raised under the command of General Hopkins, have the same allowances, and be supplied in the same manner, as our troops under the command of General Washington.

It is voted and resolved, with the consent of Mr. John Brown, that the colony will purchase the sloop Katy, as she now is, with her boats, stores and appurtenances, at the rate of \$1,250.

That the said John Brown be allowed the hire of said sloop, at the price agreed upon, from the 12th day of June last, to this day, out of the general treasury.

And that in case the said sloop be taken or lost, before this day, that then the said John Brown shall receive out of the general treasury the said \$1,250, with interest from the said 12th day of June, in full compensation, without any allowance for hire.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety supply and pay the regiment ordered at this session to be raised.

That the captains and subalterns of the said regiment shall enlist the following number of soldiers, who shall pass muster before the respective members of the committee of safety in whose district the officer lives, before they receive their commissions, that is to say :

Each captain, twenty men ; and each lieutenant and ensign, fifteen men.

That in case any officer shall not, within twenty days after the rising of this Assembly, return into the secretary's office, a certificate from the committee of safety, of his having enlisted the number of men required of him, he shall forfeit his commission, and his place become vacant ; and that each officer, as soon as he has enlisted the above number, proceed with them to the head quarters on Rhode Island.

It is voted and resolved, that Thursday, the 23d day of November, 1775, be observed as a day of thanksgiving, throughout this colony ; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to issue a proclamation, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that General Hopkins have the liberty of carrying from Providence to Rhode Island, two eighteen-pound cannon, and two nine-pound cannon, with the field carriages, for the defence of the colony ; and that His Honor the Deputy Governor, General Hopkins and Mr. Joseph Brown, put two more eighteen-pounders on field carriages, immediately.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff be instructed to permit James Hill to make sale of the goods he has now for sale on commissions, the property of Gilbert Deblois ; that he account and pay monthly, to the general treasurer of this colony, for the sale of said goods, at the same rate he was under contract with, with the said Deblois ; that he render an account upon oath, of what money, debts and effects he hath in his hands of the said Gilbert Deblois ; and that an inventory be taken thereof, by the sheriff.

It is voted and resolved, that there be the same number of officers, and of the same kind, appointed for the row-gallies, as are appointed for the sloop Katy ; that the officers and men of the row-gallies receive the same wages as are allowed to the officers and men of the sloop Washington.

That Ambrose Page, Esq., be empowered to enlist the men for the said row-gallies, to pay them one month's pay in ad-



vance, and to equip and fit them completely for the service ; and that the officers of the row-gallies, not chosen, be appointed by Brigadier General Hopkins, and be commissioned, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Joseph Anthony, Brigadier General Eseek Hopkins and Mr. Paul Mumford, be a committee to receive of the late Governor, Joseph Wanton, Esq., the charter of this colony, the letters and other things in his hands belonging to the colony, and deliver the same to His Honor Nicholas Cooke, Esq., the present Governor ; and that the same committee receive of the late Deputy Governor, Darius Sessions, Esq., the duplicate of the charter, and such other things in his hands as belong to the colony, and deliver the same to His Honor William Bradford, Esq., the present Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, Mr. John Jenckes and Col. William West, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to inquire at what price good muskets, for the use of the Continental army, can be made in this colony ; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to write to General Washington, informing him of the price, and desiring his further advice and direction.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, Mr. John Jenckes and Col. William West, or any two of them, be a committee to inquire at the neighboring furnaces at what price the cannon proposed to be procured for the use of the colony, can be got ; and that they make report to the grand committee, appointed to act during the recess of the General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Paul Mumford, William Vernon and John G. Wanton, for the county of Newport ; John Brown, James Angell and Henry Ward, for the county of Providence ; Joshua Babcock, for Kings county ; Simeon Potter and Cromel Child, for the county of Bistol ; and Jacob Greene, for the county of Kent, be a committee, to collect a well authenticated account of the hostilities committed by the ministerial troops and navy within this colony, since March

last, with proper evidence of the truth of the facts related, the number and value of the vessels inward and outward bound which have been seized by them since that period, as near as the number and value can be ascertained; and also the stock taken by them from different parts of the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that the commander in chief of the forces raised in this colony, and the officer commanding a detachment or out-post, be, and hereby are, empowered to administer an oath, and swear any person or persons to the truth of any information or intelligence, or any other matter relating to the public service.

God save the King.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the second Monday in January, 1776.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.

The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that a deputy be chosen for the town of Providence, in the room of Stephen Hopkins, Esq.; a deputy for the town of Hopkinton, in the room of Capt. Thos. Wells; and a deputy for the town of North Providence, in the room of Eseck Hopkins, Esq.; and that the speaker of the House be requested to issue his warrants, accordingly.

Whereas, William Greene and Joseph Noyes, Esqs., and Mr. Ephraim Westcoat, exhibited unto this Assembly, the following account and report, to wit:

Colony of Rhode Island to the following persons, inhabitants of the town of New Shoreham,

Dr.

For a quantity of beef, hides and tallow, delivered for the use of said colony, in consequence of an agreement made by

said inhabitants, with William Greene, Joseph Noyes and Ephraim Westcoat, the committee specially appointed by the general committee, empowered to act during the recess of the General Assembly.

[Here follows an account sales of the beef, hides and tallow belonging to the inhabitants of New Shoreham ; with the amount due to each. Other returns of the sales of similar articles belonging to the inhabitants of other towns, were made.]

Whereas, the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., presented unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the colony, for the time, horse-hire and expenses of himself and servant, in going to Cambridge, to assist in a committee of Congress, for establishing the army ; for cash paid sundry persons for going expresses on public business, and for sundry other services and expenses ; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that £30 4s. 6d., lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid the said Nicholas Cooke, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. George Peirce exhibited unto this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for lead and flints, by him provided for the use of the town of Exeter ; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that the amount thereof, being £1 1s. 5d., lawful money, be paid the said George Peirce, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, the secretary, William Ellery, Joseph Brown, Henry Marchant, Sylvester Child and Gideon Mumford, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to take into consideration the state of this colony, and the measures necessary for the defence thereof.

That they prepare a suitable address to the Honorable the Continental Congress, representing the inability of the colony,

from its situation, smallness and poverty, to defend itself; and praying that we receive assistance.

That they also consider in what places it will be best to station the troops now in the service of the colony; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the two nine-pound cannon at North Kingstown, be put on field carriages, by John Northup, Esq., at the charge of the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that this colony purchase of Metcalfe Bowler, Esq., nine cannon, with the shot and other stores belonging to him, now in the government's possession, in the fort at East Greenwich; and that the said Metcalfe Bowler receive \$450, for the same, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the present committee for signing the last emission of the paper currency, be permitted to remove to the dwelling house of Mr. John Carter, printer, for signing the same; any act to the contrary thereof, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that the commissary of the army on Rhode Island, be allowed one and an half per cent. for purchasing and delivering out the provisions for the said soldiers, and no more.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. John Grimes be commander of the row-galley, to be fitted out, at the wages of £9, lawful money, per month, to commence from this day; and to be commodore of both row-gallies.

That the wages of Capt. Benjamin Page be raised to £9, lawful money, per month, commencing from this time.

That each of the said gallies be manned with fifty men, including officers; and that Thomas Arnold, of East Greenwich, be appointed first lieutenant; Samuel Vial, of Rehoboth, second lieutenant; and John Kelton, of Providence, master of said row-galley.

It is voted and resolved, that the regiment voted at the last session, be augmented to seven hundred and fifty men, exclusive of the Artillery Company; and that the same consist of twelve companies.

Whereas, Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, Esqs., presented unto this Assembly the following report, to wit :

*Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, relative to certain Accounts of the Colony, with the Continental Congress.*

In pursuance of the appointment of this Honorable Assembly, to wait upon the Honorable Continental Congress, with the accounts of this colony, we proceeded immediately to Philadelphia; and on our arrival there, we made known our business to the delegates of this colony, who made application to the Congress, for orders to the committee of claims, for the adjustment of the accounts.

Very soon after opening the papers before that committee, objections were made to the charges of small arms and bounties; and as no accounts had been presented by the other New England colonies, we thought it most advisable to wave the settlement of the accounts, till the other colony accounts should be brought forward for adjustment, and to make a demand of a sum in behalf of the colony.

We consulted our delegates upon that subject, who advised the measure, and we adopted it; and obtained an order of Congress for \$120,000, which we received; and have paid into the general treasury \$119,200; which, with \$800, the delegates took to their own account, make the sum of the order.

We also received a draught drawn by General Hopkins, for £150, lawful money, on Messrs. Hillegas and Clymer, Continental treasurers, which was also paid to us; and we have paid that sum also into the general treasury; for both which sums, we have the treasurer's receipts.

NATHANIEL MUMFORD,  
THOMAS GREENE,  
GIDEON MUMFORD.

Providence, January 8, 1776.

And the said report being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that for the future, all persons who entertain any of the marching troops in this colony, if they supply but three meals of victuals before the troops leave the house, they shall be allowed nine pence per meal; if more than three meals, that they be allowed for the whole at the rate of nine shillings per week; that in cold weather, two pence, per night, shall be allowed for each soldier's lodging; that no liquor be found them, upon the colony's account; and that this act be published in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Samuel Westcoat be chosen and appointed first lieutenant of the row-galley, commanded by Capt. John Grimes, in the room of Thomas Arnold, who refuses; and that Mr. Francis Bradfield be appointed master of said row-galley, in the room of John Kelton, who refuses.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to discharge all accounts of billeting soldiers on Block Island, that are properly authenticated by the commanding officers.

Whereas, Messrs. Samuel and William Vernon exhibited unto this Assembly, an account, by them charged against Jacob Greene and Company, for six new double-fortified four-pound cannon, with their carriages; together with one hundred and thirty round shot, six bags of grape shot, some sliding and bar shot, with ladles, rammers, sponges, worms, &c.; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £100, sterling, be paid the said Samuel and William Vernon, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. Ezekiel Burr, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for his time, horse hire and expenses, in going express to His Excellency General Washington, at Cambridge, by order of His Honor the Governor; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the amount thereof, being £2 11s., lawful money, be paid the said Ezekiel Burr, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. Ebenezer Coffin, of Nantucket, preferred a petition, and represented to this Assembly, that in consequence of a permit from the selectmen of Falmouth, he purchased a quantity of apples and cider, with a design to lade the same on board his said schooner, now in this colony, for Nantucket,

and applied to His Honor the Governor, for a permit for that purpose, who was pleased to grant the same, he complying with the regulations therein mentioned.

That having laded the same on board said schooner, and being ready to sail, the sheriff, by order of His Honor the Governor, took said vessel and effects into his custody; whereupon, the petitioner again applied to His Honor the Governor, and informed him of all and singular the premises; who was pleased to entrust to his care, a request to the sheriff to permit said vessel to sail for Nantucket; and that nothing be laded on board, except apples and cider.

Yet notwithstanding, two days afterwards, and before the petitioner could sail, the same sheriff took said vessel and effects into his custody, in consequence of a second command from His Honor the Governor; and still holds and detains the same, although the petitioner hath always demeaned himself irreproachably, strictly observing and obeying as well the commands of His Honor the Governor, as of the several committees, and others his superiors, in their several offices and departments, in no matter whatever, contravening their commands.

And that his said cargo and effects are perishable, and have in all probability, suffered in the late severe weather, and further detention will ensure great loss, and expose the said vessel and cargo to the most imminent danger, especially at this rigorous season of the year; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to take the premises into consideration, and permit him to depart in peace with his effects; and this Assembly having taken the premises into consideration,—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted; upon condition that the petitioner give bond, with good sureties, to the general treasurer, to deliver the goods mentioned in said petition, at Nantucket, and to return to the general treasurer, a certificate for the same.

Whereas, Mr. Benjamin Brenton, who was taken into custody, by order of General Hopkins, and his estate and interest taken into possession, in behalf of the colony, on account of

his being inimical to this, his native country, and to the liberties of America ; and upon a suggestion of his supplying the ministerial fleet, stationed in the harbor of Newport, with live stock, &c., preferred a petition to this Assembly, asserting his innocence, declaring his regard for the liberties of his country, and promising that his future conduct shall be agreeable to the rules of the Honorable the Continental Congress, and of this General Assembly ; and thereupon, prayed that he might be reinstated in the friendship and esteem of his countrymen ; that he might be permitted to return to his distressed family ; and that his estate and interest might be restored to him ; and the premises being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Thomas Church be, and he is hereby, appointed to repair to the camp, near Boston, and collect all the small arms there belonging to the colony, and bring them up to this colony.

That he receive the money due for those arms that were appraised ; that he inquire after the locks belonging to the colony, and bring them up also ; and that he deliver the guns and locks to Mr. John Smith, of Providence, to be by him delivered to the committee of safety of each county, in proportion.

It is voted and resolved, that there be an artillery company, to consist of fourteen men ; each including officers, raised in each of the following towns, to wit :

Providence, Warwick, Cranston, East Greenwich, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Jamestown, Charlestown, Westerly, Warren, Bristol, Barrington, Portsmouth, Little Compton, Tiverton, Newport and Middletown.

That each of said towns be supplied, at the charge of the colony, with two, three or four-pound field pieces, on carriages, with other appurtenances excepting the towns of Providence, East Greenwich, North Kingstown and Newport, which are already supplied.

That the said companies meet half a day in every week, to exercise the cannon, and be allowed one shilling, lawful



money, for their time, each half day ; and when they are called upon to march out to action, to be allowed the same wages as the other artillery companies ; that the officers on exercising days be allowed as follows :

The captain, two shillings and sixpence ; and the lieutenant, two shillings, lawful money, per half-day ; which officers are to be chosen by the respective towns.

That the several towns proceed to choose the officers, and the officers enlist the men, immediately.

That an ammunition cart be provided for each town ; and that the committee of safety, for each county, be directed to see that each of the towns be provided with cannon, &c., agreeably to this vote.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. James Angell, William Ellery and Henry Marchant, Esqs., be a committee, to prepare and draw an act for raising and equipping a body of minute men, to be held in readiness, for the better defence of this colony.

And also an act for the encouraging the manufactures of saltpeter and gunpowder, and make report, thereof, to this session of Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that another regiment of seven hundred and fifty men, including officers, to consist of twelve companies, be raised for the defence of this colony, over and above what has been already ordered to be raised.

Whereas, Ambrose Page, Esq., who was appointed to build two row-gallies, for the service of the colony, laid before this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for materials by him furnished, and for his time in attending said business ; and the said account having been duly examined by Mr. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, Esqs., who reported a balance of £380 12s. 2d., lawful money, due to the said Ambrose Page ; which being considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and the same is hereby, accepted ; and that said balance be paid the said Ambrose Page, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Capt. Abial Brown laid before this Assembly, an account, charged against the colony, by sundry persons, who served under him, as minute men, for their services and expenses in the action on Jamestown ; and the said account having been duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that the amount, thereof, being £43 12s., lawful money, be paid to the said Abial Brown, out of the general treasury, to be by him, paid to the several persons named in said account.

Whereas, the said Abial Brown laid before this Assembly, an account, charged against him by sundry persons, for damage and loss sustained in their furniture, &c., in the late attack on Jamestown ; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that £12 10s. 1*d.*, thereof, and no more, be allowed ; and that the same be paid to the said Abial Brown, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Abial Brown proceed, as soon as possible, with his minute company, upon Jamestown, there to remain till further orders from His Honor the Governor.

That His Honor the Governor be requested to write to the commander in chief at head quarters, on Rhode Island, requesting him immediately to put as many soldiers or minute men on Jamestown, as can be spared, compatibly with the service there ; and that the number of men placed on said island do not exceed three hundred.

Whereas, the town of South Kingstown, has not been furnished with their proportion of powder ; and have, at sundry alarms, sent a considerable quantity to Jamestown,—

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Mathewson furnish the town of South Kingstown with two quarter casks of powder, to be delivered to Col. Robert Brown ; and that one hundred weight of lead be also delivered to the said Robert Brown, for the use of said town.

It is voted and resolved, that Colonel Daniel Tillinghast

be requested immediately to send one field piece, properly equipped, to Warwick, to be used in the defence of that place.

Whereas, the committee, who were appointed to inquire the price of cannon, laid before this Assembly, a memorial addressed to them, from the owners of furnace Hope, which is as follows, to wit :

*Report of the Committee, appointed by the General Assembly, to inquire the price of Cannon.*

Providence, January 12, 1776.

Gentlemen:—In consequence of your application to us for heavy cannon, we have taken pains to inquire for suitable persons to assist in making them, and are now putting the furnace in readiness, by building the necessary additional works to carry the same into execution.

And have also made inquiry of the price they can be made for at Philadelphia; and in consequence thereof, we now offer to make what heavy cannon we can, at £35, lawful money, per ton, warranted good; but in this case, we expect the colony to be obliged to take whatever cannon they now agree for, whether the war should continue or not.

Under this price, we cannot undertake, as there are no workmen in these parts, that can be procured, that ever made heavy cannon; we must get them from the westward, at a very high rate, and pay their expenses and wages by the day, from the time they come from home, and until they return back.

The government are to be at the expense of proving the cannon; for which purpose, they must appoint a person to see it done; but in case any fail of proof, we to be at the expense of proving such only as fail.

NICHOLAS BROWN,  
JOSEPH BROWN,  
RUFUS HOPKINS,

JABEZ BOWEN,  
JOHN BROWN,

The committee appointed to inquire the price of cannon.

And the premises being considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that this colony agree with the subscribers of the foregoing memorial to take of them thirty cannon, eighteen-pounders, and thirty twelve-pounders, at the price therein mentioned; provided, they are ready for use by the 10th day of May next.

And that Ambrose Page, Esq. and Col. John Mathewson, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to ascertain the bore, dimensions and weight of the cannon.

It is voted and resolved, that the £40,000, lawful money bills, emitted by this colony, carrying interest, be brought into the general treasury within one month, after the rising of this Assembly, to be exchanged for other bills carrying no interest; that no interest be allowed on the first mentioned bills, after the end of said month.

And that £40,000, lawful money bills, be immediately struck off, carrying no interest; which, together with the bills of credit lately received from the Continental treasury, be improved in exchanging the first mentioned lawful money bills, and all other debts due from the colony, carrying interest.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Joseph Lawrence be employed to proceed to Groton and New London, and purchase for the use of the colony, of Messrs. Thomas Mumford and Nathaniel Shaw, Jr., all the powder they have in Providence and Bedford; and that he be empowered to draw upon the general treasurer for the amount thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that £3 15s. lawful money, be paid to Jonathan Pierce, out of the general treasury, for five gun locks delivered to Caleb Harris, Esq., for the use of the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that the head-quarters at Rhode Island, be immediately supplied with five hundred weight of gunpowder, from the government's magazine, at Providence.

It is voted and resolved, that North Kingstown be supplied with one quarter cask of powder, and about one hundred weight of lead.

That East Greenwich be supplied with one quarter cask of powder; that the same be done immediately.

And that Excter be supplied with about one hundred weight of lead.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. James Arnold be directed and fully empowered to place the two eighteen-pound cannon at Pawtuxet, on field carriages, at the expense of the colony.

Whereas, this General Assembly, at the session held on the first Wednesday in May last, ordered £20,000, lawful money, to be emitted; and at the session held on the second Monday in June last, ordered £10,000, lawful money, to be emitted;

and at the session held on the 28th day of June last, ordered £10,000, lawful money, to be emitted, all which bills carried an interest of two and an half per cent. per annum.

And whereas, the Honorable the Continental Congress, and the several provincial Assemblies and conventions, considering the distressed situation of the colonies, engaged in a war with a powerful nation, for the defence of their lives, liberties, properties and everything dear to mankind ; and relying upon the manly spirit and zeal of the colonists, have made divers emissions of bills of credit, without allowing any interest thereon.

And whereas, the burthens and hardships of this colony are so great, that this Assembly have passed an act for redeeming the aforesaid emissions of this colony by the Continental bills of credit now in the general treasury, and by an emission of £40,000, lawful money, to be forthwith made,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said sum of £40,000, be immediately struck off, in bills of the same form and tenor with those ordered to be emitted at the last session ; that they be signed and lodged in the general treasury ; that all bills of five shillings, and upwards, be signed by three of the committee ; and all bills under five shillings, by two of the committee ; and that the bills be of the following denominations :

3,000, of sixty shillings each, is	-	-	-	£9,000
4,000, “ forty	“	“	-	8,000
6,000, “ thirty	“	“	-	9,000
6,000, “ twenty	“	“	-	6,000
6,000, “ ten	“	“	-	3,000
6,000, “ five	“	“	-	1,500
6,000, “ four	“	“	-	1,200
7,500, “ three	“	“	-	1,125
5,000, “ two	“	“	-	500
6,000, “ one	“	“	-	300
6,000, “ ninepence	“	-	-	225
6,000, “ sixpence	“	-	-	150

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£40,000

And be it further enacted, that the said lawful money bills be a lawful tender for paying and discharging all debts and demands, whatsoever ; and that said bills be redeemed within five years from the date, thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John G. Wanton, John Dexter, John Cole, Joseph Clarke, Welcome Arnold, Thomas Greene and James Congdon, 3d, be, and they are hereby, appointed to sign all the lawful money bills of credit, ordered by this Assembly to be emitted ; that they be allowed and paid out of the general treasury one-quarter per cent. for their trouble.

That Mr. John Carter be employed to print said bills at one shilling and fourpence, per hundred ; and that the committee appointed to sign said bills, procure paper for the same, at the charge of the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be requested to write to the delegates of this colony, at the Continental Congress, and to request them to inform this House what information they have had, respecting any letters that have been written by any of the inhabitants of this colony, to any person in the city of Philadelphia, respecting the situation of the town of Newport, and the supplying of Capt. Wallace with provisions ; and of any reflections that have been by such letters, cast upon any part of this colony ; and also to inform this Assembly of the names of such letter-writers ; and to procure and transmit to this Assembly copies of such letters, if they can be obtained.

It is voted and resolved, that the speaker of this House be requested to purchase at the charge of the colony, all the three and four-pound shot he can find in the town of Newport.

And that His Honor the Deputy Governor be requested to purchase, at the charge of the colony, all the three and four-pound shot he can find in the county of Bristol.

It is voted and resolved, that in case the colony shall purchase any quantity of powder, of Messrs. Mumford and Shaw, that

five hundred weight, thereof, be sent to the head-quarters, for the defence of Rhode Island, over and above what is already ordered.

It is voted and resolved, that the minute men that have already been drawn, continue for three months from the time of drawing ; and that as many of them as are willing, may enlist as soldiers in either of the companies.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Cromel Child be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £30, lawful money, towards paying for removing hay, &c., off the island of Prudence.

And that Mr. Sylvester Gardner draw out of the general treasury, the sum of £45, lawful money, towards paying for removing hay, &c., off the island of Conanicut.

Whereas, Mr. George Gracie preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that soon after his first arrival in America, he has been employed by Mr. George Rome ; that he commenced serving him on the 1st of June, 1773, and continued in his service until he was taken into custody, by order of General Hopkins, in the absolute execution of said Rome's business.

That a considerable sum of money still remains due to him from said Rome ; and thereupon, prayed that this Assembly would order him payment out of said Rome's estate, which has taken into possession in behalf of the colony.

And the premises being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the petitioner be directed to draw out his account against the said George Rome, and send it to the commanding officer at head-quarters ; who is requested to send the same to said Rome, in order to be adjusted.

Whereas, Mr. Joseph Farrish preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth, that on the 27th of November last, he was taken up by order of Col. Richmond, upon a suspicion of his having served the King's ships, stationed at Newport, with beer, and of being unfriendly to the the American cause ; and

after being had before the committee, was committed to jail, where he has remained ever since.

That, as to the charges alleged against him, if he has erred in any matter, it was rather from want of judgment, than any evil design ; and that he can say with the strictest truth, that he is a hearty well-wisher to the American colonies ; and thereupon, prayed this Assembly to take the premises into consideration, and release him from the irksome confinement of a prison, that he may seek some honest employment for a livelihood, in the way of his business, which he is ready to accept with cheerfulness, and perform with integrity, if it is thought fit, in the service of the colony ; and the premises being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said petition be granted ; that the petitioner have the liberty of sending his account to the commanding officer, at head-quarters ; who is requested to send the same to George Rome, in order to be adjusted.

And that the petitioner be forbid going upon any of the islands in this colony, on any pretence whatsoever.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Thomas Church be directed, and fully empowered, to pay the ensigns in the service of the colony, now at head-quarters, at Cambridge ; and to those who are returned from said service, ten shillings, lawful money, each per month, from the 1st day of September to the 31st day of December last, being four months ; and that he draw a sufficient sum out of the general treasury, for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that in case any body or detachment of the Continental troops shall march into this colony, the commanding officer, thereof, be, and he is hereby, empowered to impress horses, cattle, carts and wagons, sufficient for the transportation of the provisions, baggage and ammunition of such body or detachment, to such places within the colony, as the service shall require.

It is voted and resolved, that each town in this colony, by a warrant from their town clerk, call a town meeting within three weeks from the rising of this General Assembly, and make



order that their respective town councils give in a list of all persons in their towns, being inhabitants thereof, and obliged by law to equip themselves with a good fire-arm, bayonet and cartouch box, and who are not able to purchase the same ; and make report thereof, to a town meeting to be held in one week from said first town meeting.

And thereupon, said town shall immediately make order for the supplying such persons with a good fire-arm, bayonet and cartouch box, at such town's expense, to be lodged with the captains of such district wherein such poor persons belong, for their use upon any proper occasion, by the 20th day of April next.

And be it further enacted, that upon failure of any town in this colony, of complying with the foregoing order, such town be liable to the fine of £100, to be paid into the general treasury ; and to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, before the superior or inferior courts for the county to which such delinquent town belongs.

And be it further enacted, that all such persons who are by law obliged to equip themselves with a good fire-arm, bayonet and cartouch box ; and who shall not by report of such town council, be reported incapable of providing themselves, as aforesaid, do provide themselves by the 20th day of April next, agreeably to law, under the penalty of £5, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, before the superior or inferior court, in the county wherein such delinquent resides ; and the same fine to be lodged in the town treasury of such town where such delinquent resides, for the purpose of purchasing fire-arms, and necessary accoutrements, therefor.

And each captain shall make return of such delinquents within his district, to his colonel or commander in chief, by the 1st day of May next, under the penalty of £5, to be recovered, as abovesaid, and to be dismissed from his office ; which fines shall be lodged in the town treasury to which said captain belongs, and to be recovered as the above fines are ordered.

And that the colonels of the regiments make return, thereof,

to the General Assembly, to be holden on the first Wednesday in May next.

And the secretary is hereby required to send a printed copy of this act to each of the town clerks in this colony, within two weeks from the rising of this Assembly.

Whereas, the committee, who were appointed to prepare an address from the colony, to the Continental Congress, laid before this Assembly, a draft of said address, which is as follows, to wit :

*Address of the Colony of Rhode Island, to the Congress, relative to its Condition.*

To the Honorable the Delegates of the United Colonies, now convened in General Congress, at Philadelphia :

We, the General Assembly of the English colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, beg leave to represent to you the state and condition of said colony, and to request such assistance as our situation and the welfare of the United Colonies shall appear to require.

Soon after the conclusion of the late glorious war, in the successes of which, the colonies had so considerable a share, we were alarmed with divers acts of the British Parliament, strongly indicating a design to divest the colonies of those rights which are essential to the freedom of a people, and which they had enjoyed, with but few innovations, from their first settlement.

The act passed in 1765, for levying stamp duties in America, and many subsequent acts, manifested that design so clearly, as to leave no room for a doubt.

This colony, ever tenacious of its liberty, zealously took a part in all the common measures entered into for the common safety.

When, at length, the ministerial troops, by the attacks at Lexington and Concord, had reduced us to the necessity of immediately taking up arms, or submitting to a slavery, which, at the distance we are placed from the seat of the power to be exercised over us, must be the most absolute and terrible that we can form an idea of; this colony, notwithstanding its exposed situation, did not hesitate, it did not wait for the example of more powerful colonies; but conforming itself to the spirit of the resolutions of the Honorable the Continental Congress for 1774, ordered a body of men to be raised, and marched to the encampment, near Boston.

Unfortunately for the inhabitants, this colony is scarcely any thing but a line of sea coast.

From Providence to Point Judith; and from thence, to Pawcatuck river, is nearly eighty miles; on the east side of the bay, from Providence to Seaconnet Point, and including the east side of Seaconnet, until it meets the Massachusetts line, is about fifty miles; besides which, are the navigable rivers of Pawcatuck and Warren.

On the west side of the colony doth not extend twenty miles; and on the east side, not more than eight miles, from the sea coast above described. In the colony are also included the following islands :

Rhode Island, about sixteen miles in length; Conanicut, nine; Block Island, nine; Prudence, seven; and the smaller islands, Patience, Hope, Gold Island, and several others; all which, are cultivated and fertile, and contributed largely to the public expenses; the greater part of the above mentioned shores, are accessible to ships of war.

By an exact estimate, taken in the year 1774, the whole number of inhabitants in the colony, amounted to fifty-nine thousand six hundred and seventy-eight; the town of Newport contained nine thousand two hundred and nine; was the principal place of trade, and paid above one-sixth part of the public taxes; a very considerable commerce was also carried on from Providence; and several small towns in the colony, were also concerned in trade and navigation; ship building was a great branch of business.

In short, the inhabitants of this colony, derived their subsistence almost wholly from commerce.

The convenient situation of this colony, for receiving supplies from the other colonies, for the Continental army, near Boston, we suppose was a principal reason why so great a number of the King's ships have been stationed in our bay; we having had, for above seven months past, two ships, of twenty guns; one, of sixteen; a bomb-ketch, and about eight tenders, who having made prizes of more vessels belonging to this colony, than have been lost by any other, have put almost a total end to commerce; have committed repeated depredations in different parts of the colony; have kept our coasts constantly alarmed, and obliged the inhabitants to keep almost continually under arms.

The once flourishing town of Newport, by the loss of trade, and consequent cessation of all business, instead of being able to contribute to the expenses of the war, hath been reduced to so deplorable a state, that we have been obliged to grant money out of the general treasury for the support of their poor; and many of the wealthy inhabitants have not only left the town, but the colony.

Conanicut and Prudence, lately the scenes of the most wanton and savage desolation and barbarity, deserted; New Shoreham, from its situation, is rendered worse than useless to the colony; and the other islands will no longer be of service to any but the enemy.

The troops sent by this colony to the army, near Boston, amounted to about seventeen hundred, inclusive of officers; of which, two hundred and fifty, are in Col. Arnold's detachment, in Quebec; many have entered on board the armed vessels fitted out by General Washington; particularly almost every officer and seaman in the brig commanded by Capt. Martindale, unfortunately taken and carried into Boston, belonged to this colony; and of the others, the greater part by far, have re-enlisted into the Continental service, so that very few of them have returned, or can return.

We fitted out two armed vessels for the protection of our commerce and coasts, which carried upwards of one hundred men; one, of which, is now at Philadelphia, in the Continental service, with the greater part of her crew; above an hundred men have also been enlisted for the Continental navy; we have also built and equipped two row-gallies, to carry fifty men each.

Besides these extraordinary exertions, we were alarmed in October last, with the arrival of a number of transports from Boston, destined to procure fresh provisions for the ministerial army. To prevent their obtaining supplies, was an object

of such great importance, as obliged us to send a number of minute men upon the several islands, to defend the stock, which created a most enormous expense.

When the Assembly met in November, a regiment of five hundred men was ordered to be raised, for the defence of Rhode Island and the other islands; notwithstanding which, we have been obliged repeatedly to call forth our minute men; to prevent the great charge of which, we have augmented the regiment ordered to be raised in November, to seven hundred and fifty men, exclusive of a company of artillery, consisting of one hundred and five men, with their officers; and have also voted another regiment of seven hundred and fifty men, to be immediately raised and equipped; besides two hundred and thirty-eight artillery men, for the managing of thirty-four field pieces, ordered to be procured and placed in the several towns, upon the sea-coast.

We have ordered sixty cannon, eighteen and twelve-pounders, to be cast; and have already sent a vessel, with a very valuable cargo, to purchase powder and other warlike stores; and are fitting out another, which will soon sail.

From the above representation of our situation, exertions and losses; and the depredations of the enemy, which are not exaggerated; the exhausted state of the colony, and its utter inability to maintain the present force established and voted, as well as to take any further measures to defend itself, will clearly appear.

We need not observe to you the great importance of Rhode Island, or the damages that would be sustained, by the enemy's possessing themselves thereof; its harbor and the adjoining Narragansett Bay being greatly superior to any other in America: and its convenient situation with respect to the sea and the other colonies, making it still more important.

We therefore request that you will give the earliest attention to this address, and have no doubt that you will take the most proper measures for defending the colony; otherwise, Rhode Island, and the other islands in the bay, with the surrounding sea coast upon the continent, must be depopulated, and the colony entirely ruined.

We submit the foregoing to your judicious determination: and are,

With great respect and confidence,

Your Honors's most obedient, humble servants,

WILLIAM BRADFORD,	HENRY MARCHANT,
HENRY WARD,	SYLVESTER CHILD,
WILLIAM ELLERY,	GIDEON MUMFORD.
JOSEPH BROWN,	

Signed at the request and in behalf of the General Assembly.

Providence, January 15, 1776.

And the said address being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, approved; that the secretary make a fair copy, thereof, which His Honor the Governor, is requested to sign, and forward by the first good opportunity to the delegates of this colony, to be presented by them to the Continental Congress.

Whereas, on Saturday, the 23d of December last, divers

people were guilty of a high-handed riot in West Greenwich, greatly insulted the colonel, broke the sword of the adjutant, and prevented the militia of the first company from draughting or enlisting one-fourth part thereof, agreeably to an order of the committee, appointed to act during the recess of the General Assembly; and on Tuesday, the 26th of the same month, were guilty of another riot, and prevented the said draught and enlistment.

And whereas, Alexander Hopkins, Tibbitts Hopkins, Henry Hopkins, William Sweet, Simon Whitford and Jonathan Mathewson, have been accused to this House of being the principal persons who were active in said riot; of whom, Tibbitts Hopkins, Henry Hopkins and Simon Whitford, are now in jail, at Providence; there being a warrant issued against the said Alexander Hopkins, who hath hitherto secreted himself; a warrant having been also issued against the said William Sweet, who by reason of sickness, still remains at his own house; and no warrant hath been yet granted for apprehending the said Jonathan Mathewson;—

It is therefore resolved, that His Honor the Governor be requested to issue his warrant for apprehending the said Jonathan Mathewson; and that the sheriff of the county of Kent, use his utmost diligence to apprehend the said Alexander Hopkins and Jonathan Mathewson, and commit them to jail in the county of Kent; and the said William Sweet, when capable of being removed.

And that the said Alex. Hopkins, Henry Hopkins, Tibbitts Hopkins, Wm. Sweet and Jona. Mathewson, upon their entering into recognizance in the sum of £25, each; with surety for £25, for each, before any justice of the superior court, to appear before the superior court, at their next term in the county of Kent; and to abide by the judgment that shall be then and there given, they shall be dismissed from jail; otherwise, that they remain confined until the meeting of said court; and that the attorney general be required to prosecute them at said court, according to law.

It is voted and resolved for the future, that any person, being a member of the General Assembly of this colony, and who

shall be appointed to any military command, and be under pay as such ; and shall accept such office, and receive his commission, his seat shall thereupon be immediately vacant ; and if a member of the lower house, a warrant shall thereupon be issued by the speaker, to the town which elected such member, ordering such town to elect a deputy in his place ; and if a member of the upper house, the General Assembly shall proceed to elect a member in his place.

And be it further enacted, that in any future choice of magistrates or members of the lower house, no person, being a military officer, under pay as such, shall be elected to serve in either house of the General Assembly.

Provided, nevertheless, that this act shall not extend to militia officers, or officers of minute companies, and who may only receive pay upon particular and special occasions.

Whereas, Mr. John Lawton exhibited unto this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., for sundries provided for General Lee, and the Guards who went with him to Rhode Island, during their stay at Newport, keeping their horses, &c. ; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that £30 *1d.*, lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid to the said John Lawton, out of the general treasury.

#### An Act for encouraging the manufactures of saltpeter and gunpowder.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that there shall be given and paid out of the colony treasury, a premium or bounty, of £10, for every hundred pounds weight of good and merchantable salt peter or nitre, that hath been made or manufactured in this colony, since the 1st day of September last past, or that shall be made or manufactured therein, before the 1st day of January, 1777 ; and so in proportion, for a greater or less quantity.

Provided always, that in case any proprietor of saltpeter works, or manufacturer of saltpeter, shall, upon application and request made to him by any person or persons, neglect or refuse to communicate a full account of the materials out of which, and the process by which, such saltpeter or nitre is made, such proprietor or manufacturer shall not be entitled to have or receive the aforesaid bounty or premium, for any saltpeter or nitre he shall make ; any thing herein contained, notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a suitable number of inspectors of saltpeter or nitre, be appointed by this General Assembly ; and that the claimants of the premium or bounty, given by this, or any former act, for the manufacture of saltpeter or nitre, shall procure the saltpeter or nitre, by them made, to be examined by one or more of said inspectors ; and shall also make oath before such inspector, that such saltpeter or nitre, was made and manufactured in this colony, out of materials collected therein, by him or them, or for his or their account, and that no other certificate hath been had or given for the same ; which oath, such inspector is hereby enabled to administer.

And that thereupon, said inspector shall give to the claimant or claimants a certificate of the quantity and quality of such saltpeter or nitre ; and that proof hath been made, as aforesaid, that the same was manufactured in this colony, by such claimant or claimants, and draw an order on the colony treasury, to pay such claimant or claimants the amount of the aforesaid bounty or premium on such nitre or saltpeter, out of the colony treasury, and charge the same to the colony's account ; who shall accept and pay such order, accordingly.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every town in this colony, in which saltpeter or nitre works are not, or shall not be erected, and the manufacture of saltpeter is not, or shall not be, carried on by some private person or persons, shall be, and hereby are, enjoined as soon as may be, to erect one set of such works, and carry on the manufacture of nitre or saltpeter, in the same.

And that it shall be the duty of the town council of each town in this colony, and they are hereby authorized and enjoined, at the expense and for the benefit of said town, to cause such works to be erected ; and the manufacture to be carried on in the same, accordingly.

And be it also further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no saltpeter, nitre or gunpowder, made and manufactured in this colony, or that shall be made or manufactured in this colony, shall be exported out of the same, by land or water, without the license of the General Assembly, or His Honor the Governor and committee of safety, under the penalty of £20, for every hundred weight of such saltpeter, nitre or gunpowder ; and proportionably for a greater or less quantity so without license exported ; to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, in any court of record in this colony, by law proper to take cognizance thereof.

And whereas, it is necessary that one powder mill be immediately erected in this colony, for manufacturing gunpowder,—

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a bounty or premium of £30, shall be paid out of the colony treasury to the person or persons who shall erect a powder mill in this colony, and shall make and manufacture therein five hundred pounds weight of good and merchantable gunpowder.

And whereas, it is expedient that such powder mill should be so situated as to accommodate the public in the best manner,—

Be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no powder mill shall be erected in this colony, for the manufacture of gunpowder, without the license of the General Assembly ; or in their recess, of the general committee, appointed to act during the recess of the General Assembly, first had and obtained, under the penalty of £30, for every such offence ; to be recovered in manner as the aforesaid penalty in this act as above directed.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the inspector or inspectors, who shall inspect and give a certificate for any quantity of saltpeter, as before directed, shall



purchase and receive such saltpeter, for the colony's use and benefit, and give his or their receipt therefor, to the claimant or claimants, who shall be paid therefor, out of the colony treasury, at the rate of four shillings and four pence, for every pound weight of saltpeter or nitre, so made, as aforesaid, exclusive of the said bounty so to be given, as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the following persons be, and they are hereby, appointed inspectors of nitre or saltpeter, in this colony, to wit :

His Honor the Governor, Metcalfe Bowler, Joshua Babcock, Jabez Bowen, Hezekiah Usher, Nicholas Paris Tillinghast, Stephen Wigner, Andrew Balfour and Benjamin Slack.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the act passed by this Assembly, at the session held on the third Monday in August last, for encouraging the manufacture of saltpeter, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a copy of this act be published in the next Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the thanks of this General Assembly be given to the inhabitants of the towns of Rehoboth and Swanzy, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, for their spirited zeal and activity, exerted in defence of this colony, upon every alarm that hath happened in those parts of this colony bordering upon them ; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to transmit the same to the selectmen of the said towns, to be communicated to the inhabitants.

It is voted and resolved, that there be appointed, for the regiment ordered at the last session to be raised, a surgeon, at the wages of £7 10s., per month ; and a surgeon's mate, at the wages of £4, per month.

And that every able-bodied, effective man, who hath enlisted into, and still remains in, the said regiment, or shall enlist therein, finding himself a musket, bayonet and other accoutrements, shall receive sixteen shillings, and receive two months' wages advance.

It is voted and resolved, that all the stock, corn, provisions and hay, upon the island of Prudence, be removed with all possible dispatch ; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to give orders to Col. Christopher Lippitt, to assist with the troops under his command in removing the same.

An Act for raising an additional regiment, for the defence of the United Colonies in general, and this colony in particular, and for embodying the same ; and the regiment ordered to be raised at the last session of Assembly, into one brigade.

Whereas, the present alarming situation of this colony, from the powerful invasions of the enemy, and the danger of still more formidable attacks, render it necessary that a considerable addition be made to the forces of this colony ;—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that a regiment, consisting of seven hundred and fifty men, including officers, be immediately raised for the defence of the United Colonies in general, and this colony in particular, to be commanded by one colonel, one lieutenant colonel and one major ; that there be appointed therefor, one adjutant and one quartermaster.

That the said regiment consist of twelve companies ; which shall be commanded by one captain, one lieutenant and one ensign ; excepting the companies of the three field officers, which shall have one captain-lieutenant, one lieutenant and one ensign.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each able-bodied, effective man, who shall enlist into the said regiment, and find himself a small-arm, bayonet and other accoutrements, shall be allowed sixteen shillings, therefor, and shall receive two months pay advance, at the time of enlisting.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each officer and soldier shall receive the following monthly wages, while in the service, to wit :

	£	s.
The colonel - - - - -	15	00
“ lieutenant colonel - - - - -	12	00
“ major - - - - -	10	00
Each captain and captain-lieutenant - - - - -	6	00
“ lieutenant - - - - -	4	00
“ ensign - - - - -	3	10
“ adjutant - - - - -	5	10
“ quartermaster - - - - -	3	00
“ sergeant - - - - -	2	08
“ corporal, drummer and fifer - - - - -	2	04
“ private - - - - -	2	00

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that each field and commissioned officer shall receive ten shillings per week; and each non-commissioned officer and private, six shillings per week, for billeting, from the time of his enlistment, until they shall be embodied; and shall also receive two months' pay before they join the body, and the weekly billet due to him, as soon as may be.

That each soldier shall also have a blanket and knapsack given him by the colony; and that each soldier finding himself a blanket, shall receive therefor, twelve shillings.

And the field and commissioned officers, after the regiment shall be embodied, be allowed the same rations, in lieu of billet, as are allowed to the officers of the Continental army.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no officer or soldier shall be arrested, prosecuted or detained in jail, for any debt whatsoever, less than £15, lawful money, due to one creditor.

And that every apprentice, who shall enlist into the said regiment, shall be entitled to three-quarters of his wages; he finding his own clothes; and his master shall be entitled to the other quarter; provided, he shall deliver to such enlisted apprentice, all his wearing apparel; otherwise, the apprentice shall receive the whole wages.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

each soldier shall be enlisted by signing the following enlistment, to wit :

*Form of Enlistment.*

“ I, the subscriber, hereby solemnly engage and enlist myself as a soldier in the pay of the colony of Rhode Island, for the preservation of the liberties of America, and the defence of the United Colonies in general, and this colony in particular, from the day of my enlistment, for one year ; unless the service shall admit of a discharge sooner, which shall be at the discretion of the General Assembly.

And I hereby promise to submit myself to all the orders and regulations of the army, and faithfully to observe and obey such orders as I shall receive from time to time from my superior officers.”

And whereas, this Assembly, at the session held on the last Wednesday in October last, ordered a regiment of five hundred men to be raised, for the defence of the United Colonies in general, and of this colony in particular ; and at the present session ordered the said regiment to be augmented to seven hundred and fifty men, inclusive of officers, and exclusive of the artillery company to the same belonging, consisting of one hundred and five men, officers included ;—

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that for the better governing, directing and exerting the force of the said regiment, and the regiment by this act ordered to be raised, that the same be, and hereby are, formed into one brigade, under one commander in chief, who shall have the title of brigadier general ; that a major of brigade be appointed therefor ; and that the brigadier general shall receive £20, lawful money, per month ; and the major of brigade, £9, lawful money, per month ; and shall also receive the same allowances for billeting, as are made to officers of their rank, in the Continental service.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there be a surgeon, and three surgeon's mates, appointed for

said brigade ; that the surgeon shall receive £9, per month, and the surgeon's mates, each £4, per month ; and that the surgeon and the mates shall receive the same rations in lieu of billet, as such officers receive in the Continental army.

And for the better supplying the said brigade with clothing, and other necessaries,—

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a commissary be appointed, who shall also be sutler to the said brigade, and shall receive one per cent. upon all the business he shall transact ; that he be, and hereby is, directed and required to deliver out such things as shall be provided by the colony, for the use of the troops, at prime cost, including the charges that shall accrue thereon ; and that he deliver nothing to any soldier, without an order from the captain or commanding officer for the time being, of the company to which such soldier shall belong ; and that the commissary or sutler do not pay any soldier more than one-third of his wages ; and such officer is hereby restricted from drawing in favor of any soldier for more than one-third of the amount of the wages due to him.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that whosoever shall be appointed commissary and sutler, shall give security to the general treasurer, in the penal sum of £10,000, for the faithful performance of his duty ; that he be, and hereby is, forbidden to carry with him, or offer to the soldiers upon his own account, any necessaries of the same kind with those that shall be sent by, or on account of the government ; and that he be empowered to appoint one or more deputies under him, being accountable for his or their conduct.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the committee of safety for this colony provide arms, tents, and all other necessaries, for the said brigade, provisions excepted ; that they pay the wages of the officers and soldiers, thereof, once in three months, as they shall become due.

And that they be allowed one per cent. for transacting the business ; any law, custom or usage, to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

Both Houses being resolved into a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit :

*Officers for the Regiment Ordered at this Session to be Raised.*

Henry Babcock, Esq., colonel ; Christopher Lippitt, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; and Adam Comstock, Esq., major.

John Angell, captain of the first company ; who declining to serve, Job Olney, was chosen in his stead.

Jonathan Brownell, captain of the second company.

James Tew, Jr., captain of the third company.

Asa Kimball, captain of the fourth company.

Andrew Waterman, captain of the fifth company.

Loring Peck, captain of the sixth company.

David Dexter, Jr., captain of the seventh company.

William Potter, son of John, captain of the eighth company.

Benjamin Peirce, captain of the ninth company.

Augustus Stanton, captain-lieutenant of the colonel's company.

John Carr, captain-lieutenant of the lieutenant colonel's company.

Thomas Gorton, captain-lieutenant of the major's company.

William Drowne, lieutenant of the first company.

William Jones, lieutenant of the second company.

Joseph Belcher, Jr., lieutenant of the third company.

Benjamin Hoppen, lieutenant of the fourth company.

Nehemiah Randall, lieutenant of the fifth company.

Arthur Fenner, son of Edward, lieutenant of the sixth company.

Peleg Slocum, lieutenant of the seventh company.

Christopher Dyer, lieutenant of the eighth company.

Simeon Martin, lieutenant of the ninth company.

Joshua Bliven, lieutenant of the colonel's company.

Alexander Thomas, lieutenant of the lieutenant colonel's company.

Thomas Arnold, lieutenant of the major's company

Jacob Williams, ensign of the first company.

Gilbert Richmond, ensign of the second company.  
 Bryant Millman, ensign of the third company,  
 Anan Winsor, ensign of the fourth company.  
 Wilson Rawson, ensign of the fifth company.  
 Stephen Paine, ensign of the sixth company.  
 David Sayles, ensign of the seventh company.  
 William Potter, son of Ichabod, ensign of the eighth company.  
 William Belcher, ensign of the ninth company.  
 Thomas Noyes, ensign of the colonel's company.  
 Stephen Borden, ensign of the lieutenant colonel's company.  
 Michael Spencer, ensign of the major's company.  
 William Tyler, adjutant ; and Benjamin Bourne, quartermaster.

*Officers for the Regiment Ordered at the last Session.*

James Wallace, captain-lieutenant of the lieutenant colonel's company ; in the room of Peter Wanton, who resigned.  
 Josiah Gibbs, Jr., captain of the ninth company.  
 Cornelius Briggs, captain of the tenth company.  
 Benjamin Diamond, captain of the eleventh company.  
 Samuel Phillips, Jr., captain of the twelfth company.  
 John Rogers, lieutenant of the lieutenant-colonel's company.  
 John Holden, son of Charles, lieutenant of the ninth company.  
 Lemuel Bailey, lieutenant of the tenth company.  
 James Smith, lieutenant of the eleventh company.  
 Paul Herrington, lieutenant of the twelfth company.  
 William Davis, Jr., ensign of the lieutenant colonel's company.  
 Philip Arnold, son of James, ensign of the ninth company.  
 Benjamin Church, ensign of the tenth company.  
 Isaac Eastlick, ensign of the eleventh company.  
 Benjamin West, ensign of the twelfth company.  
 John Handy, quartermaster.

*Artillery Company.*

Edward Spalding, captain ; Wm. Bull, captain-lieutenant ;

Joshua Sayer, Jr., first lieutenant ; Ebenezer Sherman, second lieutenant and Timothy Brown, lieutenant fire-worker.

*For the Brigade.*

Christopher Olney, major of brigade ; John Bartlett, surgeon ; Joseph Rhodes, surgeon's mate ; Ebenezer Richmond, surgeon's mate ; and John Chace, surgeon's mate.

It is voted and resolved, that Benjamin Page, captain of one of the row-gallies, be immediately sent for, to appear before this Assembly, to answer for his conduct ; and that David Arnold, Matthew Allen and Samuel Bosworth, be also cited to appear before this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the money lately received from the Continental treasury be improved in paying off and discharging all debts due from the colony, of any kind or nature, whatsoever ; any law to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Whereas, this Assembly, at the session held on the second Monday in June last, passed an act, establishing rules and regulations for the forces raised by this colony.

And whereas, the Continental Congress soon after established rules and articles of war, for the Continental army, and have lately made divers additions and alterations thereto, necessary for the well governing of an army, which are better calculated for that purpose than those made by this colony, as aforesaid ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the brigade formed at this session, and all the troops that shall be raised in the colony, shall be governed by the rules, regulations and orders established by the Continental Congress, for the governing of the Continental army ; that the officers in said brigade, take rank according to the rules and customs of the Continental army ; that the secretary procure to be printed, and deliver to each of the field and commissioned officers, a copy of said Continental rules.

And that the said act passed in June ; and also the act passed at the last session, putting the regiment ordered then to



be raised under the regulations of the said act, be, and they are hereby, repealed.

It is voted and resolved, that the town council of the town of Newport, be allowed to supply Captain Wallace, so long as he shall remain peaceably within the colony, without committing any depredations upon the islands, or upon any of the lands in the colony, weekly with two thousand pounds weight of beef; and with beer as usual, under the direction of the commanding officer of the forces stationed on Rhode Island; that he appoint the person to provide and deliver said provisions; and that no member of either House of Assembly be appointed to deliver the same, or to go on board of either of the ships of war, under said Wallace's command, on any occasion whatsoever.

And this Assembly considering the situation and defenceless state of the town of Newport, do advise and strongly recommend it to the inhabitants of said town forthwith to remove to some place of safety all their aged people, women, children and those who are unable to assist in defence of the place, together with their valuable effects.

And do further vote and resolve, that the sum of £200, lawful money, be paid out of the general treasury to the committee hereinafter appointed, which shall be improved in removing such poor persons in said town as are incapable of removing themselves, and for no other use, whatever.

That Messrs. Jehn Collins, John Cooke, Thomas Freebody, George Irish and Daniel Holloway, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee for that purpose; that the said committee be empowered to settle the price of the transportation of the effects of the inhabitants of the said town, to the places where they shall be shipped; and also the price of transportation over the ferries.

And that each of the said committee be empowered to impress teams, horses and cattle, to remove such effects, at the prices which shall be so affixed.

It is voted and resolved, that William Ellery, Esq., be added to the committee already appointed for the county of Newport,

to collect a well authenticated account of hostilities committed by the ministerial troops and navy within this colony, since last March.

It is voted and resolved, that the guns, when purchased for the poor of the first company, in the town of East Greenwich, be deposited in the hands of Col. Richard Fry, instead of the captain.

And that the guns, when purchased for the poor of the town of North Kingstown, be deposited where the town shall think proper, instead of being lodged in the hands of the captains in said town.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathan Miller be appointed commissary of the brigade established at this session; and that Col. John Cooke be appointed one of the committee of safety for the county of Newport, in addition to Metcalfe Bowler, Esq.

It is voted and resolved, that a number of men, not exceeding fifty, be stationed at Warwick Neck, including the Artillery Company, in Warwick; the remainder to be minute men; that Col. John Waterman have the command, and appoint proper officers to act under him; that they continue there, and be kept upon pay until the enemy's fleet shall go down the river, and then be discharged, if His Honor the Governor shall think proper.

And that His Honor the Deputy Governor, General West and Mr. Joseph Brown, or either of them, be appointed to lay out such fortifications upon the said Neck, as they shall think necessary; and that the troops be employed in erecting them, while continued there.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, directed and empowered to erect two barracks at head-quarters, upon Rhode Island, and one barrack at Howland's Ferry, under the inspection of the commanding officer.

It is voted and resolved, that Ephraim Pendleton be, and he is hereby, appointed ensign of the First Company, in Westerly, in the room of John Pendleton, who was appointed by mistake.

It is voted and resolved, that one of the colony's companies now on Prudence, as soon as the stock, hay, &c., shall be removed from the island, be ordered to proceed to Bristol, for the defence of that town; to be there subject to the control of His Honor the Deputy Governor, till further orders.

It is voted and resolved, that thirty thousand bushels of salt be imported into this colony, as soon as conveniently may be, to wit:

Seven thousand bushels for the county of Newport; ten thousand bushels for the county of Providence; six thousand bushels for the county of Kings county; four thousand bushels for the county of Kent; and three thousand bushels for the county of Bristol.

That the following persons be the committee to charter vessels, fit them out and send for said salt, viz.:

For the county of Providence—Messrs. John Smith and John Mathewson

For the county of Newport—Messrs. Metcalfe Bowler, Geo. Irish and Thomas Corey.

For the county of King's county—Messrs. John Northup, Benjamin Gardner and Joseph Stanton, Jr.

For the county of Kent—Messrs. William Greene and Jacob Greene.

For the county of Bristol—William Bradford and Sylvester Child, Esqs.

That said committees charter suitable vessels for importing said salt, and send money and provisions to purchase the same; and that they draw a sufficient sum out of the general treasury for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Thomas Greene, Nathaniel Mumford and Gideon Mumford be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to settle the accounts of the committee of safety to this time; and also, the account of Mr. John Jenckes; and that they make report to this Assembly at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Ward, Henry Marchant and John Cole, Esqs., or the major part of them, be, and

they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draw an act for constituting a court, and appointing a mode of trial, for the acquittal or condemnation of such vessels as shall be captured by any vessels commissioned by the Continental Congress, or from any one of the United Colonies; and that they present the same to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that James Albro, be chosen captain; Eldred Spink, lieutenant; and James Eldred, son of Seth, ensign of the company of minute men, in North Kingstown.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, His Honor the Deputy Governor and Messrs. Ambrose Page, James Arnold, Jr., Jonathan Randall, John Sayles, Jr., Henry Ward, Metcalfe Bowler, Joseph Anthony, Joshua Babcock, John Jenckes, John Smith, John Matthewson, John Dexter, Stephen Whipple, William Greene, Paul Mumford, John Potter, John G. Wanton, Sylvester Gardner and Thomas Freebody, or any seven of them, together with such other members of the General Assembly, as shall be present at any meeting, be a general committee to act during the recess of the General Assembly, with full power and authority, in case of any sudden emergency or danger, to exert the whole force and strength of the colony, for the defence and safety of this and the neighboring colonies; and also to draw money out of the general treasury for those purposes.

It is voted and resolved, that the gentlemen who signed the last emission of bills ordered by this Assembly, lay their accounts before the general committee appointed to act in the recess of the General Assembly, who are empowered to audit the same, and to give orders on the general treasurer for what shall be due to them.

It is voted and resolved, that it be in the power of the commanding officer on Rhode Island, to discharge Capt. John Earle's company of minute men, within two days after the rising of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor and Messrs. John Smith and Daniel Tillinghast, be a committee to

confer with Major Wales, who hath the care of the Indian chiefs now in the town of Providence, respecting what will be suitable to make them a present of; and that the said committee be empowered to make such present, at the expense of the colony.

God save the King.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.*

Providence, Dec. 11th, 1775.

Sir:—I do myself the honor to address this letter to you, by Mr. Prenet, and another French gentleman, who arrived here last night, with Captain Rhodes, from Cape François, who were dispatched some time since from this place, for powder.

Mr. Prenet comes extremely well recommended to our committee, for providing powder, from a merchant of character, at the Cape. He hath proposals to make for supplying the United Colonies with arms and warlike stores. I am informed that the other gentleman is a person of some consequence. I beg leave to introduce them to Your Excellency, and to assure you that—

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To General Washington.

*Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Cambridge, Dec. 14th, 1775.

Sir:—Your favor of the 11th inst., was handed me, by the two French gentlemen, Messrs. Prenet and DePliance, for which I am exceedingly obliged to you.

I have heard their proposals and plans for supplying the continent with arms and ammunition, which appear plausible, and to promise success. But not thinking myself authorized to enter into any contract respecting the same, and being not fully acquainted with the measures Congress have adopted for procuring these articles, I have prevailed upon them to go to Philadelphia, and recommended them, and a consideration of their plan, to that body, when the matter will be finally agreed upon, or rejected.

I must request the favor of you to furnish every necessary for accommodating them, and carriages, with all expedition, as far as Governor Trumbull's. They are to travel at the continental expense; and whatever charge you may be at on their account, you will be pleased to transmit to me, and it shall be immediately reimbursed.

Yours, &c.,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke, Rhode Island.

*Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Cambridge, Dec. 17th, 1775.

Sir:—By sundry persons and accounts, just from Boston, I am informed that the ministerial army is in very great distress for want of fresh provisions, and having received intelligence that there are two hundred fat cattle on Block Island, and some transport vessels cruising that way in quest of necessaries for the army, I must request you to have the cattle, &c., removed from thence, immediately; and from every other place where their ships can come and take them off. It is a matter of the utmost importance to prevent their getting a supply; if they can be hindered now, the advanced season of the year, and the inclement weather, which we may expect ere long, will put it out of their power.

I yesterday received the enclosed information from several persons who lately came out from Boston, which I thought my duty to transmit to you. It is more than probable that the destination of the troops may be very different from what they have given out. They may have made use of that, to deceive in another quarter.

I am, &amp;c.,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke, Rhode Island.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.*

Providence, Dec. 19th, 1775.

Sir:—I have Your Excellency's of the 17th, which I have laid before the general committee.

Should the force sailed from Boston, be destined for Rhode Island, I tremble for the consequences; as the colony, in its present exhausted state, cannot, without assistance, defend the island.

At their unanimous request, I apply to Your Excellency for a detachment from the continental army of one regiment, to be stationed upon Rhode Island; and that you will please to appoint a general officer, to take the command of the whole force there.

They also desired me to inform you, that Gen. Lee will be very acceptable to the colony; and to request that the general officer who may be appointed, may set out immediately, to take the command of the troops upon the island, and put it in the best posture of defence.

We have, at head quarters, about two hundred and fifty men; and shall immediately place there, about four hundred more; and hold as many more in readiness, as possible. I need not point out to you the importance of the island, and the inability of the colony.

I am, in great haste,

Your very humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

P. S. Capt. Wallace hath hinted to some of his friends, that he expects a reinforcement, daily

*Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Cambridge, Dec. 20th, 1775.

Sir:—The letter accompanying this, was written before your favor of the 19th, per express, came to hand.

Under my present instructions, and in my present situation, I could not justify the sending a regiment from these lines to you, unless there was an apparent design of landing a body of ministerial troops on Rhode Island. At present, I do not think this to be apprehended; as a deserter out of Boston, since my last, is particular in declaring that only four companies, amounting to little over four hundred men, embarked, as was said, for Halifax; agreeing with others, that invalids and the officers of the 18th and 59th, who are going home to recruit, had sailed for England.

The intention of my last, containing the information as it was received, was only designed to put you upon you upon your guard; not that I expected a visit was intended you. If any small body of troops move from hence southerly, I have no expectation of their stopping short of Virginia, unless it should be on a pillaging party.

To conclude, sir, when I inform you, that I have been obliged to call in five thousand militia, to supply the deficiency of the Connecticut regiments, and those absent upon furlough, you will do me the justice to believe that not a want of inclination, but of ability, prevents me from complying with your request; unless, as is before observed, I had some obvious reasons to believe the visits of more men than we are well assured are embarked, was intended for your government.

I am, with very great esteem and regard, sir, &c.,

GEO. WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke, Rhode Island.

*Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Cambridge, Dec. 23d, 1775.

Sir:—Notwithstanding the great pains taken by the quartermaster general, to procure blankets for the army, he finds it impossible to procure a number sufficient. He has tried the different places to the southward, without success; as what were there, are engaged to supply the troops in each place.

Our soldiers are in great distress; and I know of no other way to remedy the evil, than applying to you. Cannot some be got from the different towns? Most houses could spare one; some of them, many.

If Your Honorable House will please to take this affair under your immediate consideration, and by some means or other, procure as many as can be spared from the house-keepers, you will do infinite service to the army, and very much oblige—

Your humble servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke, Rhode Island.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.*

Providence, January 1st, 1776.

Sir:—Upon receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 23d ultimo, I employed two persons to apply to the house-keepers in this town, individually, for the blankets for the army.

They have collected about one hundred and eighty; which will be sent forward this day. It is full as large a number as I expected to procure, considering how we have been exhausted by supplies to various parts of the service. I shall immediately take measures for collecting more from the country towns.

I refer Your Excellency to General Lee, for the particulars of his expedition to Rhode Island, which I hope will be attended with beneficial consequences to the colony.

I received yours, upon the subject of re-enlisting the army; but from the distressed state of the colony, and the multiplicity of business pressing me, was incapable of giving you a satisfactory answer; nor can I, at present, do any thing more than renew my assurances of giving every assistance in my power, to the service.

I am, with truth and esteem, sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency George Washington, Esq., general of the armies of the United Colonies.

P. S. You will receive by Mr. Coomer Haile, who carries the blankets, an account of the cost of them. I shall be obliged to Your Excellency for giving orders for the payment of it to him.

By the same conveyance, I send you a box and basket, left for Your Excellency, by Mr. Prenet, and the other French gentleman, who accompanied him.

*Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Cambridge, January 6th, 1776.

Sir:—I received your favor of the 1st instant, and return you my thanks for the blankets, and your promise of having more procured, as they are much wanted. I did not see Mr. Haile, who brought them, nor the account, or the money should have been transmitted to you by his return. You will please to draw on the quartermaster general, and it shall be immediately paid.

I have seen General Lee since his expedition, and hope that Rhode Island will derive some advantage from it.

I am told that Capt. Wallace's ships have been supplied, for some time, with provisions, by the town of Newport, on certain conditions, stipulated between him and the committee. When this treaty was first obtained, perhaps it was right; there then might have been some hopes of an accommodation taking place; but now, when every prospect seems to be cut off by His Majesty's late speech; when the throne, from which we had supplicated redress, breathes forth vengeance and indignation, and a firm determination to remain unalterable in its purposes, and to prosecute the system and plan of ruin formed by the ministry against us, should not an end be put



to it, and every possible method be fallen upon to prevent their getting necessaries of any kind?

We need not expect to conquer our enemies by good offices; and I know not what pernicious consequences may result from a precedent of this sort. Other places, circumstanced as Newport is, may follow the example, and, by that means, their whole fleet and army will be furnished with what it highly concerns us to keep them from; this, however, with all deference, I leave to your consideration.

I received a letter from Governor Trumbull, of the 1st instant, by which I am informed, that the Connecticut Assembly are very unanimous in the common cause; and, among others, have passed an act for raising and equipping a fourth of their militia, to be immediately selected by voluntary enlistments; with such other able, effective men, as are not included in their militia rolls, who may be inclined to enlist, to act as minute men, for their own, or the defence of any of the United Colonies; and this under proper encouragements.

Another act, for restraining and punishing persons inimical to us, and directing proceedings thereon; no person to supply the ministerial army and navy; to give them intelligence, to enlist, or to procure others to enlist in their service, to pilot their vessels, or in any way assist them, under pain of forfeiting his estate, and an imprisonment, not exceeding three years; none to write, speak or act against the proceedings of Congress, or their acts of Assembly, under penalty of being disarmed, and disqualified from holding any office; and be further punished by imprisonment; for seizing and confiscating, for the use of the colony, the estates of those who put or continue to shelter themselves under the protection of the ministerial fleet or army, or assist in carrying on their measures against us; a resolve to provide two armed vessels, of sixteen and fourteen guns, with a spy schooner of four, and six row-gallies; an act exempting the polls of soldiers from taxes, for the last and ensuing campaign; another, for encouraging the making of saltpeter and gunpowder; a considerable quantity of both which, Mr. Trumbull hopes to make early in the spring. He says the furnace at Middletown is smelting lead, and likely to turn out twenty or thirty tons; and that ore is plenty.

They have also passed an act empowering the commander in chief of the continental army, or officers commanding a detachment or out-posts, to administer an oath, and swear any person or persons to the truth of any matters concerning, and relative to, the public service.

The situation of our affairs seem to call for regulations like these; and I should think the other colonies ought to adopt similar ones, or such of them as they have not already made. Vigorous measures, and such as, at another time, would appear extraordinary, are now become absolutely necessary for preserving our country against the strides of tyranny making against us.

Governor Trumbull, in his list, has not mentioned an act for impressing carriages, and agreeably to the recommendation of Congress; this, I hope, they have not forgotten.

It is highly necessary that such an authority should be given, under proper restrictions, or we shall be greatly embarrassed whenever the army, or any detachment from it, should find it necessary to march from hence.

I am, sir, with very great esteem,

Your most obedient servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

To Governor Cooke.

*Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Cambridge, January 16, 1776.

Sir:—It is exceedingly painful to me, that I should so often trouble you respecting this army, and that I am under the necessity of applying to you again; but you must, in some measure, be involved in whatever difficulties attend me.

To my great surprise, I find, that, notwithstanding I had taken the utmost care to prevent the soldiers that would not re-enlist in the new army, from carrying away their arms, or such of them as were good, the number collected is trifling and inconsiderable, of which there are but very few, if any, now in store; they having been delivered to the recruits which have come in.

I also find, from the report of the recruiting officers, that a few more are to be enlisted who have arms in their hands; and that they are reduced to the disagreeable alternative of taking men without any, or no men at all.

Unhappy alternative! Must not those governments exert themselves in procuring them from the several towns, or in such other manner as to them shall seem most speedy and effectual?

To account minutely for this great deficiency, would be of no importance. I shall only say, that it has arisen from two causes, to wit:

The badness of the arms of the old army, which the inspectors and appraisers did not think worth detaining; and to the disobedience of some regiments in carrying theirs away, contrary to every order I could issue; and even solemn threats of stopping their pay for the months of November and December, of those that should.

The prospect of getting imported arms, is so remote and uncertain, that I cannot depend upon it. I therefore request the favor of you to inform me whether you have any, and what number, belonging to government; as, also, if you will be able to procure more; and in what time. If you have any, or can get them, I shall be glad to take them, on account of the Continent; they must be had, if possible.

I have written to the other New England governments on the same subjects.

I am, sir, with great regard and esteem,

Your most humble servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To the Honorable Governor Cooke.

*The Governor of Rhode Island, to General Lee, at New York.*

Providence, January 21st, 1776.

Sir:—I take the liberty to enclose to you, a copy of the address from this colony, to the Continental Congress; and to request your assistance in procuring a body of troops to be stationed in the colony, which I think a measure absolutely necessary for the common defence.

We are not without hopes that the Congress will take the whole brigade into their service; especially, as the necessity arising from so powerful an invasion, of establishing the whole force we have ordered, is clear and manifest.

From the nature of the war, and the circumstances of the colonies, I think every idea of partial and colonial defence, ought to be given up. There must be a supreme, superintending power, to exert and direct the force of the whole, for the

safety and defence of all; otherwise, the exertions and burthens will not only be very unequal, to the greatly endangering of the union, upon which the welfare of America depends, but colony after colony may be destroyed, without a chance of making resistance.

I shall only add, on this head, that unless the continent defends the colony, it must be abandoned; an event that will be attended with the most pernicious consequences to the common cause.

I am, with great sincerity and esteem, sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Honorable General Lee.

P. S. The town of Newport addressed a petition to the Congress, for permission to supply the King's ships.

The Congress referred it to the General Assembly; but at the same time, our delegates informed us, that every member who spoke in the debate, gave it as his opinion, that the ships should be supplied with necessaries for their own support; taking the greatest care, lest through them, the common enemy in other parts of America should obtain provisions; in consequence of which, the General Assembly have ordered that Capt. Wallace should be supplied, as you will see, by the enclosed vote.

But as he may cannonade, and even burn the town, a discretionary power, by a private vote, which it is designed shall be kept secret, is given to the commander of the forces on Rhode Island, to permit supplies in cases of imminent danger, until the Assembly meets, on the last Monday in next month.

### *The Governor of Rhode Island, to General Washington.*

Providence, January 21st, 1776.

Sir:—Your favor of the 6th instant, I received, and laid before the General Assembly. It had great weight; and I believe that no supplies to the enemy's ships would have been permitted, had it not appeared to us that the members of the Continental Congress were of opinion that they should be continued. The following is an extract of a letter from our delegates, on that subject:

“A memorial from the town of Newport, forwarded to us by express, having been referred to the General Assembly, we now enclose that, with the papers pertinent thereto.

We should not do justice to the benevolence of Congress, or to the distressed situation of the town, if we did not acquaint you, that all the gentlemen who spoke in this debate, expressed the most tender regard for the distressed people; and gave it as their opinion, that, as long as the ships of war now in our harbor could be supplied with fresh provisions, beer, and such like necessaries, merely for their own immediate support, consistently with the great principles of the general good and safety of America, the town ought to be permitted to furnish them; the greatest care being taken by government, that no more than the barely necessary supplies be furnished them from time to time, lest the common enemy in other parts of the continent, should through them obtain provisions.”

In consequence of which, the General Assembly have ordered that Capt. Wallace

should be supplied, as you will see, by the enclosed vote. But as he may cannonade, and even burn the town, a discretionary power, by a private vote, which it is designed should be kept a profound secret, is given to the commander of the forces on Rhode Island, to permit supplies, in cases of imminent danger, until the next session, to be holden on the last Monday in next month.

Similar measures to those taken by Connecticut, as mentioned in your letter, have been adopted by this colony. Besides which, the commanding officer of any body of the Continental troops, is empowered to impress carriages, &c.

The General Assembly have ordered an address to the Congress, a copy of which, I do myself the honor to enclose you.

We are not without hopes that the Congress will take the whole brigade into their service: especially, as the necessity, arising from so powerful an invasion, of establishing the whole force we have ordered, is clear and manifest.

From the nature of the war, and the circumstances of the colonies, I think every idea of partial and colonial defence, ought to be given up. There must be a supreme, superintending power, to exert and direct the force of the whole, for the defence and safety of all; otherwise, the exertions and burthens will not only be very unequal, to the greatly endangering of the union, upon which the welfare of America depends, but colony after colony may be subdued, without a chance of making resistance.

I shall only add, on this head, that unless the continent enter upon the defence of the colony, it must be abandoned, to the great injury of the common cause. I beg the favor of Your Excellency seriously to consider this matter, and to give us your assistance with the members of the Congress, for procuring such a body of forces as the interest of this and the united colonies in general, shall require.

We had procured upwards of an hundred blankets, which were designed for the army under your immediate command; but the descent upon Prudence, obliged us to send forty of them to our troops upon that island; and to supply the additional forces ordered to be raised, will demand every blanket that can be spared in the colony.

I am, with great respect and esteem, sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

*The Governor of Rhode Island, to Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward, Delegates of the Colony, at the Continental Congress.*

Providence, January 21st, 1776.

Gentlemen:—I enclose you, at the request of the General Assembly, an address to the Congress, representing the deplorable state of the colony, and praying for assistance.

We might have entered into a more minute detail; but the Assembly having a full reliance upon your giving the Congress every needful information respecting the colony, thought it unnecessary. You will please to deliver and enforce it as soon as you have a rational prospect of its meeting with success.

Notwithstanding the propriety of our petition is such, that we ought not to doubt

of its being granted, yet it may be prudent to interest some of the leading members in our favor, before it be brought on. But as you are upon the spot, the whole matter must be submitted to you; and I am perfectly satisfied that you will manage it with proper address.

The General Assembly are not without hopes that the Congress will take the whole brigade into their service; especially, as the necessity arising from so powerful an invasion, of establishing the whole force we have ordered, is clear and manifest; and you will use your utmost endeavors to procure a resolution for that purpose.

From the nature of the war, and the circumstances of the colonies, every idea of partial and colonial defence, ought to be given up. There must be a supreme, superintending power to exert and direct the force of the whole, for the defence and safety of all; otherwise, the exertions and burthens will not only be very unequal, to the greatly endangering of the union upon which the welfare of America depends, but colony after colony may be subdued, without a chance of making resistance.

I will only add, upon this head, that our circumstances will not admit of delay; and that unless the Congress enter upon the defence of the colony, it must be abandoned.

I am also, at the request of the General Assembly, to desire you "to inform them what information you have had, respecting any letters being written by any of the inhabitants of this colony to any person in the city of Philadelphia, respecting the situation of the town of Newport, and the supplying of Capt. Wallace with provisions; and of any reflections that have been cast by such letters upon any part of this colony; and to inform them of the names of such letter writers; and to procure and transmit to them, copies of such letters, if they can be obtained."

The particulars of the unfortunate attack upon Quebec, are not yet come to hand. I suppose you have received them before now. It is a severe check; but we have still great successes to be thankful for; and in a war so extensive, we must expect to meet with some disagreeable events. I most sincerely sympathize with Mr. Ward upon this occasion, and heartily wish he may have some comfortable intelligence from his son.

I am informed by a letter from New Providence, that the militia from the western parts of Connecticut, are pushing off in sleighs, in great numbers for Canada.

The secretary tells me he hath given his brother an account of the descent upon Prudence. I shall only add, that the stock is now very nearly removed.

In consequence of the recommendation of the members of the general Congress, as mentioned in Mr. Ward's letter, the Assembly have agreed to supply the King's ships, as you will see by the enclosed vote. But as Wallace may cannonade, and even burn the town, a discretionary power, by a private vote, which it is designed shall be kept a profound secret, is given to the commander of the forces on Rhode Island, to permit supplies in cases of imminent danger, until the next session, to be holden on the last Monday in February.

Capt. Greenell hath exerted himself greatly in procuring men for the navy; and hath an inclination to enter the service, if he can obtain a place sufficient to support himself and family. I beg leave to recommend him to your assistance.

I am, with great truth and regard, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Honorable S. Hopkins and S. Ward, Esqs.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on the last Monday in February, 1776.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.

The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that the company of soldiers under the command of Capt. Thomas Gorton, in the pay of this colony, be stationed upon Warwick Neck.

That Col. John Waterman be, and he is hereby, directed and empowered to procure as many fire-arms and blankets as shall be necessary for said company, by either borrowing or purchasing, upon the best terms he can, and to direct said company to proceed to their said station; and that he be paid for his trouble.

That Capt. Josiah Gibbs's company be immediately ordered to proceed to their station, at Adquenesit; and that as many of the minute men there be discharged from government pay, as said company shall relieve.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport be, and he is hereby, directed and fully empowered, to take sufficient aid, and proceed to the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq., late Governor of this colony, and to take possession of the charter and papers, together with the chest, and all other things appertaining to this colony, which are in his custody; and to deliver the same to the committee appointed by the General Assembly to receive them, to be delivered to His Honor the present Governor; and in case of any resistance being made by the said Joseph Wanton, Esq., to take him into custody, and bring him before this General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that whereas, this Assembly hath received information that Mr. Martin Luther, of Warren, hath

fitted out and sent a vessel to sea, contrary to the resolves of the Continental Congress; which vessel is returned from her voyage from the West Indies, with a cargo of goods, that the said Martin Luther, together with Capt. Collins, master of said vessel, be forthwith had before this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the book in the secretary's office, in which is entered an account of all the vessels and merchandize which have been sent out, or brought within this colony, since the 10th day of September last past; and that all the bonds in said office, which have been given respecting said vessels, and merchandize, be immediately brought and laid before this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that one thousand weight of gunpowder (including the five hundred weight already ordered,) be immediately sent from the colony's magazine to the headquarters, upon Rhode Island, under the care of Lieut. Colonel Lippitt; and that he make application to the committee for the same.

This Assembly taking into consideration a resolution of the Honorable the Continental Congress, of the 20th of January last, for procuring gold and silver coin, for the operations in Canada,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety, the commissary, Messrs. John G. Wanton, Joseph Anthony, John Jenckes, John Brown, John Mathewson, Joseph Nightingale, Daniel Owen, Stephen Whipple, Joshua Babcock, John Potter, Joseph Noyes, William Potter, George Hazard, Henry Marchant, Christopher Champlin, Jr., George Champlin, Simeon Potter, Shearjashub Bourn, John Waldron, Ezekiel Gardner, Benjamin Ellery, William Greene, Richard Mathewson, Pardon Tillinghast, Charles Holden, Israel Bowen, Edward Hull, Francis Malbone, George Irish, John Negus, Philip Taylor, John Weeden, Arnold Paine, Nathaniel Martin, Andrew Harris, Cromel Child, John Mawdfley, Simon Pease, Benjamin Wilkinson, George Corlis, Joseph Hewes, Thomas Brown, James Potter, Thomas Olney, Thomas Wickes, Josias Lyndon, John Almy, Job Sweeting, Samuel

Nightingale and Benjamin Greene, be a committee, to procure as much gold and silver coin, as they can, for the use aforesaid.

That it be, and hereby is, recommended to every member of the General Assembly, to use his best endeavors to promote the above mentioned service.

That the committee of safety be empowered to receive such silver and gold coin, as shall be procured, as aforesaid, and pay for the same in lawful money bills, which they are hereby empowered to draw out of the general treasury for that purpose.

That the committee of safety pay the gold and silver coin they shall so receive, into the general treasury, within one month; that the whole of the above mentioned business be done without any charge to the colony.

That the secretary forthwith furnish every person hereby appointed, with a copy of the said resolution of the Continental Congress; and also with a copy of this vote.

*Resolution of the Continental Congress.*

“In Congress, January 20, 1776.

It being necessary to procure a large quantity of specie, for the operations in Canada, which cannot be successfully carried on without that article,—

Resolved, that it be recommended to the General Assemblies, conventions and councils or committees of safety, upon the continent, to employ proper persons within their respective colonies, to collect all the gold and silver coin they can, and inform the Congress of the sum collected.

Extract from the minutes.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.”

It is voted and resolved, that the government will purchase of Mr. Silas Casey and Mr. Nathan Miller, all the salt they now have, at three shillings per bushel.

That Mr. Jacob Greene be appointed to receive the salt of



Mr. Casey ; and Col. Sylvester Child to receive the salt from Mr. Miller, and to store the whole in some places of safety, to be hereafter delivered out to the inhabitants of the colony, as the General Assembly shall think proper ; that the persons so appointed, draw for the amount thereof, out of the general treasury.

And also, that Col. Joseph Noyes purchase all the salt he can, at as low a rate as possible, but not to exceed three shillings, per bushel.

Whereas, Mr. Samuel Tomkins exhibited unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the colony, for supplying the minute men and others, who went upon Prudence, for the defence of said island, with provision and other necessaries for their support ; and the same being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the amount thereof, being £100 12s. 6d., be allowed ; and that the aforesaid sum be paid unto the said Samuel Tomkins, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that it be recommended to the inhabitants upon Block Island, to use their utmost endeavors and diligence, to remove the stock, or so much thereof, as the committee to be appointed by this Assembly for that purpose, shall judge not absolutely necessary for the use and consumption of the said inhabitants, to the main.

And it is further voted and resolved, that Capt. John Sands, Mr. Joshua Sands and Mr. William Littlefield, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to determine what number of neat cattle and sheep shall be left upon said Block Island, for the necessary use of the inhabitants ; and agree with proper persons for the removal of the remainder, upon the best terms they can.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the committee men aforesaid, agree with the inhabitants for the fire arms now on said island, and purchase them for the use of the colony, as soon as possible, and deliver them to the committee of safety ; and that they draw for the amount of the fire-arms, so delivered, out of the general treasury.

And that all warlike stores now on said island, be immediately removed therefrom, and delivered to the committee of safety.

Both Houses being resolved into a grand committee, Brigadier General William West's resignation of the command of the colony's brigade being read and considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be accepted, and he is hereby discharged from the command thereof, accordingly.

This Assembly taking into consideration a letter from Brig. Gen. West, respecting a dispute between Col. Henry Babcock and Col. William Richmond, concerning rank,—

Do resolve, that by the rules of the army, Col. Babcock is entitled to take rank of Col. Richmond in the colony's brigade; and that he do take rank, accordingly.

The grand committee then proceeded to make choice of the following officers, to wit:

*Officers for the First Regiment in the Colony's Brigade.*

Caleb Gardner, major.

Benjamin Fry, captain; Jonathan Wallen, lieutenant; and Edmund A. Smith, ensign of the first company.

Caleb Carr, captain; Peleg Heath, lieutenant; and Benjamin Bosworth, 3d, ensign, of the second company.

Jeremiah Pearce, ensign of the third company.

Nathaniel Church, captain of the tenth company.

*Officers for the Second Regiment in the Colony's Brigade.*

Arthur Fenner, son of Edward, lieutenant of the first company, in the place of William Drown, who is appointed to a lieutenantancy in the sixth company.

Abraham Tourtelot, ensign of the fourth company.

Nathaniel Blackmar, captain of the fifth company.

William Drown, lieutenant of the sixth company.

Ichabod Prentice, ensign of the twelfth company.

John Bartlett, Jr., surgeon's mate of the brigade, in the room of John Chace, who declined.

Stephen Wigner, surgeon's mate, in the room of Ebenezer Richmond, who declined.

Enoch Stanton, armorer of the brigade, at the same wages as are allowed to the armorers of the Continental army.

It is voted and resolved, that the quartermaster of each regiment in this colony's brigade, be, and he is hereby, allowed the same wages that a quartermaster is paid in the Continental army.

It is voted and resolved, that each of the majors, as also the major of brigade, and each of the two adjutants belonging to the colony's brigade, be, and they are hereby, allowed six shillings per week, for horse-keeping, when their horses shall be kept upon hay; and two shillings per week, when kept upon grass.

It is voted and resolved, that the commissary of the colony's brigade, upon Rhode Island, purchase beef for the use of said brigade, upon the best terms he can procure the same; provided, he does not exceed the price that is given for beef by the commissary of the Continental army, at Cambridge.

Both Houses being joined in a grand committee, made choice of the following officers for the militia, in the colony, to wit:

*Militia Officers for the Colony, Chosen.*

Stephen Jillson, captain of the second company of militia, in the town of Cumberland, in the room of Levi Tower, who resigned.

Roger Sheldon, lieutenant of the same company, in the room of Stephen Jillson, promoted.

Abraham Cooke, ensign of the same company, in the room of Roger Sheldon, promoted.

Charles Olney, captain; Eleazer Jenks, lieutenant; and Samuel Olney, ensign, of the company of militia, in the town of North Providence.

John Vars, lieutenant and Thomas Coggeshall, Jr., ensign, of the company of militia, in the town of Middletown.

David Giffard, captain of the first company of militia, in the town of Portsmouth, in the room of Burrington Anthony.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. James Arnold, Jr., Col. John Waterman and Capt. John Aborn, be a committee, to examine the damages sustained by Capt. Samuel Tomkins, occasioned by the soldiers' being quartered at his house, upon Prudence Island ; and that they, or the major part of them, inquire into the same, and make report at the next session of this Assembly, what they shall think reasonable and right to be allowed therefor.

Whereas, Mrs. Mary Clarke, wife of James Clarke, late of Newport, in this colony, preferred her petition before this Assembly, setting forth that her said husband having been a long voyage at sea, and about coming home ; but hearing of the troublesome times in this country, and being under great concern for his family, hath concluded to settle in the island of Dominica, where he has an estate, and has sent for the petitioner and his whole family, to come to him.

And the petitioner being very desirous of obtaining a place of safety, humbly prayed this Assembly to grant her liberty of fitting out a vessel, for transporting herself, family and household furniture, to said island of Dominica, and for no other purpose, whatever ; this Assembly taking the aforesaid petition into consideration,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the above mentioned petition be granted, under the direction and care of the committee of inspection of the town of Cranston.

Whereas, Miss Martha Duncan, Miss Elizabeth Duncan and Miss Mary Duncan, preferred their petition to this Assembly, setting forth that from the distressed situation of the town of Newport, and from the dreadful apprehension of the danger with which the same was threatened, they were induced to transport their most valuable effects to Updike's Newtown, a place they esteemed of more safety ; but unhappily, the boat in which the same were conveying, was captured by Capt.

Wallace, and the goods with which she was laden, taken on board the ships of war, in Newport harbor.

That after the above capture, application was repeatedly made in behalf of the petitioners to the commanding officer at head-quarters, upon Rhode Island, for a permit to go on board Capt. Wallace, to solicit a restoration of their effects, which has been refused.

Wherefore, the petitioners prayed this Assembly, that they might be permitted to go on board Capt. Wallace's ship, for the purpose, aforesaid; whereupon, this Assembly taking the premises into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted resolved, that the aforesaid petitioners may have liberty to go on board of Capt. Wallace's ship, under the care and direction of the committee heretofore authorized and permitted to go on board the King's ships of war.

Whereas, the town of Westerly, preferred a petition to this Assembly, representing that the proportion of the colony taxes, assessed in the year 1773; and also for the year 1774, upon said town, had not been duly paid into the general treasury by the collector appointed to receive the same; and that in consequence thereof, the town treasurer of said Westerly had been committed to jail in the county of Kings county, and given bond for the liberty of the jail house and yard; and thereupon, left the jail, and subjected the town to pay thirty per cent. damages; and besought this Assembly that they would take the premises into consideration, and that upon the town's paying into the general treasury the deficiency of both taxes, with interest, from the time they should have been collected and paid into the general treasury, that they might be excused from paying the thirty per cent. damages incurred by law; whereupon, this Assembly, duly considering the same,—

It is voted and resolved, that upon the town of Westerly's paying into the general treasury the amount of the said town's proportion of said two taxes, together with the interest upon the same, from the time limited by this Assembly to collect the

said taxes, the town be excused from paying the thirty per cent. damages.

It is voted and resolved, that the town council of the town of Newport be, and they are hereby, allowed to supply Capt. Wallace weekly, with two thousand pounds weight of beef, and with beer, &c., as usual, under the direction of the commanding officer of the forces stationed upon Rhode Island.

That he appoint a proper person to provide and deliver said provisions, &c.

That not any member of either House of Assembly be appointed, or suffered to go on board any or either of the ships of war, under the said Wallace's command, on any occasion, whatsoever.

That the aforesaid supplies be delivered to Capt. Wallace, upon his stipulating that the ferry boats, wood boats and market boats, with the passengers on board, pass and repass to and from the town of Newport, with the common and usual necessities of life on board, unmolested.

And that Messrs. Simon Pease, John Malbone and George Sears (if he will serve,) or otherwise John Mawdfley, Esq., be a committee to go on board of Capt. Wallace's ship on any urgent occasion.

Whereas, this Assembly, upon complaint and information by them received, did order Col. Joseph Wanton to appear before them, to answer respecting his conduct; and the Assembly having examined into the same, there doth not appear any cause for detaining him; wherefore,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Joseph Wanton be now dismissed; and he is now dismissed, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that all the minute men now in pay, be relieved by an equal number from the standing troops, in this colony; and that a sufficient number of them be ordered forward, to relieve the minute men, who are to be discharged within one week, or sooner, if they are so relieved.

Whereas, Mrs. Deborah Dayton, wife of Benedict Dayton, of Newport, in the county of Newport, cordwainer, presented

to this Assembly her petition, setting forth, that her said husband, Benedict Dayton, was, on his passage from Newport to Updike's Newtown, on the 2d day of January last past, taken on board the Rose man of war, and ever since that time detained as a prisoner.

That application had divers times been made to Capt. Wallace, commander of said ship, to release her said husband, without effect; and besought this Assembly to exchange with said Wallace some person who was a prisoner within this colony, for her said husband; whereupon, this Assembly taking the same into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the committee authorized to go on board Capt. Wallace, by this Assembly, be empowered to exchange George Hamilton, the prisoner now at Warren, for the said Benedict Dayton.

And to permit Joseph Farrish to go on board the Rose, or any other of the ships of war; provided, that Capt. Wallace will release the wounded prisoner belonging to this colony; and in case Capt. Wallace shall refuse, then to propose exchanging the said Farrish for Capt. John Duncan.

Whereas, Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart, wife of Gilbert Stewart, late of Newport, in the colony of Rhode Island, snuff-maker, preferred her petition to this Assembly, setting forth that her said husband is possessed of a tract of land in the township of Newport, in Nova Scotia, under improvement, and upon which he hath some stock.

That he finding it impossible to maintain his family in the said town of Newport, in this colony, did some time last summer remove to his said farm, where he now is, and proposes to remain.

And that, exclusive of the impracticability of her supporting herself and family in this colony, which strongly impels her to follow her said husband, she is very desirous of joining him, which she is also bound in duty to do, if possible.

And therefore besought this Assembly to permit the sloop Nova Scotia Packet, David Ross, master, to proceed to the said township of Newport, in Nova Scotia, with herself and family; she being willing to give the amplest security, that

nothing but the wearing apparel and household furniture of the family, and the necessary provisions for the voyage, shall be carried in said sloop ; the Assembly taking the same into consideration,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of this petition be granted ; and that the sloop, aforesaid, be permitted to sail under the inspection of Messrs. John Collins and George Sears, of Newport, in this colony, or either of them.

Whereas, Col. Thomas Church exhibited an account to this Assembly, wherein he had debited himself to the colony for the amount of sundry guns which were turned into the Continental store at Cambridge ; which account being examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be allowed ; and that the amount thereof, being £613 10s. lawful money, be paid by the said Col. Thomas Church, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. John Warren, and Capt. Joshua Ingraham, be permitted to go on board the *Rose* man of war, or any other of the King's ships, under the inspection of the committee appointed to go on board said ships, in order to solicit compensation for damages they have sustained by them.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. James Arnold, Jr., be appointed to build, at the expense of the colony, a watch house, in a convenient place, upon Cranston Neck, for the watch appointed upon said Neck ; and that the same be twelve feet in length, and eight in breadth.

It is voted and resolved, that one of the eighteen-pound cannon, in the battery, at Providence, with the carriage and stores belonging to it, be sent to Bristol, for the defence of that place ; and that the same be carried in one of the row galleys.

Whereas, Mr. Aaron Lopez exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the colony, for four half barrels of gunpowder, delivered for the use of the colony, and one whale-boat ; which said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that the amount thereof, being £22 16s., lawful



money, be paid the said Aaron Lopez, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that for the future, the committees of inspection, or any one member thereof, for the several towns adjoining the shores of this colony, be, and they are hereby, empowered to inspect any of the freight boats, wood boats and ferry boats, when about to pass from one part of the colony to another, whereby they may be in danger of being brought too by any of the ministerial ships of war.

And if any person shall be on board such boat, with intent to pass over the bays, rivers or harbors, who is suspected of being unfriendly to the common cause of America, such committee, or any one member belonging thereto, shall have power to prevent such persons passing in such boat, unless they have a pass from His Honor the Governor, the Deputy Governor, or the commander in chief upon some station within this colony.

And it is further voted and resolved, that Messrs. Thomas Freebody, John Collins, George Sears and William Ellery, be a committee of inspection, for the purpose aforesaid, for the town of Newport.

It is voted and resolved, that within one week from the rising of this Assembly, the minute men in the colony be dismissed from that service, and be embodied in the militia, as heretofore.

That on any future alarm, notice or warning being given to the militia, they forthwith repair, agreeably to orders given, to the place threatened to be invaded, in order to repel the enemy.

That every one of the militia appearing properly accoutred, with a good fire-lock, bayonet, cartridge-box, &c., subject to the control of his commanding officer, shall be entitled to receive pay.

It is further voted and resolved, that the pay of the militia, when called upon actual duty, shall be as follows :

Each captain, five shillings ; each lieutenant, four shillings ; each ensign, two shillings and sixpence ; each sergeant, two shillings and sixpence ; each and every corporal, drummer

and fifer, two shillings and threepence ; and each private soldier, two shillings ; who shall appear as aforesaid, for each and every day they shall continue in service.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, Messrs. William Ellery, John Mathewson, Henry Marchant and Gideon Mumford, be a committee, to take into consideration the present state of this colony, and the necessary means to be pursued for the defence thereof.

That they direct the commanding officer of the colony's brigade where to station the troops under his command.

That the committee, aforesaid, together with the commander in chief of the colony's brigade, cause fortifications as soon as possible to be erected upon Rhode Island and at Bristol, sufficient to command and keep open a communication at Bristol Ferry.

And that the troops stationed at Bristol, upon Rhode Island, or so many of them as can be spared, be employed in the said service.

Whereas, Mr. Edward Hull exhibited unto this Assembly an account by him charged against the colony, for beef, hides and tallow, brought from New Shoreham ; which being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be allowed ; and that the balance thereof, being £50 7s. 2d., lawful money, be paid to said Edward Hull, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Messrs. Nicholas Brown and Company presented unto this Assembly, a petition, setting forth that they had heretofore agreed to make for the colony sixty pieces of heavy cannon for £35, lawful money, per ton.

That at the time of making the contract, they were quite unacquainted with the price of cannon in England, which they since find, by Muller's treatise on artillery, is £30, per ton.

That in making the necessary preparations, and hiring the proper workmen, they find the pay of the laborers, &c., to be advanced near one-half more than it was when they made the aforesaid contract.

They likewise find by said treatise, that the lighter cannon

made upon the new construction, are much better than the old heavy pieces; that the labor necessary to be used in making the light cannon, is nearly the same as that bestowed upon the heavy pieces.

That Ambrose Page, Esq., one of the gentlemen appointed by the Assembly to give the dimensions of the cannon, &c., prefers the lighter pieces, as being best calculated to answer the end proposed; that they will cost less by \$1,400, than if made upon the plan proposed upon the original contract; and prayed this Assembly to take the premises into consideration; wherefore—

It is voted and resolved, that Ambrose Page, John Mathewson and Ebenezer Thompson, Esqs., be a committee to consider of the contents of the said petition, and to agree with the petitioners for casting the said cannon upon the best terms they can.

Whereas, Messrs. Rowland Robinson and Nathan Gardner exhibited unto this Assembly, an account charged against the colony, for two thousand six hundred and fifty-nine pounds and an half of beef, hides and tallow, brought from New Shoreham; which being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the amount thereof, being £26 14s. 11d., be allowed; and that the aforesaid sum be paid to the said Rowland Robinson and Nathan Gardner, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, William Potter, Esq., exhibited unto this Assembly, an account of the sales of five hundred and nineteen sheep, and the charges thereon, which were received from New Shoreham, and by him, with the rest of the committee appointed, sold to divers persons; which account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the balance, thereof, being £82 1d., be paid by the said William Potter, into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the bond given to the general treasurer by the owners of the sloop Diana, Rufus Potter, master, upon her sailing on her last voyage, be delivered up.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Joseph Brown, John Smith, Cromel Child, Thomas Corey and Edward Church, be, and they are hereby, appointed to procure carriages to be made for the sixty cannon ordered to be purchased for the colony, as soon as possible.

That the said committee agree among themselves what part each of them will undertake ; and that the said Joseph Brown give the dimensions of, and directions for, making the said carriages.

It is voted and resolved, that John Hyers be, and he is hereby, chosen and appointed captain of the Washington row-galley, in the room of Captain Oliver Gardner, who has resigned.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Joseph Brown, Daniel Tillinghast and Thomas Greene, or any two of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to audit all the accounts of the workmen, employed in making carriages for the cannon brought from Newport to Providence.

That they be empowered to draw upon the general treasurer for the sums they shall find due ; and that report be made to this Assembly at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Jenckes be, and he is hereby, appointed and empowered to purchase, for the use of the colony, all the gunpowder and other merchandize imported in the sloop Diana, which is wanted for their use ; and that he draw money out of the general treasury, to pay for the same.

It is voted and resolved, that John Cook, Esq., and Capt. James Potter be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to lease out the estates seized for the use of the colony, by Eseck Hopkins, Esq., in the county of Newport ; William Potter and Ezekiel Gardner, Esqs., for such like estates, in Kings county ; and James Angell, Esq., for estates under the like circumstances, in the county of Providence.

Whereas, Mr. Job Gardner, exhibited unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the colony, for victualling and supplying the minute men and militia, that watched the shores,

with fire-wood and house-room ; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that £12 4s. 10*d.*, being the amount thereof, be paid to the said Job Gardner, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee heretofore appointed for removing the stock and hay from the island of Conanicut, or any two of them, do forthwith proceed to remove the hay belonging to Isaac Howland, necessary for the support of his stock, which hath been already removed.

That they also remove the hay and stock of any other of the inhabitants of the said island, who are willing to have the same removed off.

That the commanding officer on said island, do assist said committee with such a number of men, under the command of a commissioned officer, as they shall think necessary for said service ; and that said committee be, and they are hereby, empowered to receive out of the general treasury the sum of £50, to be accounted for by them when said business is completed.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John Jenckes and John Waterman be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to erect a powder mill, in the county of Providence, at the charge of the colony.

Whereas, Brigadier General William West, hath, since his residence at head-quarters, in Middletown, taken up divers persons, upon suspicion of their conducting themselves in a manner inimical to the liberties and privileges for which we are now strenuously contending ; which persons have since been examined before this House, and upon a full hearing, dismissed ;—

It is voted and resolved, that it is nevertheless the opinion of this Assembly, that the said General West hath acted therein as an officer having the love of his country at heart ; and that this Assembly will ever approve the conduct of their military commanders, in exerting themselves for the securing and bringing to trial all persons conducting in a suspicious manner,

as aforesaid ; at the same time carefully observing not to encroach upon, infringe or supersede the civil authority, by exertions of the military.

Whereas, Mr. Joseph Aplin was brought before this Assembly, to answer for his conduct ; and being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Joseph Aplin be, and he is hereby, dismissed.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, Messrs. John Jenckes and Joshua Babcock, or either of them, be a committee, to purchase, at the expense and for the use of the colony, all the gunpowder, arms and military stores, that they shall be able to procure, and think necessary.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Benjamin Brenton be, and he is hereby, dismissed from the complaint made against him to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that all executions, for the staying of which, petitions are now pending before this Assembly, be stayed until the said petitions be heard.

God save the King.

*Gen. William West to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Headquarters, Middletown, 26th February, 1776.

Honored Sir :—A dispute hath arisen between Col. Richmond and Col. Babcock, concerning their rank in the brigade.

Col. Richmond says he was appointed colonel of the first regiment, and was second in command under Gen. Hopkins ; and that his rank is undoubtedly before Col. Babcock.

Col. Babcock, on the contrary, says he had a colonel's commission many years ago, in the last war ; and for that reason, and according to the established rules in all camps, his rank is certainly preferable to that of Col. Richmond.

As it is my desire that every officer in the brigade should have his proper rank, according to the rules of an army, hope the General Assembly, will fully explain and settle that matter beyond all controversy, as I don't choose to intermeddle in those matters, myself.

I have taken up one Nathaniel Case, of Exeter, for selling cider to the ministerial fleet ; and after examining him, I dismissed him, upon his parole, to appear before the General Assembly, at the next session ; a copy of which, and of his examination, I now send you, enclosed ; also, some further evidence concerning Jos. Aplin and Benj. Brenton ; and Jos. Allen's evidence, of Newport, which I have taken this day, respecting Col. Jos. Wanton.

I likewise send you the state of all the forces stationed on this island and Jamestown; together with an account of the warlike stores we have had here, since I have had the command; also the quantity we have at present.

I am, with respect,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

WILLIAM WEST.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at East Greenwich, on Monday, the 18th day of March, 1776.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.

The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that there be immediately raised in Newport, a company of men, not exceeding twenty-five, including officers, by the name of the Watch Company.

That the following persons be, and they are hereby, chosen to officer said company, to wit:

Philip Moss, captain; Augustus Newman, lieutenant; and Joseph Crandel, ensign.

That they be commissioned by His Honor the Governor, and directly proceed to enlist soldiers to fill up said company.

That the said company be under the command of the commander in chief of the Rhode Island brigade; and that their pay be, and hereby is, established in the following manner:

The captain, five shillings; the lieutenant, four shillings; the ensign, three shillings; the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers, two shillings, for each and every day they shall be employed in said service, by the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that all persons who have any just demands against the persons whose estates are seized for the colony's use, be, and they are hereby, directed to exhibit their several claims unto the secretary, within six months after the rising of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that all the notes due from this colony, carrying interest, be brought into the general treasury, to be exchanged, within one month from and after the rising of this Assembly: and that the interest on said notes cease after said month expires.

Whereas, Jabez Champlin, Esq., sheriff of the county of Newport, was ordered and directed by this Assembly to take possession of the charter, &c., in the possession of Joseph Wanton, Esq., late Governor of this colony, and deliver the same to the committee, to be delivered to His Honor the present Governor; and thereupon made the following report:

*Report of the Sheriff of the County of Newport, to the General Assembly, relative to certain Documents in the possession of Joseph Wanton, belonging to the Colony.*

Newport, Rhode Island, March 17, 1776.

By virtue of a vote of the Honorable General Assembly, of the colony, aforesaid, at their session, held at East Greenwich, on the 27th day of February past, delivered unto me by Mr. James Cahoon, of Newport, aforesaid, merchant, I proceeded with Daniel W. Hookey and William Davis, two of my deputies, without delay, unto the house of the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq., late Governor of the colony, aforesaid; and in his absence took and carried away from and out of said house, a chest, in which were, and are, deposited the charter of the colony, aforesaid; Fone's Book of Records, a large number of bundles of papers, seventeen dies for counterfeiting dollars and half Johannes, an instrument for edge-milling, and other implements for counterfeiting; and left a copy of the same vote at the house of the Honorable Joseph Wanton, Esq., aforesaid, and an account of what I had taken from thence.

And have this day, in pursuance of the said vote or act, delivered the same chest, charter, Fone's Book of Records, bundles of papers, dies for counterfeiting dollars and half Johannes, instruments for edge-milling, and other implements for counterfeiting, as aforesaid, unto Christopher Lippitt, Esq. and Joseph Anthony, gentleman, two of a committee appointed by the Honorable the General Assembly, aforesaid, to receive the same.

JABEZ CHAMPLIN, Sheriff.

And the aforesaid premises being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid report be, and it is hereby, accepted.

Whereas, the following memorial was laid before this Assembly, by the committee appointed to prepare the same:—



*Memorial of the General Assembly of Rhode Island to General Washington.*

The General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., acknowledge with gratitude the timely notice you have been pleased to give them, of the late movement of the ministerial troops; the necessary orders have, in consequence thereof, been given to the militia of this colony, to hold themselves in readiness, should any attack or lodgment be made here by said troops.

But we must inform Your Excellency, that the great number of troops sent out of this colony, has considerably lessened our numbers; that the troops raised and stationed within this colony, hath made it necessary for us to take the arms out of the hands of a great part of the militia, which has made them greatly deficient in arms. The singular situation of this colony will, we hope, excite Your Excellency's immediate attention. Rhode Island, and the many other islands in our bays and rivers, with the extensive sea coast, render it very difficult to defend ourselves against the present ministerial forces.

What our situation must be, if a large armed force should make a landing upon Rhode Island, or any other part of the colony, Your Excellency may as easily suggest as we can describe.

It will, we are sure, be Your Excellency's great concern to defend every part of the continent, as far as possible.

Should Your Excellency see fit to order any part of the forces from the vicinity of Boston to any of the Southern colonies, we could wish Your Excellency would order their march through this colony by the sea shore, that we might have the chance of their being present, should the colony be immediately invaded; and whether it may not be necessary that a considerable force should be immediately stationed here, until the intention of the enemy can be known, we submit to Your Excellency.

We are extremely solicitous for all the assistance Your Excellency can afford, consistent with the general good, and doubt not but the utmost attention will be paid by Your Excellency to our peculiar distressed and dangerous.

Which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, approved; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to sign a copy thereof, in behalf of this colony, and forward the same immediately to His Excellency General Washington.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Marchant, Thomas Greene and William Ellery, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed to wait upon His Excellency General Washington, with the memorial of this Assembly.

That they give the best information in their power, of the state of this colony to His Excellency, or in his absence, to the commander in chief for the time being, and use the most press-

ing instances for stationing a body of troops from the Continental army in this colony, until the destination of the army, which hath lately been obliged to evacuate Boston, shall be ascertained; and that they pray the general to recommend to the Honorable Continental Congress the placing such a force in this colony, as shall appear necessary for the defence thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that the several officers appointed to the companies of artillery, pursuant to an act of the General Assembly, passed at the January session last, establishing artillery companies in several towns in this colony, be commissioned by His Honor the Governor, in the usual manner; and that their commissions bear date at the time of their appointment.

Whereas, Mr. Jonathan Peck exhibited unto this Assembly two accounts, by him charged against the colony, for supplying the people who appeared upon the alarms at Bristol, upon the cannonading that town, and burning the houses upon Prudence; and the said accounts being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby are, allowed; and that £7 4s.  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid unto the said Jonathan Peck, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, directed to allow all such billeting for soldiers, as shall appear to them just and right, by proper certificates from the officer or officers commanding them.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Robert Elliot and Col. Jesse Champlin, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to proceed to Stonington, to purchase, for the use of the colony, the powder, arms, flints, blankets and all warlike stores, which Messrs. Clark and Nightingale have to dispose of, and cause the same to be lodged in such places as this Assembly shall appoint (if they can purchase the same), and that they give a draft upon the general treasury, for the payment, thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that the troops now quartered at Mr. George Irish's house, be immediately removed therefrom;

that all the troops quartered at, and in, private houses, be also removed, as soon as possible; saving those stationed at the Dudley House and Straw Castle, who are to remain until further orders from this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to write to His Excellency Gen. Washington, soliciting him for six seamen taken from the enemy, and now prisoners, to be exchanged for so many inhabitants of this colony, who are detained on board the King's ship, in this colony.

It is voted and resolved, that the two Houses will, in a grand committee, inquire into the state of the troops stationed upon Rhode Island, and the conduct of Henry Babcock, Esq., colonel-commandant of the colony brigade.

That Col. Jonathan Arnold, James Arnold, Jr., Thomas Wells, Jr., Cromel Child and John Jepson, Esqs., or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to take the evidences and informations before this Assembly, respecting the conduct of Henry Babcock, Esq., as colonel-commandant of the colony's brigade; and from thence draw up the several articles laid to his charge; and that they make report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

Whereas, Mrs. Deborah Dayton, preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth that Capt. Wallace had refused to exchange her husband, Benedict Dayton, for the wounded prisoner taken at Prudence; and prayed that if the six seamen which this Assembly have petitioned His Excellency Gen. Washington for, to exchange for the American prisoners on board the ministerial fleet, now in Newport harbor, could not be obtained, that one of the prisoners now confined in Providence jail, might be delivered up inexchange for her said husband;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be requested to send by express to Gen. Washington his application for six seamen; that in case one of said seamen cannot be had, to exchange for said Dayton, when the brigantine on board of which he is, shall return from her cruise, then one of

the prisoners in Providence jail, shall be exchanged for him ; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to direct which of said prisoners shall be exchanged.

Whereas, Mr. John Banister represented unto this Assembly, that the committee which were heretofore appointed to examine and estimate the damages he had sustained by means of the soldiers being quartered in his house, had not been able to attend said business ; and prayed that this Assembly would take the premises into consideration, and appoint such other committee in the town of Newport, or upon the island of Rhode Island, as will settle the same ; wherefore—

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John G. Wanton, William Ellery and Christopher Lippitt be, and they or the major part of them, are hereby, appointed a committee, to take into consideration the matter set forth in said petition, respecting the damages, until the time of said soldiers being removed ; and that such buildings as have been erected on said Banister's farm, by the colony, be removed.

Whereas, the committee, for signing the lawful money bills of credit, ordered by this Assembly, at their session, holden in Providence on the second Monday in January last past, to be emitted, made the following report, viz. :

*Report.*

To the Honorable the General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., to be holden at East Greenwich, in and for the said colony, on the third Monday in March, A. D. 1776.

May it please Your Honors :—In pursuance of an act passed by the General Assembly, at the session held at Providence, on the second Monday in January last past, for emitting £40,000, lawful money, in bills of credit, we, the subscribers, have signed the said bills, which are of the following denominations to wit :

3,000, of sixty shillings each, is	-	-	-	£9,000
4,000, “ forty	“	“	-	8,000
6,000, “ thirty	“	“	-	9,000

6,000, of twenty shillings each, is	-	-	-	£6,000
6,000, “ ten	“	“	-	3,000
6,000, “ five	“	“	-	1,500
6,000, “ four	“	“	-	1,200
7,500, “ three	“	“	-	1,125
5,000, “ two	“	“	-	500
6,000, “ one	“	“	-	300
6,000, “ ninepence	“	-	-	225
6,000, “ sixpence	“	-	-	150

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£40,000

Which said bills, amounting to £40,000, we have delivered to the general treasurer, of whom we have taken a receipt in the eighth book of the Colony Records, in the secretary's office ; in which book, we have also registered an exact account of signing the same.

JOHN COLE,	JOSEPH CLARKE,
JOHN G. WANTON,	JOHN DEXTER,
WELCOME ARNOLD,	JAMES CONGDON, 3d.

The colony to Joseph Clarke, John Cole, John Dexter, John G. Wanton, Thomas Greene, Welcome Arnold and James Congdon, 3d,	-	-	-	Dr.
For our services in signing said bills, at one-quarter per cent.	-	-	-	£100

Which aforesaid premises being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid report be, and hereby is, accepted ; that the aforesaid account be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that the amount thereof, being £100, lawful money, be paid unto the said Joseph Clarke, John Cole, John Dexter, John G. Wanton, Thomas Greene, Welcome Arnold and James Congdon, 3d, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Isaac Cooper, represented unto this Assembly, that he took a quantity of strong beer, which was in the possession of Jabez Champlin, belonging to the colony.

That he was therefor justly sentenced by the Honorable Superior Court to pay to the colony the sum of £15 2s., lawful money, as a two-fold value of said beer.

That he is unable to pay said sum, and hath a numerous family to support, who depend upon his daily labor; and thereupon, besought this Assembly to remit said sum; wherefore, this Assembly, taking the premises into consideration,—

Do vote and resolve, that the prayer of said petition be granted; and that upon the said petitioner's paying cost of court and imprisonment, he be, and hereby is, discharged.

Whereas, Joseph Whaley, of South Kingstown, in Kings county, preferred a petition unto this Assembly, setting forth, that he being a soldier in Capt. Abial Brown's company of minute men, stationed upon the island of Jamestown, he was, on the morning of the 10th day of December, 1775, captivated by Capt. Wallace's company, and sent in one of the tenders to Boston, where he remained a prisoner a long time; that he was stripped of his most valuable clothing.

Wherefore, he besought this Assembly to take the premises into consideration, and grant him an order for his wages, during his captivity; which premises being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that upon the petitioner's producing a certificate from his commanding officer, that he has not received any pay for the time, aforesaid, that he be, and hereby is, allowed wages from the time of his captivity, until the 22d day of March, A. D. 1776.

Both houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, to wit:

Samuel Thomas, Jr., captain, of the third company of militia, in the town of North Kingstown, in the room of Joseph Case, who refuses.

John Brown, Jr., lieutenant; and Joshua Vaughan, Jr., ensign, of the same company.

Samuel Vial, first lieutenant; Isaac Tyler, second lieutenant; and Joseph Morin, master of the row-galley Spitfire.

Both houses in a grand committee proceeded to inquire into

the conduct of Col. Henry Babcock ; and having fully heard many witnesses respecting the same, and duly considered thereof,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the said Henry Babcock be, and he is hereby, continued in his command.

An Act for purchasing two thousand arms for the colony, &c.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that two thousand stand of good fire-arms, with bayonets, iron ramrods and cartouch boxes, be purchased for the use of the colony, which shall be stamped with the colony's arms, and the letters C. R., and distributed to each town, in proportion to the number of polls, upon the alarm list therein ; and that the expense of procuring and furnishing the same, be paid out of the general treasury ; and that the committee for purchasing the same, or either of them, are empowered to draw moneys out of the general treasury, to pay for such arms, as they shall receive them in.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that whenever the arms aforesaid, are collected by the committee, aforesaid, and ready to be distributed to the severa towns, as aforesaid, each town shall be notified thereof, and appoint some proper person or persons to receive and take the proper care of them, and see that they are constantly in order, and fit for service ; and at the time of receiving such arms, &c., each town shall give security to the general treasurer of the colony, to the full value of the arms and accoutrements so delivered, to return the same in good order to the colony, when demanded, or make good all deficiencies, in money.

And whereas, several towns in this colony, may have supplied, or made provision to supply, themselves with their full proportion of arms and accoutrements, as abovesaid,—

Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that upon producing the same, to the satisfaction of said committee, such town or towns, shall have from the said committee, an order upon the general treasury for the amount of all such fire-arms and accoutrements, accounting the value thereof, to be the prime

cost, and not exceeding £3 18s., for each fire-arm, bayonet, ramrod and cartouch box.

And that all such arms shall remain in the town so providing them, until the whole number to be supplied for the colony's use, be completed ; unless occasionally, and for some particular emergency, it be ordered otherwise by the General Assembly, or by persons authorized by them, to order the same.

Provided always, that when the arms and accoutrements shall, in cases of emergency, and for the public service, be removed from any town in this colony to another, by the General Assembly, or persons authorized by them, as aforesaid, the said arms and accoutrements shall be returned to such town whence they shall be taken, as soon as may be, after such occasion of their removal has ceased.

And that all loss and damage they may sustain at such times shall be made good, and paid to such town, out of the general treasury.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the town council of each town, shall have power, and they are hereby empowered, to determine what persons in their respective towns shall have the benefit and use of the arms provided, aforesaid, and be exempted from providing themselves as the law requires.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there be a committee, consisting of one person from each town, who shall use their utmost diligence to procure arms and accoutrements, as aforesaid, for the respective towns to which they belong, and deliver them to such person as each town shall appoint to receive them, as aforesaid, and receive from the general treasurer the amount of all arms, &c., by them so delivered ; and that the following persons be the said committee, viz. :

For Newport, Col. Jabez Champlin ; Providence, Col. John Mathewson ; Portsmouth, Metcalfe Bowler, Esq. ; Warwick, Colonel John Waterman ; Westerly, Joshua Babcock, Esq. ; North Kingstown, John Northup, Esq. ; South Kingstown, John Potter, Esq. ; East Greenwich, Mr. Job Gardner ;



Jamestown, Benjamin Underwood, Esq. ; Smithfield, Capt. Joseph Jenckes ; Scituate, General William West ; Gloucester, Mr. Benjamin Colwell ; Charlestown, Mr. Joseph Stanton, Jr. ; West Greenwich, Col. Nathaniel Brown ; Coventry, Mr. Ephraim Westcott ; Exeter, Mr. George Pierce ; Middletown, Mr. Nicholas Easton ; Bristol, Mr. Benjamin Bosworth ; Tiverton, Col. John Cooke ; Little Compton, Mr. Perez Richmond ; Warren, Mr. Cromel Child ; Cumberland, Mr. Rufus Bartlett ; Richmond, Mr. William Telf ; Cranston, Mr. John Burton, Jr. ; Hopkinton, Mr. John Larkin ; Johnston, Caleb Harris, Esq. ; North Providence, Mr. Joseph Olney ; Barrington, Mr. Thomas Allen.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all such persons as are by law obliged to equip themselves with a good fire-arm, bayonet and cartouch box, and who shall not, by the report of such town council, be declared incapable of providing themselves, as aforesaid, do provide themselves by the 20th day of April, agreeably to law, under the penalty of £5, to be recovered by bill, plaint or information, before the superior or inferior court for the county wherein such delinquent resides ; which fine shall be lodged in the town treasury of the town where such delinquent resides, for the purchasing of arms, &c., to and for such town.

That each captain shall make return of such delinquents within his district, to his colonel or commander in chief, by the 1st day of May next, under the penalty of £5, to be recovered in manner as above directed, and of being dismissed from his office ; which fine shall be lodged in the town treasury of the town to which said captain belongs ; and that the colonels of the respective regiments in this colony, make return thereof, to the General Assembly, to be holden on the first Wednesday in May next.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the act passed at the last session of this Assembly, for providing arms for the poor of the several towns, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

the colonels of militia, and commanders of independent companies within this colony, be, and they are hereby, directed to transmit to this Assembly, at the next session, a true account of the number of polls in their respective regiments and companies upon the alarm list, and how many belong to each particular town.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that a copy of the foregoing act be sent by the secretary to each of the committee, aforesaid, within ten days after the rising of this Assembly.

An account being laid before this Assembly, by Mr. John Low, for his time and expenses in removing the stock from Hope Island, and for victuals supplied the militia when upon actual duty ; which being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that £3 18s., lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid unto the said John Low, out of the general treasury.

An account being presented unto this Assembly, by Mr. John Gladding, for freight of corn and beef, from Prudence Island ; which being examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that £4 19*d.*, lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid unto the said John Gladding, out of the general treasury.

An account being laid before this Assembly, by Mr. David Greene, for the service of his people, in assisting the men from on board the Washington row galley, to land upon Jamestown, &c. ; which being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that fifteen shillings, lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid unto the said David Greene, out of the general treasury.

An Act for encouraging the fixing out, and authorizing armed vessels, to defend the sea-coast of America ; and for erecting a court to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the same.

Whereas, the present administration of Great Britain, being divested of justice and humanity, and being strangers to that magnanimity and sacred regard for liberty, which inspired their venerable predecessors, have endeavored, through a series of years, to establish a system of despotism over the American colonies ; and by their venal and corrupt measures, have so extended their wicked influence over the British Parliament, that by a prostituted majority, it is now become a mere political engine of slavery.

And whereas, the military tools of these our unnatural enemies, while restrained by the united forces of the American colonies, from proceeding in the sanguinary career of devastation and slaughter, are continually infesting the sea-coasts of America, with armed vessels ; and are daily endeavoring to distress the inhabitants, by burning their towns, destroying their dwellings and substance, piratically plundering live stock, and making captures of provision, and other vessels, being the property of the inhabitants.

And whereas, His Majesty King Charles the Second, in and by the charter of this colony, among other things, granted : “ That it shall, and may, be lawful to, and for, all and every commander, Governor and military officers appointed by the Governor, or in his absence, the Deputy Governor and assistants, and the major part of the freemen of said colony, present at any General Assembly, nominated and appointed according to the tenor of his or their respective commissions and directions, to assemble, exercise in arms, martial array ; and put in warlike posture, the inhabitants of said colony, for their special defence and safety ; and to lead and conduct the said inhabitants ; and to encounter, expulse, expel and resist, by force of arms, as well by sea as by land ; and also to kill, slay and destroy by all fitting ways, enterprizes and means, whatsoever, all and every such person and persons, as shall at any time at-

tempt or enterprize the destruction, detriment or annoyance of the inhabitants of said colony ; and to take or surprise, by all ways and means, whatsoever, all and every such person and persons, with their ship or ships, armor, ammunition, or other goods of such persons as shall in hostile manner invade or attempt the defeating the said colony or plantation, or the hurt of the inhabitants thereof.”

And whereas, the Continental Congress of America, have resolved : “ That each colony, at their own expense, make such provision, by armed vessels, or otherwise, as their respective Assemblies, conventions or committees of safety, shall judge expedient and suitable to their circumstances and situations, for the protection of their harbors and navigation on the sea-coasts, against all unlawful invasions, attacks and depredations, from cutters and ships of war.”

And as it is the duty and interest of this colony to exert itself, as well for the purpose of keeping supplies from the enemy, as for those mentioned in the paragraphs in the charter, and resolve, afore recited ; therefore, for the more effectually carrying into execution the aforesaid purposes,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof it is enacted, that all armed and other vessels, which shall be brought into this colony, and have been found making unlawful invasions, attacks or depredations, on the sea-coasts or navigation of any part of America ; or improved in supplying the fleet and army which have been, or shall at any time hereafter be, employed against the United Colonies, or employed by the said enemy in any respect whatsoever ; and also, all vessels whose masters or supercargoes shall have had designs of carrying supplies of any kind to the enemy, or that shall be returning from the enemy, after having carried such supplies, and shall be convicted thereof, as herein provided, such vessel or vessels, with their appurtenances and cargoes, shall be deemed forfeited, and shall be disposed of as is by this act herein after directed.

And be it further enacted, that the Governor, or in his absence, the Deputy Governor of this colony, for the time being,

be, and they are hereby, fully empowered and directed to commission with letters of marque and reprisal, if requested, any person or persons, within this colony, who shall, at his or their own expense, fix out and equip for the defence of America, any vessel ; as also, any person who shall by the owner of such vessel be recommended therefor.

And that all such persons, so commissioned, as aforesaid, shall have full power, with such other persons as they shall engage to their assistance, to sail on the seas, attack, take and bring into any port in this colony, or any other of the United Colonies, in America, all vessels offending or employed by the enemy, as aforesaid ; and also, to re-take, and bring in, as aforesaid, any vessel or vessels that may be taken from any person or persons, by said enemy.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, that the master or owner of such vessel, shall, at the time he receives such commission, enter into bond, with one sufficient surety, at least, for the faithful discharge of his office, and observing the law of this colony, relating to armed vessels ; which bond shall be in the following form, to wit :

*Form of Bond to be given to the Colony.*

Know all men by these presents, that we, A. B. and C. D., of ———, &c., are holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto J. C., of ———, &c., general treasurer of said colony, in the full and just sum of £2,000, lawful money, to be paid unto the said general treasurer, or to his successors in said office ; to the true payment, whereof, we bind ourselves, our respective heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, the ——— day of ———, A. D. 17—.

The condition of the afore-written obligation is such, that, whereas, the said A. B. hath, on the day of the date hereof, received a commission to command an armed vessel called the ———, of the burthen of about ——— tons, to make reprisals of all armed and other vessels, that shall be found sup-

plying the enemy, or acting counter to a law of this colony, entitled "An act for encouraging the fitting out armed vessels to defend the sea-coasts of America, and for erecting a court to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the same." If, therefore, the said A. B., do and shall, in and by all things, well and truly observe and fulfil such instructions as he shall receive from the Governor, or in his absence, the Deputy Governor of this colony, and shall in all respects conform himself to the directions given by the aforesaid act of the General Assembly, then the afore-written obligation to be void ; otherwise, to remain in full force.

And be it further enacted, that there shall be erected and constantly held in this colony, a court of justice, by and before such able and discreet person as shall be annually appointed and commissioned by order of this General Assembly, for that purpose ; whose business it shall be, to take cognizance of, and to try any capture or captures of any vessel or vessels, that may or shall be taken by any person or persons whomsoever, and brought into said colony ; who shall be sworn to the faithful execution of his office.

And the judge, so commissioned to hold said court, as aforesaid, shall have power at all times, to issue his warrant or warrants, to the town serjeant, constable or constables, of any town or towns within either of the counties in this colony, into which said captures shall be brought ; in which county, the judge, aforesaid, is hereby directed to hold the court, to warn a meeting of the inhabitants of their said towns, respectively, and to draw out of the box, in such manner as is provided by the laws of this colony, for returning jurors to serve in the inferior courts of common pleas, twelve good and lawful men, for jurors.

And the said town serjeant or constables, shall immediately, as soon as may be, give notice in writing to such persons so drawn, of the time and place which in the said warrant shall be set for their appearance ; and shall return his said warrant, with his doings thereon ; and the names of the jurors drawn

and notified, as aforesaid, to the judge, at or before the time set therein for the appearance of said jurors

And be it further enacted, that if any town sergeant or constable shall neglect or refuse to obey the warrant of the judge for returning said jurors, as aforesaid, he shall pay such fine as the judge shall order, not exceeding the sum of £10, lawful money.

And if any juror so drawn, and having notice, as aforesaid, shall not appear at the time and place directed in said warrant, or shall refuse, without reasonable excuse, to serve on such jury, he shall pay such fine as the judge shall order, not exceeding the sum of forty shillings, lawful money ; but before such fine shall be awarded, the said judge shall summon such juryman to appear before him, to show forth the reasons of his neglect ; and if such reasons shall not be satisfactory to the said judge, then he shall issue his warrant of distress for such fine, in manner as is directed for recovery of fines of jurors who shall neglect or refuse to serve in the inferior courts of common pleas ; which fines so recovered, shall be paid into the general treasury of this colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when any person or persons shall take and bring into any port in this colony any vessel or vessels, that have been offending or employed by the enemy, as aforesaid, such person or persons, so taking and bringing in such vessel or vessels, shall immediately make out a bill in writing ; therein giving a full and particular account of the time and manner of the caption of such vessel or vessels, and the employment the said vessel or vessels were in, when so taken ; and of the persons who were aiding and assisting in taking the same ; and a schedule of the cargo or cargoes on board, to the best of his knowledge, at the time of caption ; and shall deliver the same to the said judge where such vessel is brought, with all the papers that may be found on board such vessel or vessels, to the intent that the jury may have the benefit of the evidence therefrom arising.

And the judge, to whom said bill is delivered, shall immediately issue his warrant or warrants, as aforesaid, to any town

sergeant, constable or constables, within the county where such court is to be holden, commanding them, or either of them, in manner as aforesaid, to return twelve good and lawful men to try the truth of any facts alleged in such bill; and if there shall not be enough to complete a pannel of twelve, or if there shall be a legal challenge to any of them, so that there shall not be a pannel to try such a cause, then in such case, it shall be lawful for said judge to order the sheriff, or other proper officer, attending such court, to fill up the jury with other good and lawful men, present; and for want thereof, to issue forth a writ of *venire facias* to the sheriff or his deputy, commanding them to return so many good and lawful men of said county, as shall be wanting to fill up the pannel; which jury shall be sworn to return a true verdict upon said bill, according to law and evidence.

And if it shall appear to the said judge, by said verdict, that such vessel or vessels had been employed or offending, as aforesaid, he shall condemn the said vessel or vessels, and cargo or cargoes, and appurtenances, and order them to be sold at public vendue; and shall order the charge of trial and condemnation to be paid out of the money such vessel or vessels, and cargo or cargoes, shall sell for, to the clerk of said court, to be distributed to the several officers of said court to whom the same shall belong; and shall order the residue thereof, to be delivered to the captors, their agents or attornies, for the use and benefit of such captors, and others concerned therein.

And if two or more vessels, the commanders whereof shall be properly commissioned, shall jointly take such vessel or vessels, the money such vessel or vessels, cargo or cargoes and appurtenances, shall sell for, after payment of charges, as aforesaid, shall be equally divided between the captors, in proportion to their number of men and guns.

And the said judge, before whom any such trial and condemnation, as is aforementioned, may be, shall be authorized to make out his precept, under his hand and seal, to the sheriff or his deputy, within the said county, to sell such vessel, and appurtenances and cargo, and pay thereout the charges of



trial and condemnation ; and to pay his own fees, which shall be one-half per cent. upon the value of every vessel, cargo and appurtenances, condemned, provided the amount thereof, do not exceed £1,000 ; but where the value and sale of any vessel, cargo and appurtenances shall exceed £1,000, then the said sheriff shall have one-half per cent. for the first £1,000, and one-quarter per cent. for all sums over ; and the residue and remainder, the said sheriff shall deliver to the captors and persons concerned, as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that when any such bill, as aforesaid, shall be delivered to such judge, he shall cause notification, thereof, and the name (if known,) and description of the vessel, so brought in, with the day set for the trial, thereon, to be advertised in the Providence Gazette and Newport Mercury, fifteen days before the time set for the trial, that the owner of such vessel, or any person concerned, may appear, and show cause, if any they have, why such vessel, with her cargo and appurtenances, should not be condemned and sold, as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, that the process and proceeding upon any vessel that shall be re-taken from the enemy, by any person or persons, shall be in the same manner as is herein provided for other vessels ; and if, by verdict of the jury, it shall appear to the judge that such vessel was taken by the enemy, and was re-taken by such person or persons, before condemnation by the enemy thereon had, the said judge shall order such vessel, with her cargo and appurtenances, to be sold in manner, as aforesaid ; and shall order not more than one-third, nor less than one-quarter, of what said vessel, her appurtenances and cargo, shall sell for (after paying charges of trial and sale), to be delivered to the captors, as is before provided for other vessels ; and the residue to be delivered to the owner or owners of such vessel.

And if such vessel so re-taken, shall have been condemned by the enemy, then the money, she and her cargo and appurtenances may sell for, shall be delivered to the captors, as is above provided for vessels belonging to said enemy.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that

the attorney general shall be advocate of said court ; and that the judge of said court shall appoint an able clerk, who shall keep a true and fair record of all the proceedings of said court, and shall be duly sworn to act in said office, with truth and fidelity ; and his attestation shall be received as evidence in all courts of law.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said judge shall have for the condemnation of every vessel, cargo and appurtenances, by him condemned, £6, lawful money, and other fees as stated by the table regulating the fees of the court of admiralty in this colony.

Provided further, that if agreeably to this act, the said judge shall hold his court out of the county where he shall reside, his expenses necessarily accruing on that account, shall be allowed.

And be it further enacted, that the fees of the advocate, clerk and the sheriff, not before specified in this act, shall be the same as have been heretofore allowed by law to the advocate, the register and marshal, of the court of vice admiralty in this colony ; that the jurors be allowed six shillings, per day, each, for their attendance upon said court ; and that the town sergeants, constables and other officers of said court, be allowed the same fees as are by law allowed to such officers in similar cases.

Whereas, Major Edward Spalding, captain of the artillery company, in the colony's brigade, prayed leave to resign his commission, as captain, as aforesaid, for certain reasons mentioned in his petition presented to this Assembly ; and the same being duly inquired into,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Edward Spalding's resignation of his said commission be, and hereby is, accepted ; and as it appears the said Edward Spalding hath behaved and conducted himself well, and as a good officer, he is hereby dismissed with honor.

Whereas, many of the freemen of sundry towns in this colony, have, to avoid the cruel insults and dangers threatened by the arbitrary tools of ministerial vengeance, been obliged to re-

move themselves and families to other towns, in this and the neighboring colonies, for safety ; and as the said freemen, cannot, by such removal, be justly deemed incapable of giving their voices and votes in the election of general and town officers, in such towns to which they respectively belonged ; to prevent any dispute arising in this matter,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, that it shall, and may, be lawful for the absentees on the account, aforesaid, from any town in this colony, who were, and are, freholders and freemen, to repair to the respective towns from whence they removed, upon the days by law appointed for the choice of the respective officers, aforesaid, and exercise and enjoy every right and privilege in their election, as fully and amply as though they resided in their respective towns.

Resolved, that the foregoing act continue in force until the causes which occasioned the necessity thereof, be removed ; and that the same be published in the Providence Gazette and Newport Mercury, immediately after the rising of this Assembly.

An account being laid before this Assembly, by Mr. Silas Niles, for supplying the militia and others, who went for the defence of Point Judith, when Capt. Wallace's people landed there ; which said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that £3 17s. 11d., thereof, be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that the sum, aforesaid, be paid unto the said Silas Niles, out of the general treasury.

An account being laid before this Assembly, by Mr. John Allen, for freighting stock from Patience, and carrying passengers to and from said island ; which said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that £2 8s., thereof, be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that the sum, aforesaid, be paid unto the said John Allen, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. Cromel Child presented unto this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for removing the stock from Prudence Island, and for divers bills, by him

paid to people employed in that service, &c., which said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that £34 11s. 4*d.*, lawful money, being the balance thereof, be allowed; and that the sum, aforesaid, be paid unto the said Cromel Child, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. Nathaniel Martin, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for freight of hay, sheep, grain, &c., from Prudence Island; which said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that £23 2*d.*, thereof, be, and hereby is, allowed; and that the sum, aforesaid, be paid unto the said Nathaniel Martin, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, this Assembly, at their session, held in October last, appointed a committee to affix the price of carting upon Rhode Island, &c.; which said committee not having proceeded on said business,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that that part of said act appointing said committee, be, and hereby is, repealed; that Thomas Freebody, Christopher Lippitt and John Barker, Esqs., be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed a committee, to affix the price of carting, immediately; and that all other parts and clauses of said act remain in full force and virtue.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Jonathan Arnold, Joseph Anthony and Henry Ward, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to draw up instructions for the future conduct of Col. Henry Babcock; and that they lay the same before this Assembly, as soon as may be.

Whereas, this Assembly have received information, that a committee, appointed by the Honorable the General Court of the colony of the Massachusetts Bay, have signified that the said colony, considering that the erecting suitable fortifications at Bristol Ferry, will be very advantageous to the inhabitants of that colony, are willing to join with this colony in the same,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the Hon. William Bradford, Esq., and Simeon Potter, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to confer with the said General Court upon that subject; and also respecting fortifying Howland's Ferry, and to agree with the said court on the part of this colony, for the erecting such fortifications at those places, as shall appear necessary; and that they be empowered, in conjunction with such committee as may be appointed by said General Court, to take the necessary measures for erecting the same, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Cromel Child be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw out of the general treasury the sum of £30, lawful money, towards paying for gun carriages by him making for the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that John Potter, Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to procure carriages for three cannon now at South Kingstown; and that the wheels be shod with iron.

Whereas, Mr. William Barton, captain-lieutenant of Col. Richmond's company, in the colony's brigade, begged leave to resign his command, as aforesaid, and sent his commission to His Honor the Governor; which being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said William Barton be, and he is hereby, permitted to resign his command, as aforesaid; that this Assembly being convinced that Capt. Barton hath behaved well, and as a good officer, he is hereby discharged with honor.

It is voted and resolved, that the vessels which were hired in the county of Newport, to proceed on a voyage, in order to procure salt for the colony, be, and they are hereby, discharged.

That the committee who were appointed by this Assembly to fit them out, pay the hire of said vessels, and discharge all the persons belonging thereto; and that said committee pay off all the mariners who have not received their month's pay, and deliver the cargoes of said vessels to the commissary at headquarters, on Rhode Island.

Whereas, the committee appointed to take into consideration the state of this colony, and the measures necessary for the defence thereof; and to consider in what places it will be best to station the troops now in the service of the colony, made the following report to this Assembly :

*Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, relative to the Military Defences of the Colony.*

We, the subscribers, being appointed as a committee, to take into consideration the state of this colony, and the measures necessary for the defence thereof; and to consider at what places it will be best to station the troops now in the service of the colony; and, in conjunction with the commander in chief of the colony's brigade, cause fortifications to be erected on Rhode Island and at Bristol, sufficient to command and keep open a communication at Bristol Ferry, as soon as possible; having taken into consideration the above matters, do advise :

That one company, be placed at Point Judith; one company, at Boston Neck, between Narrow River and the South Ferry; one company, at Quanset Point, in North Kingstown; one company, at Pojack Point, in North Kingstown, and Potowomut Neck, in Warwick; one company, at Warwick Neck; half a company, at Pawtuxet, in Cranston; one company, at Barrington; two companies, at Bristol; one company, at Bristol Ferry, on Rhode Island side; and one-third of said company, on Tiverton side; one company, in Tiverton and Little Compton, near Fogland Ferry; four companies and an half, on the island of Jamestown; and the remainder of the troops, being seven companies, together also with the artillery company, at headquarters, on Rhode Island.

The above arrangement and disposition, subject to temporary removals and alterations by the commanding officer of said forces, as urgent occasions may require.

And we do recommend to said commanding officer, that he shift the companies from one quarter to another, so that all the companies may at certain times, be at headquarters, on Rhode Island, that he may thereby have a proper inspection into the state of each company; at the same time avoiding as much as may be, the stationing of any company where they were principally raised.

And we also advise, that Bristol Ferry be fortified, by erecting such works as the commanding officer shall think proper, upon those places upon Rhode Island side, and on that place upon Bristol side, advised to by Col. Putnam.

And we refer the commanding officer to His Honor the Deputy Governor, who was with Col. Putnam when he viewed the ground, for the particular spots of ground; and we further advise the same to be executed as soon as may be, and in the best manner he is able, with the forces that he can spare for that service.

We do also recommend to the said commanding officer, to erect a battery or fort, upon Tonomy Hill, on Rhode Island, as soon as may be, according to his best skill and judgment.

WILLIAM BRADFORD,      WILLIAM ELLERY,  
JOHN MATHEWSON,      GIDEON MUMFORD.  
HENRY MARCHANT,

Which said report being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted; and that the forces be stationed agreeably thereto, with the following alterations, that is to say:

That the company ordered to be stationed in Tiverton and Little Compton, near Fogland Ferry, be stationed in the said towns, in such divisions and places as Col. Thomas Church and Lieut. Col. John Cooke shall think proper; that the company ordered to be stationed at Quanset, be stationed at Wickford; that the company stationed at the South Ferry, in South Kingstown, be so distributed as to guard as far as the north end of Boston Neck; and that Capt. Job Pierce's company's station be in Bristol; any thing in the foregoing report contained to the contrary, notwithstanding.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. John Mathewson be, and he is hereby, appointed to wait upon His Excellency General Washington, or in his absence, upon the commander in chief at headquarters, in Cambridge, and make application for forty pieces of cannon, from nine to twenty-four pounders (if so many can be procured), for the protection and defence of this colony; that he procure the same to be brought into the colony immediately, to be under the direction of His Honor the Governor.

And that the said Col. Mathewson be, and he is hereby, empowered to draw money out of the general treasury, to pay for the expenses in bringing the same.

And it is further voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to write to the commander in chief, aforesaid, upon the subject.

Whereas, Messrs. Silas Casey and Peter Bonamy, preferred their petition to this Assembly, representing that they have a sloop with a large quantity of oil and gurry, at Gaspee, in the province of Canada; and besought this Assembly that they would grant a permit for said sloop to come into the colony with said oil and gurry, and return back to said Gaspee, with a load of empty oil casks, and with provisions only sufficient

for the hands on board said sloop; which being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the prayer of said petition be, and hereby is, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of £20,000, be immediately struck off, in bills of the same form and tenor with those ordered to be emitted by this Assembly, at their session holden in January last past.

That they be signed and lodged in the general treasury, by the following persons, viz. :

Messrs. John G. Wanton, John Dexter, John Cole, Joseph Clarke, Welcome Arnold, Thomas Greene, James Congdon, 3d, and William Ellery; three of whom, shall sign all bills of five shillings, and upwards; and two, all bills under five shillings; and that the bills be of the following denominations, to wit :

1,600, of sixty shillings each,	-	-	-	£4,800
2,000, “ forty	“	“	-	4,000
3,000, “ thirty	“	“	-	4,500
3,000, of twenty	“	“	-	3,000
3,000, “ ten	“	“	-	1,500
3,000, “ five	“	“	-	750
3,000, “ four	“	“	-	600
3,000, “ three	“	“	-	450
2,100, “ two	“	“	-	210
2,000, “ one	“	“	-	100
2,400, “ ninepence	“	-	-	90
<hr/>				<hr/>
28,100				£20,000

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said lawful money bills be, and they are hereby, made a lawful tender for paying and discharging all debts and demands, whatsoever; and that the said bills be redeemed within six years from the date thereof.

It is also further voted and resolved, that the said committee



be allowed and paid out of the general treasury one-quarter per cent. for their trouble ; that they procure paper for the same, at the charge of the colony.

That Mr. John Carter be employed to print said bills at one shilling and fourpence for every hundred bills so printed ; and that Mr. David Wilkinson be, and he is hereby, appointed to superintend the press.

Whereas, in our present troubles, the government is frequently necessitated to quarter troops in private houses, whereby waste and destruction is often made ; and it is often uncertain who are the perpetrators of the mischiefs that have ensued ; and great loss has arisen to the government, from the uncertainty of knowing who were the authors of the depredations that have been made ; for remedy whereof, for the future,—

Be it enacted, that when any number of men, more or less, in any particular house, where the troops shall be quartered or billeted, and any waste or loss shall ensue by means of said troops, if it is uncertain which of the individuals did the mischief, that the principal in command of them, shall be liable for payment of the damage sustained by said householder, and a dividend be made amongst the corps, in proportion to their pay, and the same be stopped from their proportional part of their pay.

Provided also, that said householder prefer an account of his loss, within two days, under oath, to such commanding officer, from the time of leaving such house.

And that hereafter, no account of this kind be preferred to the General Assembly ; and that no future allowances shall be made out of the public treasury ; any law, custom or usage, to the contrary hereof, notwithstanding.

And that a copy of this act be inserted in the Newport and Providence newspapers ; and a copy immediately be sent to headquarters.

Whereas, Col. Thomas Church laid before this Assembly, an account, by him charged against the colony, for hay-screws,

boxes and iron-work, burnt and destroyed by Wallace, upon Prudence Island ; which said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that £7 10s., lawful money, thereof, be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that the sum, aforesaid, be paid unto the said Thomas Church, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. John Jenckes preferred to this Assembly his petition, setting forth, that he had at Surinam seventy-one hogsheads of tobacco, and ten thousand guilders, in protested bills of exchange ; and prayed leave of this Assembly that he might have liberty to send a vessel to Surinam, in order to get his property, and to bring in return therefor, military stores ; which said petition, being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, granted ; that the vessel be fitted out under the inspection of His Honor the Governor, agreeably to the custom heretofore observed ; and that the petitioner lay out the nett proceeds of the cargo he shall send out, in warlike stores, and give bond, as usual.

Whereas, the town of South Kingstown, hath been supplied with the number of field pieces allotted them by this Assembly ; wherefore—

It is voted and resolved, that one of the field pieces formerly voted by this Assembly, for said town of South Kingstown, be, and it is hereby, ordered to be sent to, and for the use of, the town of North Kingstown.

It is voted and resolved, that five hundred pounds weight of gunpowder be delivered out for the county of Bristol, in the following proportion, to wit :

Two hundred weight, for the town of Bristol ; one hundred and fifty weight, for the town of Warren ; and one hundred and fifty weight, for the town of Barrington ; that two hundred pounds weight, be also delivered out for the town of Cranston ; that the town treasurer of each respective town receive said powder to, and for, the use of such town ; and that they be accountable for the same, to the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that the commanding officer in

chief of the colony's brigade upon Rhode Island, be, and he is hereby, ordered to deliver one hundred pounds weight of gunpowder to each of the towns of Portsmouth, Tiverton and Little Compton ; and that the town treasurer of each of said towns receive the same, and be accountable therefor, to the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that the remaining ton of gunpowder which the colony purchased of Messrs. Clarke and Nightingale, now at Providence (after the two tons shall be sent to Newport), be, and it is hereby, ordered to be distributed in the following towns, to wit :

Three hundred weight in each of the towns of Westerly, Charlestown, South Kingstown, North Kingstown, East Greenwich and Warwick ; and one hundred and fifty weight, to Hopkinton, to re-place the powder which said towns lent to Westerly, and was sent upon Block Island ; and the remaining fifty pounds weight, to Richmond.

That the town treasurer of each respective town, take care of the same ; and that said powder be distributed in the several towns according to the direction of the town meetings.

It is further voted and resolved, that the several town treasurers who shall receive the powder, aforesaid, account therefor, to this Assembly, when called upon.

And that each town, aforesaid, be, and they are hereby, ordered to send to Providence, a suitable person to receive their respective proportion of powder, as aforesaid, and lodge the same in each of their town treasuries, as soon as may be.

It is further voted and resolved, that the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, directed to procure a sufficient quantity of shot for the field-pieces in the several towns in this colony ; and also lead and flints necessary for the use of the said towns.

It is voted and resolved, that when any of the Continental troops shall march through this colony, that the committee of safety in the several counties, upon receiving information thereof, from His Honor the Governor, be, and they are hereby, ordered to provide such troops with all necessaries, during the time they shall continue within this colony.

It is voted and resolved, that the session of this Assembly, to be holden the first Wednesday in May next, for the general election of officers in, and throughout this colony, be, and it is hereby, ordered to be holden at Providence.

Whereas, the committee appointed to draw up a set of instructions and rules for Henry Babcock, Esq., commander of the colony's brigade, to observe and follow, presented the following to this Assembly, to wit :

Whereas, this General Assembly, having taken into consideration the conduct of Col. Henry Babcock, commander of the brigade formed by this Assembly at their session holden in January last ; and heard divers witnesses respecting the same ; and upon full inquiry and consideration, thought proper to continue the said Henry Babcock in his command.

Yet nevertheless, from the evidence before this Assembly, it appearing to be highly expedient for restoring peace to the brigade, and for the public good, to give the said Henry Babcock some instructions and directions for his government ;—

It is therefore resolved, that the following instructions and directions be given to the said Henry Babcock, which he is hereby required to observe :

*Instructions of the General Assembly, to Col. Henry Babcock.*

1. That he do not undertake any expedition, or other matter of importance, without the advice and concurrence of the major part of the field officers of the said brigade, upon Rhode Island, while the headquarters are fixed upon that island ; and in other cases, such field officers as can conveniently be summoned.

2. That he do not send any flag of truce to the enemy, or expresses out of the colony, without advice and concurrence, as aforesaid.

3. That he quarter the troops upon Rhode Island, with the same advice and concurrence.

4. That he do not impress any horses or teams, but in cases of real necessity for the service.

5. That he do continue with the troops at headquarters, as constantly as the nature of the service will permit.

6. That in the command of the said brigade, and in his conduct towards the officers and soldiers thereof, he conform himself strictly to the regulations and articles established by this General Assembly, for the government of the said brigade.

We, being a committee to prepare instructions to be given Henry Babcock, Esq., commander of the colony brigade, present the above.

JONATHAN ARNOLD,  
JOSEPH ANTHONY,  
HENRY WARD.

Whereupon, this Assembly taking the premises into consideration, and duly examining the same,—

Do vote and resolve, that the above report be, and hereby is, accepted; and that the aforesaid instructions and directions be, and they are hereby, ordered and directed to be observed by Col. Henry Babcock.

It is voted and resolved, that the several captain-lieutenants in the colony brigade, under the command of Col. Babcock, have, and they hereby have, the rank and title of captains; it having been the intention of this Assembly to give them the same, heretofore.

That they receive commissions and rank as captains, from the time they received their commissions as captain-lieutenants; and that the office of captain-lieutenants in said brigade, cease.

It is voted and resolved, that Major John Cooke be, and he is hereby, appointed to sell at public vendue all such effects as lately belonged to Mr. George Rome, now at headquarters, excepting only such as are necessary for the barracks.

It is voted and resolved, that John Northup, Esq., be, and he is hereby, added to the committee appointed to lease out the farm lately belonging to Mr. George Rome, in North Kingstown.

That the stock, thereon, which did belong to said Rome, be

also let out with the said farm ; and that Mr. Stephen Boyer, the present tenant, be removed off therefrom.

It is voted and resolved, that the commander in chief of the colony's brigade, upon Rhode Island, be, and he is hereby, directed to appoint a careful, discreet person, as a boat-master, to have the care of, and collect all the boats and oars which are in the colony's service.

That all the said boats which are unfit for service, be immediately repaired, and rendered useful.

That said boats and oars be, and they are hereby, ordered to be marked with the colony arms, and their number returned to the said commander in chief.

That the said boat-master be, and he is hereby, directed to make a weekly return of the state of the boats and oars, with their several stations, to the brigade-major.

And it is further voted and resolved, that it be, and hereby is, recommended to the said commander in chief, and commissary of the forces, to furnish the said boat-master with all necessary assistance, in collecting and repairing said boats and oars.

That the return of the number of each, be made to Messrs. Thomas Freebody, John Smith, John Cooke, John Northup, Stephen Mumford and Cromel Child.

That they furnish said boats with oars (if wanted), so as to have sixty boats, complete with oars ; and that said boats and oars be sent to said commander in chief, as soon as may be.

Both Houses being resolved into a grand committee, made choice of the following officers, for the colony's brigade, now stationed upon Rhode Island :

*Officers chosen for the Colony's Brigade.*

Robert Elliott, captain of the Train of Artillery, in the room of Mr. Spalding, who hath resigned.

John Larcher, Jr., lieutenant fire-worker of said train.

Abimelech Riggs, captain of the colonel's company, in the first regiment, in the room of Capt. Barton, resigned.

Squire Fisk, lieutenant ; and Richard Marvin, ensign of the same company.

John Foster, Esq., judge of the court erected for the trial of maritime causes.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, the Deputy Governor, and members of the General Council, the major part of whom, to be a quorum, together with such of the deputies belonging to the respective towns in this colony, as may attend, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to act and transact such business as the exigency of public affairs during the recess of the General Assembly may require ; and to advise His Honor therein ; and that all orders by them made and issued ; and all other their transactions, be laid before the next session of the General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that all executions, for the staying of which, petitions are pending before this Assembly, be, and the same are hereby, stayed until such petitions be heard.

God save the King.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.*

Providence, January 25th, 1776.

Sir:—I have consulted the general committee upon the subject of your letter of the 16th instant.

For many years past, the inhabitants of this colony, surrounded on the land side by Connecticut and the Massachusetts Bay, thought themselves in a perfect state of security, and entirely neglected military discipline ; and disposed of their arms so generally, that at the breaking out of the present war, the colony was in a manner disarmed.

We have taken every method in our power, by purchasing, by employing manufacturers, and by importation, to procure a sufficient quantity, but are still so deficient, that the same arms which have been rated at \$6 and \$8, at Cambridge, are readily bought here at \$10 and \$12. We shall scarcely be able to find arms for the troops we have ordered to be raised for our immediate defence. Besides which, the peculiar situation of the colony requires that every man in it should be provided.

And the Assembly have accordingly ordered that every man should be furnished by the 15th day of April next, under severe penalties. In these circumstances, Your Excellency cannot expect any supplies of arms from this colony.

I am, &c.,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward, Delegates of the Colony of Rhode Island, to the Continental Congress.*

Providence, February 21st, 1776.

Gentlemen:—The resolve of Congress, for procuring gold and silver, is come to hand. I shall lay it before the General Assembly next week.

But in the mean time, I think it necessary to acquaint you, that this colony hath been so exhausted of hard money, by the supplies for Col. Arnold, and the great quantities of provisions and available stores that have been purchased, that the Congress can have no dependance upon receiving any from this colony.

I am, with great esteem and regard, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Honorable S. Hopkins and S. Ward, Esqs.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward, Delegates of the Colony of Rhode Island, to the Continental Congress.*

Providence, March 5th, 1776.

Gentlemen:—The General Assembly have appointed a large committee to procure gold and silver coin, for the service of the army in Canada, and directed them to pay the sums they shall receive, into the general treasury within one month. There are several gentlemen in this colony who have considerable sums due to them in Canada. It is proposed to take draughts from them; and upon the money being paid in Canada, to pay the drawers here.

But as the payment will be very uncertain, I do not think any dependance should be placed upon this mode of supply. I shall be glad of your sentiments upon the matter, which if you write by the next post after this comes to hand, will be received here timely.

The General Assembly have appointed three of the inhabitants of New Shoreham, a committee to determine what stock is absolutely necessary for the subsistence of the inhabitants, and to remove the remainder. They have also directed all the arms to be taken from the island.

Col. West, who hath acted as commander of the forces upon Rhode Island, resigned his commission; and the command hath devolved upon Col. Babcock. The office of brigadier general, is still vacant.

We meet with great difficulty in procuring arms for the brigade. Numbers of men are waiting only for that article, to proceed to Rhode Island. Besides which, there is a great deficiency in the militia; near one half of whom, are destitute, and which I very much fear, cannot be made up.

Please to let me know whether fifteen hundred can be procured in Philadelphia, and at what price; or whether they will be supplied by Congress.

We have but very little more than ten tons of powder in the colony. The As-



sensibly have appointed a committee to purchase arms and ammunition in case any shall arrive.

Last Saturday night, General Washington began to bombard Boston, from Leechmere's Point. We threw about a bomb an hour, and the enemy returned four or five for one. The greatest preparations are made for taking possession of Dorchester Point, which we imagine must bring on a brisk action.

But I suppose you have more particular accounts directly from Cambridge, than it is in our power to give you. The General Assembly stands adjourned to the last Monday in this month, at East Greenwich.

This letter was designed to have been sent by the post; but his going yesterday out of his course, hath prevented my writing by him.

I am, with great esteem and regard, gentlemen,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Honorable S. Hopkins and S. Ward, Esqs.

### *Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Cambridge, March 17th, 1776.

Sir:—I have the pleasure to inform you, that this morning the ministerial troops evacuated the town of Boston, without destroying it, and that we are now in full possession; upon which event, I beg leave to congratulate you, and sincerely wish (if the ministry persevere in the same unconstitutional and despotic measures, which have too long marked their conduct,) that our opposition and resistance in every quarter, may be crowned with the success they have been here.

Where their destination is, or what plans they have in view, is altogether unknown; most probably the next attempt will be against New York, or some more southern colony.

However, I should think (though I do not believe they have any design against Rhode Island,) that it would be advisable to keep a strict look out; and submit it to you, whether it may not be proper, against the time you apprehend they might arrive, to call in a number of the militia, and have them posted in proper places. I do not mean to direct the measure; but only mention it, for your consideration; to me, it appears worthy of attention.

I am, &c.,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To the Honorable Governor Cooke.

B. March 19. The fleet is still in King and Nantasket Roads.

### *The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.*

Providence, March 18th, 1776.

Sir:—I am favored with yours, of the 8th and 14th inst.,\* to which I have paid the greatest attention.

The several regiments of militia are ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march in case the enemy should land in this colony; and the General Assembly is

\* These letters are not among the files in the Secretary's office.

called to meet this day. As a part of the army in Boston, supposing them to be destined to the southward, might, with but little loss of time, land upon and destroy Rhode Island, and cut off the troops there, without some effectual measures are taken to oppose them, I thought these steps, which it were all in my power to take, necessary.

I also beg leave to suggest to Your Excellency, the propriety of ordering a part of the forces destined for New York, to march through this colony. The route will not be much further, and they will be at hand to repel any attack of the enemy.

I shall give Your Excellency the earliest intelligence of every motion of the enemy, that shall come to my knowledge.

I am, with great truth and esteem, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.*

Providence, March 19th, 1776.

To His Excellency General Washington:—The General Assembly of the colony of Rhode Island, &c., acknowledge with gratitude the timely notice you have been pleased to give them of the late movement of the ministerial troops.

The necessary orders have, in consequence thereof, been given to the militia of this colony, to hold themselves in readiness, should any attack or lodgment be made here, by said troops.

But we must inform Your Excellency, that the great number of troops sent out of this colony, have considerably thinned our numbers; that the troops raised and stationed within this colony, have necessitated the colony to take the arms out of the hands of a great part of the militia, which has made us greatly deficient in arms.

The singular situation of this colony, will, we hope, excite Your Excellency's immediate attention. Rhode Island and the many other islands in our bays and rivers, with the extensive sea-coast, renders it very difficult to defend ourselves against the present ministerial forces. What our situation must be, if a large armed force should make a landing upon Rhode Island, or any other part of the colony, Your Excellency may as easily suggest as we can describe. It will, we are sure, be Your Excellency's great concern, to defend every part of the continent as far as possible. Should Your Excellency see fit to order any part of the forces from the vicinity of Boston, to any of the southern colonies, we would wish Your Excellency would order their march through this colony by the sea-shore, that we might have the chance of their being present should the colony be immediately invaded; and [to consider] whether it may not be necessary that a considerable force should be immediately stationed here, till the intention of the enemy can be known, we also submit to Your Excellency.

We are extremely solicitous for all the assistance Your Excellency can afford us, consistent with the general good; and doubt not but the utmost attention will be paid by Your Excellency to our peculiarly distressed and dangerous situation.

We are, &c.,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To General Washington.

*Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Cambridge, March 21st, 1776.

Sir:—Your favors of the 18th and 19th instant, I received, and am sorry to hear that your militia are so deficient in arms. I fear the misfortune is too common; nor do I know how it will be remedied. In this army, although I have pursued every mode I could devise, for procuring them, there is still a great deficiency; and a considerable number of men without any in their hands.

The peculiar situation of Rhode Island, and the extensive sea-coast, had not escaped my mind. I well know the enemy have it in their power to do it considerable damage, unless there is a sufficient force to repel their attempts.

But it is the opinion of the general officers here, that their destination is against New York; the importance of which (as it secures the free and only communication between the Northern and Southern colonies, which will be entirely cut off by their possessing it, and give them the command of Hudson's River, and an easy pass into Canada), makes it absolutely and indispensably necessary for the whole of this army, which is but inconsiderable, except that part of it which will be left here to secure the stores, barracks, and other public property, to be marched from its defence with all possible expedition. It is an object that should command our first attention, and if lost, will be of the most fatal consequence to us in the present unhappy and interesting struggle.

Lest any attempt should be made against you, I shall give orders to the officers commanding brigades, if they have intelligence of an invasion upon their march, that they forthwith return to your succor. I shall also order the officer who will be left here, to do the same with the troops under his command, whenever occasion may require it.

Agreeably to the request made by you, and your Honorable General Assembly, I shall, with cheerfulness and pleasure, direct some of the last divisions that go from hence, to pursue the route you wish, if they can be accommodated with covering and provision; and shall be ever ready and happy to render Rhode Island, or any other place, any services in my power, that may be compatible with the general good.

I am, sir, with sentiments of the highest regard,

Your and their most obedient servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke.

*The Governor of Rhode Island, to General Washington.*

East Greenwich, March 22d, 1776.

Sir:—At the request of the General Assembly, now sitting here, I make application to Your Excellency for six seamen, taken from the enemy, and now your prisoners, to be exchanged for six inhabitants of this colony, who were taken, and are detained by Capt. Wallace.

Four of these men have families, who are greatly distressed. I send this by express, by reason of the danger of Capt. Wallace being removed from this station, and carrying these unfortunate people with him; or if that should not be the case, of his sending them to Britain, to the utter ruin of them and their families. We

have but two prisoners in this colony ; both officers, and active, enterprising men, whom we should be extremely unwilling to give up.

I beg the favor of Your Excellency to give this matter the quickest dispatch, and to deliver the seamen to Mr. Burr, the bearer, to be immediately brought into the colony.

I am, with great truth and respect, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To General Washington.

*Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Headquarters, Cambridge, March 27th, 1776.

Sir :—I take the earliest opportunity to acquaint you, that the men-of-war, and transports with the ministerial troops, sailed this afternoon, from Nantasket harbor.

In consequence of this movement, I have ordered a brigade to march to-morrow morning for New York, and shall follow with the remainder of the army, as soon as I can receive certain information of the fleet being clear off the coast, and that we are in no further danger of their returning to attack us at a disadvantage.

I shall leave a few regiments at Boston, to protect the Continental stores, and to assist in fortifying the town and harbor, agreeably to the directions that may be given by the General Assembly of this colony.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, sir,

Your obedient, humble servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.*

Providence, March 31st, 1776. }

5 o'clock, P. M. }

Sir :—I am to inform Your Excellency that I have this moment an express from Newport, informing me that a ship-of-war hath arrived in the harbor of Newport, and that twenty-seven ships, undoubtedly having the ministerial troops on board, are within Seaconnet Point.

Upon this most alarming occasion, when we have not more than four hundred soldiers upon Rhode Island, and not above seven or eight hundred men in the whole colony (besides the militia, not more than half armed), I must use the most pressing instances with Your Excellency, to forward sufficient succors to the colony, with all possible dispatch.

I am about issuing the necessary orders for calling the whole militia together, and taking other proper measures.

I am, Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington, }  
Headquarters, Cambridge. }

*The Governor of Rhode Island, to General Washington.*

Providence, April 1st, 1776.

Sir :—I yesterday wrote Your Excellency that I had information, by express from Newport, that a large part of the ministerial fleet and army were near that harbor. Since which, by the intelligence I have further received, I am inclined to believe, that the fleet was not seen, as was reported. The alarm was given upon the following occasion :

Three of the soldiers being upon a rising ground, near the town, were positive they saw a fleet within Seaconnet Point, and counted distinctly twenty-one sail. Immediately upon this, the sheriff of the county of Newport dispatched an express with the information.

One of the ensigns also says, that three large ships were seen off the light house from Conanicut, yesterday, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

After having taken all the measures that appeared necessary, to collect a sufficient force, to oppose the enemy, I sent a person in whom I could confide, to Newport, who has just returned, and informed me that it seems to be the general opinion that no fleet was deseried ; but that the persons were deceived by the weather, which was very thick and foggy, and has so continued ever since. I think it my duty to acquaint Your Excellency of this, by my son, who goes express ; and—

Am, with great esteem and respect, sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

*John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.*

Philadelphia, April 12th, 1776.

Gentlemen :—While the British ministry are taking every step, that cruelty and revenge can dictate, for the destruction of American liberty, it is incumbent on these United Colonies to exert their utmost efforts to defeat them.

Happily for our country, their military operations have not been attended with the success which they sanguinely expected. This circumstance, however, far from abating their rage, has had the effect constantly produced by disappointed passions. It has roused them to make new exertions of power against us ; and we now behold American property, by a late act of Parliament, made *legal* plunder. Such a strain of rapine and violence, can be equalled only by the spirit with which it is likely to be executed.

Having authorized the seizure of vessels belonging to these colonies, wherever found upon the high seas, there is too much reason to apprehend the execution of the edict (which we may expect in its greatest extent), will, for a time, prove a severe clog to the trade of America.

Under these circumstances, the Congress, in hopes of checking, in some degree, an evil which they cannot, at present, remove ; and acting upon the same principles of self-preservation and retaliation which they have hitherto adopted, have been induced to come into sundry resolutions relative to the fitting out letters of marque

and reprisal. The trade of America is an object of so much consequence, and the protection of it so necessary, that I make no doubt of your giving all the encouragement in your power, to any measures that may be deemed expedient, for its security and existence.

I herewith transmit bonds, commissions and instructions, which the Congress has thought proper to request the several Assemblies, conventions and committees of safety, to make use of on the occasion.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Honorable General Assembly, of Rhode Island.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.*

Providence, April 23d, 1776.

Sir:—I did myself the honor, in my letter of January 21st, to enclose to Your Excellency, a copy of a memorial from the General Assembly to the Honorable Continental Congress, to which I beg leave to refer you; and when I had the pleasure of seeing you here, I laid before you very fully the distressed situation of the colony, and the enormous expenses we were necessarily put to, in defending such an extensive line of sea-coast, which I thought you were very well convinced it was impossible for the colony to support.

I prevailed upon Col. Knox, who passed through this town on his way to Norwich, to take a view of Newport, and to direct such works to be thrown up as he should think necessary for the defence of the place. He is clearly of opinion that the town of Newport may be secured; and hath left some directions, which I have ordered to be carried into execution. They have begun the works, and I believe will this day complete a battery which commands the north entrance of the harbor.

To-morrow they begin the fortifications upon Fort Island; and if it be in our power to complete the works, I have no doubt it will put a total end to toryism in this colony.

As Colonel Knox's stay was very short, his plans are not particular nor exact. If it were possible for Your Excellency to spare from your army some person acquainted with fortifications, to assist, were it only for a few days, you would do us a particular favor, and a most essential service to the common cause.

Col. Babcock hath given such incontestable proofs of insanity, that his officers were obliged to put him under an arrest, and send him under a guard, to Providence. The general committee have continued the arrest, and referred the matter until next week, when the Assembly meets; who will certainly dismiss him.

I beg the favor of Your Excellency to represent the state of the colony to Congress, and to recommend to them the taking our brigade (which is enlisted to serve in any of the United Colonies,) into Continental pay; and to establish a force here, for the defence of the colony.

I am, with great truth and esteem, sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

*Gen. Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

New York, April 28th, 1776.

Sir:—I received your favor of the 23d instant. The reason why I did not hitherto represent the state of your colony to Congress, was in expectation of your forwarding unto me a sketch of it in writing.

I shall take the first opportunity of doing it; and if my recommendation thereof, hath any weight with that august body, it will give me much pleasure to render service to your colony.

I am very glad that Col. Knox has taken a view of Newport, and hope the directions he has left, will be attended with all the good consequences you mention.

We have no engineer that can possibly be spared from hence; indeed, we are very deficient in that department. The state of this place is such, that had we any more than we have, there would be full employment for them.

Colonel Babcock's misfortune is truly pitiable. The incontestable proofs which he has given at Cambridge, and since, of a distempered mind, must, to every one acquainted with them, show how unfit he must be to command the forces of your colony. I am, with very great regard, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke.

P. S. The only engineer we had to spare, is sent off to Canada.

*John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Philadelphia, April 30th, 1776.

Sir:—In order to give success to the expedition into Canada, nothing is so much wanted at this juncture, as a supply of specie. General Schnyler says it is absolutely necessary; and the Congress have received from him the most pressing letters on that head.

Should the army be compelled to evacuate Canada, it is impossible to say what will be the consequences, or where the mischief will end. It becomes us, therefore, as we regard our country and its best interests, to exert every nerve to guard against so fatal an event. For this purpose, and as a step of the utmost importance, I am commanded by Congress earnestly to request you, to take the most speedy and effectual measures to collect as much hard money as possible, and to send the same to General Schuyler. Whatever sum you may collect for this use, you will please to draw on me for the amount, and the bills shall be honored.

The unprepared state of the colonies on the commencement of the war, and the almost total want of every thing necessary to carry it on, are the true sources from whence all our difficulties have proceeded. The fact, however, furnishes a most striking proof of the weakness or wickedness of those, who charge them with an original intention of withdrawing from the government of Great Britain, and erecting an independent empire. Had such a scheme been formed, the most warlike preparations would have been necessary to effect it.

From the distinguished ardor and zeal of the colony of Rhode Island, in the American cause, I am persuaded you will pay all the attention to this request of Congress, which the importance of it demands.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., }  
Governor of the colony of Rhode Island. }

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the first Wednesday of May, 1776.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.

The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

The following officers, declared elected, were duly engaged :

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.

The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Mr. John Collins,	Mr. James Arnold,
Maj. Gen. Simeon Potter,	Mr. Jonathan Randall,
Mr. Ambrose Page,	Mr. Peter Phillips,
Mr. John Sayles, Jr.,	Mr. William Potter,
Mr. John Jepson,	Mr. Thomas Church,

DEPUTIES.

<i>Newport.</i>	<i>Providence.</i>
Mr. John Wanton,	Col. Jonathan Arnold,
Mr. Samuel Fowler,	Mr. John Brown,
Mr. George Sears,	Mr. John Smith,
Mr. Gideon Wanton,	Col. Amos Atwell.
Mr. Thomas Freebody,	
Col. Joseph Belcher.	



## DEPUTIES.

*Portsmouth.*

Mr. Metcalfe Bowler,  
Mr. John Coddington,  
Mr. John Thurston.

*Warwick.*

Mr. William Greene,  
Mr. Jacob Greene,  
Mr. Charles Holden, Jr.,  
Col. John Waterman.

*Westerly.*

Maj. Gen. Joshua Babcock,  
Col. Joseph Noyes.

*North Kingstown.*

Mr. John Northup,  
Mr. Sylvester Gardner.

*South Kingstown.*

Capt. Samuel Seager,  
Mr. Samuel Babcock.

*East Greenwich.*

Mr. Job Comstock,  
Mr. Thomas Shippee.

*Jamestown.*

Capt. Samuel Carr,  
Mr. Benjamin Underwood.

*Smithfield.*

Mr. Daniel Mowry, Jr.,  
Capt. Andrew Waterman.

*Scituate.*

Col. William West,  
Mr. Christopher Potter.

*Glocester.*

Mr. Richard Steere,  
Col. Chad Brown.

*Charlestown.*

Capt. Joseph Stanton, Jr.,  
Mr. Jonathan Hazard.

*West Greenwich.*

Mr. Thomas Tillinghast,  
Mr. Judiah Aylworth.

*Coventry.*

Mr. Ephraim Westcott,  
Mr. Jeremiah Fenner.

*Exeter.*

Mr. George Pierce.

*Middletown.*

Mr. Joshua Barker,  
Mr. Nicholas Easton.

*Bristol.*

Mr. Shearjashub Bourn,  
Col. Nathaniel Pearce.

*Tiverton.*

Mr. Gideon Almy,  
Col. John Cooke.

*Little Compton.*

Capt. Thomas Brownell,  
Mr. Daniel Wilbur.

*Warren.*

Mr. Cromwell Child,  
Col. Sylvester Child.

*Cumberland.*

Mr. John Dexter,  
Capt. Elisha Waterman.

*Richmond.*

Mr. Samuel Tefft,  
Major Richard Bailey.

*Cranston.*

Mr. Andrew Harris,  
Mr. Zuriel Waterman.

*Johnston.*

Mr. John Fenner,  
Mr. Peleg Williams.

## DEPUTIES.

*North Providence.*

Major Thomas Olney,  
Mr. Jonathan Jenckes, Jr.

*Hopkinton.*

Mr. John Larkin,  
Mr. Thomas Wells.

*Barrington.*

Mr. Edward Bosworth,  
Capt. Thomas Allen.

The Hon. Metcalfe Bowler, speaker ; Josias Lyndon, clerk.  
Mr. Henry Ward, secretary.  
Mr. Henry Marchant, attorney general.  
Mr. Joseph Clarke, general treasurer.

## SHERIFFS OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES.

Newport county—Mr. Jabez Champlin. Providence county—Mr. Paul Tew. Kings county—Mr. Beriah Brown. Bristol county—Mr. Richard Smith. Kent county—Mr. Henry Rice.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John Smith, Amos Atwell, Joseph Belcher, Jonathan Jenckes, Jr., Ephraim Westcott, George Sears and Andrew Waterman, be appointed to procure, immediately, for the use of the colony's brigade, as many iron or shod shovels, and iron scoop shovels, as can be got, not exceeding one hundred and fifty in the whole ; that they procure to be made as soon as possible, for the same use, fifty good spades ; that they be delivered to the said John Smith, and sent to Newport this week ; that the spades and shovels be well steeled, and be not purchased at a higher rate than nine shillings ; and that the committee be empowered to draw a sufficient sum of money out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mrs. Martha Sweet, the wife of Sylvester Sweet, by petition, represented unto this Assembly, that her husband, inspired with a zeal for the liberties of his country, enlisted in the service of the colony, in Capt. Westcott's company, and

had the misfortune to be taken prisoner by the ministerial fleet, under the command of Capt. Wallace, in the late attack on Jamestown, in December last, and sent to Boston; and that she is now in a poor state of health, and unable to support herself; and thereupon, prayed that this Assembly would consider her poor and deplorable circumstances, and order her husband's wages to be paid to her.

And the premises being duly considered,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the committee of safety pay to the said Martha Sweet, two months of her husband's wages.

It is voted and resolved, that the regiment of the county of Newport be divided into two regiments.

That the first regiment contain all the companies of militia in the towns of Newport, Portsmouth, New Shoreham, Jamestown and Middletown.

And that the second regiment contain the companies of militia in Tiverton and Little Compton.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the company of militia in Little Compton, be divided into two companies, by a line beginning at Perez Richmond's house, and running easterly, as the highway runs, until it comes to the Rounds of Dartmouth.

And that the company to the southward of said line, be the first company.

It is voted and resolved, that the first company of militia in Providence, be divided into two companies, by a line beginning at the water, and running through Meeting Street, until it comes to the upper ferry.

And that the company southward of said street, be the first; and that to the northward, the third company.

It is voted and resolved, that the second company of militia, in the town of Providence be divided into two companies, by a line beginning at the lane southward of the house of Samuel Nightingale, Esq.; and from thence, running by School House Lane, until it comes to Westminster Street, and across said street.

And that the east part, make the second ; and the west part, the fourth company.

It is voted and resolved, that the commanding officer of the colony's brigade, be directed to employ a sufficient number of men, to erect a fort at Beaver Tail, upon Conanicut, to contain six or eight heavy caannon, under the direction of the Honorable Eseek Hopkins, Esq., commander in chief of the Continental navy.

Both Houses being resolved into a grand committee, proceeded upon the election, and chose the following officers, to wit :

*Officers chosen for the Colony's Brigade.*

Joshua Babcock, Esq., major general of the militia.

George Irish, Esq., colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Jabez Bowen, Esq., colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Joseph Noyes, Esq., colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kings county.

Nathaniel Martin, Esq., colonel of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

John Waterman, Esq., colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

John Cooke, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Chad Brown, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Robert Brown, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings county.

Nathaniel Brown, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

William West, Esq., colonel of the third regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

George Sears, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Amos Atwell, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first regiment, in the county of Providence.

Jesse Champlin, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kings county.

Thomas Gray, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

John Low, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first regiment, in the county of Kent.

David Hilyard, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Elisha Mowrey, Jr., Esq., lieutenant colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

George Pierce, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the regiment of militia, in the county of Kings county.

Archibald Kasson, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

John Colwell, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the third regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Job Almy, 2d, Esq., major of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

Ebenezer Thompson, Esq., major of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Jesse Maxson, Esq., major of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kings county.

Benjamin Bosworth, Esq., major of the regiment of militia, in the county of Bristol.

Thomas Tillinghast, Esq., major of the first regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Pardon Gray, Esq., major of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Newport.

John Fiske, Esq., major of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

Charles Dyer, Esq., major of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kings county.

Yelverton Waite, Esq., major of the second regiment of militia, in the county of Kent.

Joseph Knight, Esq., major of the third regiment of militia, in the county of Providence.

*Officers to command the several trained bands, or companies of militia, within the colony.*

Providence. First company—Jonathan Russell, captain ; David Lawrence, lieutenant ; Martin Seamans, ensign.

Second company—James Burrill, captain ; Wm. Rhodes, lieutenant ; Nathan Warner, ensign.

Third company—John Demount, captain ; James Wheaton, son of Ephraim, lieutenant ; Martin Thurber, ensign.

Fourth company—James Snow, captain ; Zephaniah Brown, lieutenant ; David Bacon, ensign.

Portsmouth. First company—David Gifford, captain ; Thos. Earle, lieutenant ; Cooke Wilcox, ensign.

Warwick. First company—Job Randall, captain ; James Arnold, 5th lieutenant ; William Lippitt, ensign.

Second company—Reuben Wightman, captain ; Squire Milward, lieutenant ; James Gerrald, ensign.

Third company—Thos. Rice, son of Thos., captain ; Anthony Holden, son of Charles, lieutenant ; Stutely Stafford, Jr., ensign.

Westerly. First company—Joseph Pendleton, captain ; Joshua Pendleton, lieutenant ; Ephraim Pendleton, ensign.

Second company—John Gavett, captain ; Stephen Saunders, lieutenant ; William Bliven, ensign.

New Shoreham company—John Sands, captain ; Samuel Rathbun, Jr., lieutenant ; William Littlefield, ensign.

North Kingstown. First company—Thomas Clarke, captain ; John Manchester, lieutenant ; Charles Dyer, ensign.

Second company—William Taylor, captain ; John Cole, Jr., lieutenant ; Sylvester Sweet, ensign.

Third company—Sam'l Thomas, Jr., captain ; John Brown, Jr., lieutenant ; Joshua Vaughan, ensign.

South Kingstown. First company—Samuel Seagers, captain ; Gideon Babcock, lieutenant ; Jonathan Card, ensign.

Second company—Abial Brown, captain ; James Parker, lieutenant ; Barber Peckham, ensign.

Third company—Ray Sands, captain ; Samuel Potter, lieutenant ; Daniel Williams, ensign.

Smithfield. First company—Thomas Jenckes, captain ; Samuel Day, lieutenant ; George Streeter, ensign.

Second company—David Eddy, captain ; Ebenezer Trask, lieutenant ; Simeon Ballou, ensign.

Third company—Nehemiah Smith, captain ; James Smith, lieutenant ; Jesse Smith, ensign.

Scituate. First company—Peleg Fiske, captain ; Nathan Relph, lieutenant ; Jonathan Knight, Jr., ensign.

Second company—Simeon Herrenden, captain ; George Dorrance, lieutenant ; Reuben Read, ensign.

Third company—James Williams, captain ; Joseph Davis, lieutenant ; Caleb Potter, ensign.

Fourth company—Jeremiah Davis, captain ; Isaac Hopkins, lieutenant ; Oziel Smith, ensign.

Sixth company—Stephen Sheldon, captain ; James Wells, lieutenant ; William Howard, ensign.

Glocester. First company—Benajah Whipple, captain ; Simon Smith, lieutenant ; John Eddy, ensign.

Second company—Samuel Mayes, captain ; Ezekiel Pettipiece, lieutenant ; Daniel Mathewson, ensign.

Third company—Abraham Winsor, captain ; Stephen Pain, lieutenant ; Richard Lewis, ensign.

Fourth company—Stephen Winsor, captain ; Aaron Arnold, lieutenant ; Isaac Ross, ensign.

Charlestown. First company—Thomas Sheffield, captain ; Jonathan Macomber, lieutenant ; Caleb Crandall, ensign.

Second company—Amos Greene, Jr., captain ; Beriah Lewis, lieutenant ; Daniel Stafford, ensign.

Coventry. First company—Benedict Colvill, captain ; Robert Cooke, lieutenant ; William Collins, ensign.

Second company—William Roy, captain ; William Burlingham, lieutenant ; Nicholas Whitford, ensign.

Third company—Benj. Greene, captain ; Langford Weaver, lieutenant ; Jonathan Nichols, Jr., ensign.

Fourth company—Joseph Whipple, captain ; Joseph Kinyon, lieutenant ; Asa Bennett, ensign.

Middletown company—Thomas Peckham, captain ; John Vars, lieutenant ; Thomas Coggeshall, Jr., ensign.

Bristol company—Jeremiah Ingraham, captain ; Stephen Smith, lieutenant ; Hezekiah Munro, ensign.

Tiverton. First company—Isaac Cooke, captain ; Philip Corey, lieutenant ; Philip Manchester, ensign.

Second company—Benjamin Durfee, captain ; Ebenezer Slocum, lieutenant ; Daniel Deval, Jr., ensign.

Little Compton. First company—Gideon Simmons, captain ; Ephraim Simmons, lieutenant ; William Bailey, ensign.

Second company—George Simmons, captain ; David Cooke, lieutenant ; Fobes Little, Jr., ensign.

Warren company—Ezra Ormsbee, captain ; Smith Bowen, lieutenant ; Amos Haile, ensign.

Cumberland. First company—Enoch Wetherhead, captain ; Benjamin Wilkison, lieutenant ; Joseph Razey, Jr., ensign.

Richmond. First company—Simeon Clarke, Jr., captain ; Thos. James, lieutenant ; Smiting Potter, ensign.

Second company—Jonathan Maxson, captain ; John Clarke, lieutenant ; Jeremiah Tefft, ensign.

Cranston. First company—Anthony Potter, captain ; Josiah Potter, lieutenant ; Gideon Westcott, ensign.

Second company—Frederick Williams, captain ; Nathaniel Carpenter, lieutenant ; John Harris, Jr., ensign.

Third company—Edward Knight, captain ; William Field, 2d, lieutenant ; Joseph Potter, ensign.

Hopkinton. First company—Barker Wells, captain ; Oliver Babcock, Jr., lieutenant ; Elnathan Wells, ensign.

Second company—George Thurston, Jr., captain ; Matthew Randall, lieutenant ; Randall Wells, ensign.

Johnston. First company—Richard Fenner, Jr., captain ; Daniel Sprague, Jr., lieutenant ; James Fenner, ensign.



Second company—Emmor Olney, captain ; Daniel Angell, lieutenant ; Laban Waterman, ensign.

North Providence company—Eleazer Jenckes, captain ; Samuel Olney, lieutenant ; Jesse Angell, ensign.

Barrington company—Thomas Allen, captain ; Vial Allen, lieutenant ; Daniel Kinnicutt, ensign.

*Committee of Safety.*

For the county of Newport—Metcalf Bowler, Esq., and Col. John Cooke.

For the county of Providence—Mr. John Smith and Daniel Tillinghast, Esq.

For the county of Kings county—John Northup, Esq. and Mr. Joseph Stanton, Jr.

For the county of Bristol—Hon. William Bradford, Esq.

For the county of Kent—Stephen Mumford, Esq.

James Clarke, ensign of the eighth company, in the second regiment of the colony's brigade.

William Barton, Esq., major of brigade, for the county of Providence.

An Act establishing an independent company, by the name of Smithfield and Cumberland Rangers.

[The charter is printed at length in the Schedule.]

It is voted and resolved, that this colony will send two delegates to represent the colony in the Continental Congress.

Both Houses being resolved into a grand committee, chose the Honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq., the first delegate, to represent the colony in Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that John Collins, Esq., Messrs. Jonathan Arnold, John G. Wanton, Henry Ward, Richard Steere and Shearjashub Bourn, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to take the letter from the Honorable

Stephen Hopkins, Esq., to the Governor, into consideration, and to prepare instructions to the delegates, to represent this colony in Congress; and to make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that such of the prisoners of war, now in the jail in Providence, as the Honorable Eseck Hopkins, Esq., shall think proper, be confined to close jail.

In Council was read the return of the officers chosen to command the company of Light Infantry, for the county of Providence, which is as follows, to wit :

John Mathewson, captain ; Jonathan Ellis, first lieutenant ; Daniel Jackson, second lieutenant ; Benjamin Tallman, ensign ; which being considered by the Council—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

In Council, was read the return of the officers chosen to command the company of Pawtuxet Rangers, in the towns of Warwick and Cranston, which is as follows, to wit :

Benjamin Arnold, captain ; Oliver Arnold, first lieutenant ; Sylvester Rhodes, second lieutenant ; James Sheldon, ensign ; which being considered by the Council—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

In Council, was read the return of the officers chosen to command the company of Light Infantry, in the town of Gloucester, and is as follows, to wit :

Timothy Wilmarth, Jr., captain ; David Richmond, first lieutenant ; Martin Smith, second lieutenant ; Caleb Sheldon, ensign ; which being considered by the Council—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and hereby are, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that William Potter, John Northup and Peter Phillips, Esqs., or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed to let out, in behalf of the colony, all the real estates ordered heretofore by the General Assembly of this colony to be taken into possession, in the county of

Kings county, by the high sheriff of said county, in consequence of the inimical principles their former proprietors entertained to America.

And that the said committee be empowered to let the estate in possession of Stephen Boyer, lying in North Kingstown, in said county, formerly tenant to George Rome, to the said Stephen Boyer, or any other person; he having given satisfaction to the committee of inspection of said North Kingstown, as to his future conduct.

That said committee be also empowered to let such part of the stock on the farm, late of said George Rome, to the said Stephen Boyer; and to sell and dispose of such part thereof, as they shall think proper; and to account therefor, to this colony, whenever required; and that they make report thereof, to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the commanding officer of the forces on Rhode Island be directed immediately to remove the troops from the Ferry House on the Point, belonging to Mr. Benjamin Ellery, in order that the ferry may be kept open, as usual.

It is voted and resolved, that the act passed at the session held in January last, appointing watches to be kept in the several towns bordering upon the sea, be suspended during the absence of the ministerial fleet.

That for the future, a watch be kept only at Point Judith Point, Seaconnet Point, at Westerly, Charlestown, at the South Ferry, in South Kingstown, as heretofore; and at North Kingstown.

That the colonels of militia, in the several towns, where said watches have been kept, lay before this Assembly, at the next session, an exact account of all the expenses that have accrued since the first appointment of said watches.

That a copy of this act be transmitted to each of the said colonels, within ten days after the rising of this Assembly.

And that the respective members of the General Assembly, in the several towns of the colony, where a watch hath been kept, inform the colonels immediately to stop said watch,

An Act repealing an act, entitled “An act for the more effectually securing to His Majesty, the allegiance of his subjects, in this his colony and dominion of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations;” and altering the forms of commissions, of all writs and processes in the courts, and of the oaths prescribed by law.\*

Whereas, in all states, existing by compact, protection and allegiance are reciprocal; the latter being only due in consequence of the former.

And whereas, George the Third, King of Great Britain, forgetting his dignity, regardless of the compact most solemnly entered into, ratified and confirmed to the inhabitants of this colony, by his illustrious ancestors; and till of late, fully recognized by him; and entirely departing from the duties and character of a good king, instead of protecting, is endeavoring to destroy the good people of this colony, and of all the United Colonies, by sending fleets and armies to America, to confiscate our property, and spread fire, sword and desolation, throughout our country, in order to compel us to submit to the most debasing and detestable tyranny; whereby, we are obliged, by necessity, and it becomes our highest duty, to use every means, with which God and nature have furnished us, in support of our invaluable rights and privileges; to oppose that power which is exerted only for our destruction.

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that an act entitled “An act for the more effectual securing to His Majesty the allegiance of his subjects, in this his colony and dominion of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,” be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

And be it further enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that in all commissions for offices, civil and military; and in all writs and processes in law, whether original, judicial or executory, civil or criminal, wherever the name and authority of the said King is made use of,

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\* The official journals of the senate, show that this act, repealing the act of allegiance with Great Britain, was passed on the 4th May, 1776.

the same shall be omitted ; and in the room thereof, the name and authority of the Governor and Company of this colony, shall be substituted, in the following words, to wit : “ The Governor and Company of the English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.”

That all such commissions, writs and processes, shall be otherwise of the same form and tenure as they heretofore were.

That the courts of law be no longer entitled, nor considered, as the King’s courts.

And that no instrument in writing, of any nature or kind, whether public or private, shall, in the date thereof, mention the year of the said King’s reign.

Provided, nevertheless, that nothing in this act contained, shall render void or vitiate any commission, writ, process or instrument, heretofore made or executed, on account of the name and authority of the said King being therein inserted.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the oaths or engagements to be administered to the officers appointed in this colony, shall be as follows, to wit :

#### *General Officers.*

“ You, ——, being by the free vote of the freemen of this colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, elected unto the place of ——, do solemnly engage to be true and faithful unto this said colony ; and in your said office equal justice to do unto all persons, poor and rich, within this jurisdiction, to the utmost of your skill and ability, without partiality, according to the laws established, or that may be established by the General Assembly of this colony, as well in matters military as civil ; and this engagement you make and give upon the peril of the penalty of perjury.”

#### *Deputies.*

“ You, ——, being chosen to the place of a deputy, to sit in the General Assembly, do solemnly engage, that you will be

true and faithful to this colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations ; and that you will do equal right and justice to all persons who shall appeal unto you, for your judgment in their respective cases, according to the laws established, or that may be established by the General Assembly of this said colony ; and this engagement you make and give upon the peril of the penalty of perjury.”

*Judges of the Superior Court.*

“ You, ——, being by the General Assembly of this colony, chosen to the place of a justice of the superior court of judicature, court of assize and general jail delivery, in and throughout the colony, do solemnly engage to be true and faithful to this said colony, and to execute the office unto which you are chosen, as aforesaid, with fidelity, to the best of your skill and knowledge, according to the laws established, or that may be established by the General Assembly of this said colony ; and this engagement you make and give upon the peril of the penalty of perjury.”

[Public notaries, clerks of the superior and inferior courts, justices of the inferior courts, and sheriffs, to take the same oath as the justices of the superior court, *mutatis mutandis*.]

*Grand Jurors.*

“ You, A. B., being of the grand inquest, on the behalf of the Governor and Company of the English colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby promise and engage to make a true return to this court of all such bills as shall be presented to you, or such breakers of law as shall come to your knowledge ; and this engagment you make and give upon the peril of the penalty of perjury.”

*Petit Jurors in Civil Causes.*

“ You, A. B., being of this jury of trials, shall well and truly try the issue of this case, and all cases that shall be com-

mitted unto you from this court, between the parties, plaintiff and defendant, according to law and evidence ; and to keep together until you agree of a verdict in the case or cases committed to you, and make true return of a verdict or verdicts unto this court ; and to keep your own and fellows' secrets ; and this engagement you make and give upon the peril of the penalty of perjury."

*Petit Jurors in Criminal Causes.*

" You, A. B., being of this jury of trials, shall well and truly try, and true deliverance make, between the Governor and Company of the English colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and the prisoner at the bar, according to law and evidence ; and to keep together until you are agreed of a verdict or verdicts, in the case or cases that shall be committed to you, from this court, and to keep your own and fellows' secrets ; and this engagement you make and give upon the peril of the penalty of perjury."

*Town Officers.*

" You, A. B., do hereby solemnly engage to be true and faithful unto this colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations ; and that you will well and truly, according to the laws established, or that may be established by the General Assembly of said colony, execute the office of —, for the ensuing year, or until another be engaged in your room, or you be legally discharged therefrom ; and this engagement you make and give upon the peril of the penalty of perjury."

*Military Commissioned Officers.*

" You, A. B., being, by the General Assembly, chosen and elected unto the place and office of —, do solemnly swear to be true and faithful unto this colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and to the authority therein established by

the General Assembly ; and you do also further engage well and truly to execute the office of —, to which you are elected, according to your commission ; and to perform and observe all the laws made and provided for the support and well ordering the militia, without partiality ; and that you will observe and follow such orders and instructions as you shall from time to time receive from your superiors. So help you God.”

*Clerk of a Company of Militia.*

“ You, A. B., do solemnly swear well and truly to perform and execute the office of clerk of the company, or trained band, under the command of C. D., to the utmost of your skill and ability, without partiality, according to the laws of this colony, which relate to your office. So help you God.”

*Instructions from the General Assembly of Rhode Island, to Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery, Delegates from the Colony to the Continental Congress.*

The Governor and Company of the English colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, in General Assembly convened, to Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery, Esquires, greeting :

Whereas, this Assembly, reposing special trust and confidence in your abilities and integrity, have appointed you, the said Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery, delegates, to represent this colony in general Congress ; you are therefore hereby empowered to join with the delegates of the other United Colonies, in Congress, at Philadelphia, as soon as conveniently may be, or at such time and place as shall be agreed upon by the major part of the delegates from the said colonies.

You are also authorized and empowered to consult and advise with the delegates of the said colonies, in Congress, upon the most proper measures for promoting and confirming the strictest union and confederation between the said United Colonies, for exerting their whole strength and force to annoy the common enemy, and to secure to the said colonies their rights and liberties, both civil and religious ; whether by entering into treaties with any prince, state, or potentate ; or by such other prudent and effectual ways and means as shall be devised and agreed upon.

And in conjunction with the delegates from the said United Colonies, or the major part of them, to enter into and adopt all such measures ; taking the greatest care to secure to this colony, in the strongest and most perfect manner, its present established form, and all the powers of government, so far as relate to its internal police and conduct of our own affairs, civil and religious.

You are also instructed and directed to exert your utmost abilities in carrying on this just and necessary war, in which we are engaged against cruel and unnatural



enemies, in the most vigorous manner, until peace shall be restored to the said colonies, and their rights and liberties secured upon a solid and permanent basis.

You are also empowered to join with the major part of the delegates of the said United Colonies, in adjourning from time to time, and to such place or places, as shall be thought proper, for and during one year.

You have it in express charge, to make immediate application to Congress, to put the colony brigade upon the Continental establishment, and to defray the expenses of it from the first enlistment of the troops, as that number is indispensably necessary for the defence of the colony, which is utterly unable to support them.

And as it may happen, that from sickness, or other necessary causes, one of you may be absent from Congress, in all such cases, the other is hereby as fully empowered to represent the colony, as though both were present and agreed in sentiment.

The committee appointed for that purpose, having reported the foregoing instructions to the delegates to represent this colony in Congress; which being considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby are, approved.\*

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\* *Stephen Hopkins to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Philadelphia, 15th May, 1776.

Sir:—Your favor of the 7th of May, I have received, and the papers enclosed in it. I observe that you have avoided giving me a direct answer to my queries concerning dependence or independence; however, the copy of the act of Assembly, which you have sent me, together with our instructions, leave me little room to doubt what is the opinion of the colony I came from.

I suppose that it will not be long before the Congress will throw off all connection as well in name as in substance, with Great Britain; as one thing after another, seem gradually to lead them to such a step; they having, within a few days, passed a resolve earnestly to recommend to all the colonies who at present are not under a perfect form of government, to take up and form such, each colony for themselves; which I make no doubt most of them will very soon do.

I have now the pleasure to inform you, that Congress on Saturday last, passed a resolve for taking into Continental pay, the two Rhode Island battalions; which resolve, I herewith enclose.

A letter from General Washington to Congress, warmly recommending it to them to take this step respecting the colony of Rhode Island, had great influence in procuring it to be done. I could therefore wish the colony in a handsome manner, to acknowledge this favor, and to return thanks to the General, for his good offices in their behalf.

The affair which you mention, respecting Block Island, I shall take the first opportunity to lay before Congress, and obtain their directions concerning it.

I am very glad you have given me a colleague; and am well pleased with the gentleman whom you have appointed.

I am very glad to hear that the colony appeared so very unanimous in the late election: congratulate you in your choice to the office of government, and wish that every part of the colony would forget and totally banish every kind of jealousy and discord from amongst them. This is a time when the very great danger that all America is exposed to, should make every body sensible that the most firm union in all its parts, should be carefully studied and effected.

It is voted and resolved, that the standing committee inquire what arms are in possession of the colony, belonging to particular persons ; and to call upon Peter Philips, Esq., Col. Church, Col. Varnum and Col. Hitchcock, to render an account to the Assembly what arms they have received, and of whom.

It is voted and resolved, that each field officer within this colony, upon duty, upon any alarm, shall be allowed as follows, to wit :

Each colonel, eight shillings ; each lieutenant colonel, seven shillings ; and each major, six shillings per day.

It is voted and resolved, that for the future, the troops of the Rhode Island brigade be paid off monthly.

Whereas, John Cole, Esq., in behalf of the minister, church wardens and congregation, of the Episcopal Church, in Providence, preferred a petition, and represented unto this Assembly, that John Whipple, late of said Providence, gentleman, deceased, did give and grant unto the minister, church wardens and congregation of said church, a certain lot of land, lying on the north side of said church ; and to the eastward of Mr. Nathaniel Wheaton's and William Smith's lands, to them and their successors forever, as a burying place ; that the said Wheaton and Smith are owners of a lot of land lying to the eastward and southward of said church, which they are desirous and willing to exchange for the same quantity of land out of the lot given by said John Whipple, which will lay the land belonging to the church much more convenient and commodious for the purpose of a burying place, than it is at present ; and thereupon prayed this Assembly to enable some persons to give and receive deeds in exchange of said lots of land, for the purpose, aforesaid ; on consideration whereof—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the au-

I herewith send you commissions for all the officers in your two regiments, which I hope you will cause to be filled up, so as to give the greatest satisfaction.

As the field officers will be appointed, or at least approved by Congress, I could wish that you will transmit to me the names of such gentlemen as you may think most capable to fill those offices.

I am, with great respect,

Yours, and the colony's very humble servant,  
STEP. HOPKINS.

To Nicholas Cooke, Esq.

thority thereof, it is enacted, that the foregoing petition be granted; and that the church wardens of said church, be, and they are hereby empowered to give and receive deeds for the exchange of the lands, aforesaid; and that the deeds by them given and received, shall be good and valid, to all intents and purposes, whatever.

Whereas, the Honorable Samuel Ward, Esq., late a delegate for this colony, in the Continental Congress, hath lately deceased in the city of Philadelphia; in testimony of the respect due to his memory, and in grateful remembrance of his public services,—

Resolved, that his executors or administrators are desired, as soon as may be, to exhibit to this Assembly, an account of his funeral expenses, for payment.\*

\* SAMUEL WARD, was born at Newport, Rhode Island, on the 27th May, 1715. He was the second son of Richard Ward, who was Governor of Rhode Island in 1741 and 1742, and the grandson of Thomas Ward, who came to this country during the time of Charles II., and who died in Rhode Island in 1689, a highly esteemed and respectable citizen.

Samuel, the subject of this sketch, completed his education at Harvard College, where he graduated in 1733. His education was of a very practical character; and under the tutelage of his father (who was at the head of a large commercial and agricultural interest at Newport), he acquired an extensive knowledge of the duties of a merchant and a farmer. At an early period of his life, he married Anne Ray, the daughter of a respectable farmer of Block Island, and an elder sister of Catharine Ray, of Block Island, who is mentioned in the life of Dr. Franklin, as one of his most valued and intelligent correspondents. After his marriage, Mr. Ward settled down on a farm at Westerly, devoting himself to the improvement of his estate, and the prosecution of his commercial pursuits.

His first appearance in public life, was in 1756, when he represented the town of Westerly, in the General Assembly of Rhode Island. He remained in the Assembly, until 1759 and was known as one of the most active and intelligent men, in that body.

During the French war, which took place about that time, Mr. Ward represented Rhode Island at a convention, which was held at Hartford, to consult with Lord Loudoun, the commander of the British forces, as to the best course to be pursued by the colonies and the parent country, in the vigorous prosecution of the war. The report of the commissioners of Rhode Island, which was presented by Mr. Ward, was approved by the Assembly, and the suggestions it contained, carried into execution.

The careful reader of the colonial history of the United States, and particularly that of the State of Rhode Island, is familiar with the paper money controversy which raged throughout the colonies during the greater part of the eighteenth century, anterior to the Revolution. A newspaper article is not the place for an elaboration of the merits and demerits of this controversy. While Mr. Ward was a member of the Assembly, it raged to a fearful extent. Stephen Hopkins, subsequently a signer of the Declaration of Independence, ran as candidate for Governor, in 1757, as an opponent of the paper system, after having served as Governor, the year preceding.

During the canvass, he published an address to the citizens of Rhode Island, intimating that during his term of office, the Legislature had pursued a course of policy hostile to the

And it is further resolved, that the delegates for this colony, for the time being, be instructed to erect a decent tomb stone, or monument of marble, with such inscription as they shall think suitable, over the place where his body hath been deposited, at the expense of this colony.

success of his administration. Mr. Ward defended the Assembly, and attacked the administration of Governor Hopkins with severity. The Governor brought a suit against Mr. Ward, for slander, in the courts of the State, retaining the celebrated James Otis, as his counsel.

This suit was never prosecuted, and led to a further exasperation of feeling among the partisans of Hopkins and Ward. The feeling continued for several years; and, in 1762, Mr. Ward was elected Governor, after a most animating and exciting canvass. He was succeeded by Mr. Hopkins, in 1763; but was again elected in 1765, and continued in office until 1767.

We pass over hurriedly, the incidents of the colonial history, and the prominent part taken by Governor Ward in the strifes and struggles of the colonial politics. We find ourselves on the threshold of more important and memorable events.

We find the "stamp act excitement" (that prologue to the great drama of the Revolution), extending into Rhode Island. We find the Assembly appointing delegates to the Colonial Congress, which was to meet at New York; and find Henry Ward (a younger brother of the Governor,) among the number. We find Governor Ward at an early day taking a decided stand against the preliminary encroachments of the ministry. We find him a private citizen in 1773, writing a letter to his fellow citizens of Westerly, proposing and advocating a united opposition to all attempts at introducing taxed tea into Newport, by the British. We find him, in 1774, the chairman of a town committee, at Westerly, introducing a series of resolutions breathing forth a spirit of patriotic devotion to the threatened rights of the people of the colonies; and eventually, we find him appointed, in conjunction with his old antagonist, Stephen Hopkins, a delegate from the colony of Rhode Island, to the Continental Congress, which met at Philadelphia, in Carpenter's Hall, on the 5th of September, 1774.

The drama of revolution and war opened with all its horrors of bloodshed and devastation, and all its glorious scenes of devotion to the rights of man, and determination to obtain liberty, at any and every cost. Samuel Ward, of Rhode Island, performed a prominent part in these scenes, and performed it well. Speaking of his own position and his feelings, in a letter to his brother, written in 1775, he says:

"I have traced the progress of this unnatural war, through burning towns, devastation of the country, and every subsequent evil. I have realized, with regard to myself, the bullet, the bayonet and the halter; and, compared with the immense object I have in view, they are all less than nothing. No man living, perhaps, is more fond of his children than I am, and I am not so old as to be tired of life; and yet, as far as I can now judge, the tenderest connections and the most important private concerns are very minute objects. Heaven save my country, I was going to say, is my first, my last, and almost my only prayer."

Eloquent words, sincerely written! Governor Ward knew their meaning; knew the times upon which he had fallen, and knew how to meet approaching emergency. He took an active part in the movements of the Rhode Island patriots, and earnestly co-operated with John Adams, in his efforts to place the military system upon a proper footing. His son, Samuel Ward, had but recently come from college, and entered the colonial army with the commission of captain.

While the Congress was in committee of the whole on the consideration of the state of America, Mr. Ward occupied the chair.

He was chairman of the committee of the whole, which originated a resolution, "that a

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Jenckes and Mr. John Waterman be a committee to purchase a proper place, and erect a powder mill thereon, at the charge of the colony, as soon as possible; and that they draw out of the general treasury £150, lawful money, for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that John Cole, Esq., be, and he is hereby, elected to the office of advocate of the court erected for the trial of maritime causes within this colony, for the year ensuing.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. John Cooke be employed to purchase four oxen, for the service of this colony, on Conanicut; and that they be used by Col. Hoxsie, to plough as much of the land on said island, in the possession of the colony, as he shall think necessary for planting potatoes for the troops in the service of the colony, unless said oxen be otherwise employed.

It is voted and resolved, that Friday, the 17th day of May inst., be observed as a day of fasting, and public humiliation

general be appointed to command all the Continental forces raised, or to be raised, for the defence of American liberty." This resolution was passed. After which, "the Congress then proceeded to the choice of a general, by ballot; and George Washington, Esq., was unanimously elected." He was a devoted admirer of Gen. Washington, and a sincere advocate of his election. A few weeks after the appointment, he wrote to Gen. Washington, thus:

"I most cheerfully entered upon a solemn engagement, upon your appointment, to support you with my life and my fortune; and I shall most religiously, and with the highest pleasure, endeavor to discharge that duty."

We find Governor Ward a most active member of Congress, and untiring in his efforts to organize and advance the preparations for defence on the part of the colonists. He was warmly in favor of pronouncing a declaration of independence; and, although he did not live to sign the Declaration, yet he was one of the most active and determined among those who consummated it.

He wrote to his son Samuel, who had been taken prisoner at Quebec, under the lamented Montgomery, words of encouragement, approval and fatherly advice; and, as a member of Congress, did every thing possible for the advancement of the cause, and the successful defence of colonial liberty.

Death came upon him suddenly in the noonday of his usefulness. We find him presiding in the committee of the whole on the 13th of March; the last time he is mentioned by the journals of Congress, as participating in its proceedings. He was present, as a member, on March 14, and March 15; but from thenceforward, his seat was vacant forever. On the 26th of March, 1776, he died of small pox, in the fifty-first year of his age. The Pennsylvania Gazette, March 27, 1776, now before us, thus announces his death:

"Died, yesterday morning, the Honorable Samuel Ward, Esq., late member of the Continental Congress; his remains will be interred this afternoon, in the Baptist Church.

The procession will begin at 3 o'clock, this afternoon, at Mrs. Housse's, in Lodge Alley, where the friends of the deceased are desired to attend. The body will be carried to Arch

and prayer, in and throughout the colony, agreeably to a resolve of the Continental Congress; that all servile labor be forbidden on that day; and that His Honor the Governor issue his proclamations, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that the commanding officer in each company of the Rhode Island brigade be, and he is hereby, directed to prevent the soldiers from doing any damage to the inhabitants of this colony, by travelling over their ploughed land, or by any other ways or means, whatsoever.

That the commanding officer of said brigade be also ordered to clear all the best houses in Newport of the troops; and that the commanding officer of said brigade be empowered and directed to station the troops in such convenient empty houses in Newport, as will be least liable to suffer damage from the soldiers, and least expensive to the colony.

And it is further resolved, that this act extend to the town of Jamestown.

It is voted and resolved, that Isaac Ross Bliven be a sur-

Street Church, where a sermon on the occasion, will be delivered by the Rev. Mr. Stillman. The ladies will be admitted into the galleries at 3 o'clock."

In the letters of John Adams, we find the following allusion to the death of Governor Ward:

"His funeral was attended with the same solemnities as Mr. Randolph's. Mr. Stillman being the Ana-Baptist minister here, of which persuasion was the Governor, was desired by Congress, to preach a sermon, which he did, with great applause."

Many years subsequent to this, John Adams, writing to a grandson of Governor Ward, thus spoke of him:

"He was a gentleman, in his manners; benevolent and amiable in his disposition; and as decided, ardent and uniform in his patriotism, as any member of that Congress. When he was seized with the small pox, he said that if his vote and voice were necessary to support the cause of his country, he should live; if not, he should die. He died, and the cause of his country was supported; but it lost one of its most sincere and punctual advocates."

The remains of Governor Ward were exhumed and removed to Rhode Island, in 1860. The slab over his grave, contains the following inscription, written by John Jay:

"In memory of the Honorable Samuel Ward, formerly Governor of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations; afterwards delegated from that colony to the General Congress; in which station, he died, at Philadelphia, of the small pox, March 26th, 1776, in the fifty-first year of his age. His great abilities, his unshaken integrity, his ardor in the cause of freedom, his fidelity in the offices he filled, induced the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to erect this grateful testimony of their respect."—*Providence Press*, March 19, 1860.

A fuller memoir of Governor Ward, from the pen of Charles Denison, Esq., of Westerly, was published in the "Narragansett Weekly," Westerly, beginning July 21, 1859, and continued through several numbers of the paper. It is to be hoped that the writer may print it in a better form for preservation.

geon's mate, to the brigade raised by this colony ; and that he be commissioned upon condition that he resigns his commission as an ensign.

Whereas, the committee, for signing the money, presented unto this Assembly, the following report and account, to wit :

*Report of the Committee.*

In pursuance of an act passed by the General Assembly, at the session, held at East Greenwich, on the third Monday in March last past, for emitting £20,000, lawful money, in bills of credit ; we, the subscribers, have signed the said bills, which are of the following denominations, to wit :

1,600 bills, of sixty shillings each, is	-	-	£4,800
2,000, " forty	"	-	4,000
3,000, " thirty	"	-	4,500
3,000, " twenty	"	-	3,000
3,000, " ten	"	-	1,500
3,000, " five	"	-	750
3,000, " four	"	-	600
3,000, " three	"	-	450
2,100, " two	"	-	210
2,000, " one	"	-	100
2,400, " ninepence	"	-	90
			£20,000

Which said bills, amounting to £20,000, lawful money, we have delivered to the general treasurer, of whom we have taken a receipt, in the eighth book of the Colony Records, in the Secretary's office.

In which book, we also registered an exact account of the order of signing the same.

JOHN COLE,	WELCOME ARNOLD,
JOSEPH CLARKE,	JOHN DEXTER,
JOHN G. WANTON,	WILLIAM ELLERY.
THOMAS GREENE,	

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of \$1,600, be paid to Samuel Aborn, Esq., out of the general treasury; being the value of the sloop Sally, chartered for the service of the colony, and taken by the enemy.

Whereas, John Cole, Joseph Clarke and John Dexter, Esqs., and Mr. John G. Wanton, presented unto this Assembly the following report and account, to wit:

*Report of the Committee.*

In pursuance of an act passed by the General Assembly, at the session held at Providence, on Tuesday, the 31st day of October last past, for emitting £20,000, lawful money, in bills of credit; we, the subscribers, have signed the said bills, which are of the following denominations, to wit:

1,500 bills, of forty shillings each, is	-	-	-	£3,000
3,000 “ thirty	“	-	-	4,500
4,000 “ twenty	“	-	-	4,000
5,000 “ ten	“	-	-	2,500
6,000 “ five	“	-	-	1,500
8,000 “ three	“	-	-	1,200
12,000 “ two	“	-	-	1,200
20,000 “ one	“	-	-	1,000
16,000 “ ninepence	“	-	-	600
20,000 “ sixpence	“	-	-	500
				<hr/>
				£20,000

Which said bills, amounting to £20,000, we have delivered to the general treasurer, of whom we have taken a receipt in the eighth book of the Colony Records, in the secretary's office; in which book, we have also registered an exact account of the order of signing the same.

JOHN COLE, JOHN DEXTER,  
JOSEPH CLARKE, JOHN G. WANTON.

It is voted and resolved, that the militia of this colony be, and they are hereby, excused from training for three months,



next after the rising of this Assembly ; and that they continue to exercise monthly, after that period.

An Act in addition to, and amendment of, an act made and passed by the General Assembly, at the session held at East Greenwich, on the 18th day of March, A. D. 1776, entitled, “ An act for encouraging the fitting out and authorizing armed vessels to defend the sea coast of America ; and for erecting a court to try and condemn all vessels that shall be found infesting the same.”

Whereas, since the said act was made and passed, the Continental Congress, on the 23d day of March, A. D. 1776, permitting the inhabitants of the colonies to fit out armed vessels, to cruise on the enemies of the United Colonies, have resolved,—

*Resolves of the Continental Congress, relative to the fitting out of armed vessels by the United Colonies.*

That all ships and other vessels, their tackle, apparel and furniture ; and all goods, wares and merchandize, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of Great Britain, taken on the high seas, or between high and low water marks, by any armed vessels, fitted out by any private person or persons, and to whom commissions shall be granted, and being libelled and prosecuted in the court erected for the trial of maritime affairs, in any of these colonies, shall be deemed and adjudged to be lawful prize.

And after deducting and paying the wages of the seamen and mariners on board of such captures, as are merchant ships and vessels, shall be entitled to, according to the terms of their contracts, until the time of the adjudication, shall be condemned to, and for the use of, the owner or owners, and the officers, marines and mariners of such armed vessel, according to such rules and proportions as they shall agree on.

Provided, that this resolve shall not extend, or be construed to extend, to any vessel bringing settlers, arms, ammunition, or warlike stores, to and for the use of the United American Colonies, or to any of the inhabitants thereof, who are friends to the American cause, or to such warlike stores, or to the effects of such settlers.

That all ships or vessels, with their tackle, apparel and furniture, goods, wares and merchandize, belonging to any inhabitant of Great Britain, as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any vessel or vessels of war of the said United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited ; one-third, after deducting and paying the wages of the seamen and mariners, as aforesaid, to the officers and men on board ; and two-thirds to the use of the said United Colonies.

That all ships or vessels, with their tackle, apparel and furniture, goods, wares and merchandize, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of Great Britain, as afore-

said, which shall be taken by any vessel or vessels of war, fitted out by and at the expense of any of the United Colonies, shall be deemed forfeited and divided, after deducting and paying the wages of the seamen and mariners, as aforesaid, in such manner and proportions as the Assembly or convention of such colony shall direct.

That all ships or vessels, their tackle, apparel, furniture and cargoes, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of Great Britain, as aforesaid; and also all vessels which shall be employed in carrying supplies to the ministerial armies, which shall happen to be taken near the shores of any of said United Colonies, by the people of the country, or any detachment of the American army, shall be deemed lawful prize.

And the court of admiralty, within said colony, is hereby directed and required, on condemnation thereof, to adjudge that all charges and expenses, which may attend the capture and trial, be first paid out of the moneys arising from the sales of the prize; and the remainder equally divided among all those who shall have been actually engaged in taking said prize.

Provided, that where any detachments of the army shall have been employed, as aforesaid, their part of the prize money shall be distributed among them in proportion to the pay of the officers and soldiers so engaged.

Therefore, in conformity to the aforesaid resolves,—

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that all ships and vessels, with their tackle, apparel and furniture, goods, wares and merchandize, belonging to any inhabitant or inhabitants of Great Britain, as aforesaid, which shall be taken by any vessels of war, fitted by, and at the expense of, this colony, shall be deemed forfeited, and divided, after deducting and paying the wages of the seamen and mariners, as aforesaid, in the following manner and proportions, to wit :

One-third, after deducting and paying the wages of the seamen and mariners, as aforesaid, to the officers and men on board; and two-thirds to the use of this colony.

And be it further enacted, that all armed vessels, taken by any vessel, fitted by, and at the expense of, this colony, and legally condemned, agreeably to this act, after deducting the charge of condemnation, shall be divided in the following manner and proportions, to wit :

One-half to the officers and men; and the other half to the use of the colony.

And be it further enacted, that upon condemnation of any vessel, as aforesaid, the judge shall give three months notice for any person owning said vessel, so condemned, to lay in their

claims ; and that no division of said vessels be made among the owners of the privateers, the officers and men, until bond be given to the judge for the refunding to the claimants of said vessel, upon their proving their property, so much as shall be left, after paying salvage and all lawful cost.

And be it further enacted, that the said judge be, and he is hereby, directed to proceed to and govern himself, in all trials at said court, according to the aforesaid resolves of the Congress ; and the aforesaid act of the General Assembly of this colony, passed in March, 1776.

And be it further enacted, that whereas, by said act, passed in March, 1776, the attorney general was appointed advocate in said court, which two offices in one person, may prove incompatible ;—

Be it therefore enacted, that that part of said act be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

It is voted and resolved, that the artillery companies established in the several towns in this colony, consisting of fourteen men each, be allowed and paid as follows, to wit :

The captain, five shillings ; the lieutenant, four shillings ; each private, two shillings per day, when on duty ; and that they be paid for exercising at other times, as by law already established.

It is voted and resolved, that one hundred weight of lead be allowed to the town of Warren ; and that the committee who have the colony's lead in possession, deliver the same to the treasurer of said town of Warren.

Whereas, it hath incontestibly appeared to this Assembly, that Henry Babcock, Esq., colonel of a regiment in the service of this colony, is at times deprived of the perfect use of his reason, and thereby rendered unfit to command ;—

It is voted and resolved, that the said Henry Babcock be, and he is hereby, dismissed from the command of the said regiment ; and that office is hereby declared vacant.

It is voted and resolved, that Peter Phillips, Esq., pay into the general treasury the sum of £422, lawful money, the same

being for guns appraised in Col. Varnum's regiment, belonging to the colony.

Both Houses, joined in a grand committee, chose the following officers, to wit :

Christopher Lippitt, Esq., colonel ; Adam Comstock, Esq., lieutenant-colonel ; and Christopher Olney, Esq., major, of the second regiment in the colony's brigade.

Wm. Barton, Esq., brigade-major, of the colony's brigade.

William Ellery, Esq., one of the delegates to represent this colony in the Continental Congress.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, empowered to appoint a gunner for Fort Liberty, upon Goat Island, who shall have the rank and pay of a lieutenant of artillery, in the colony's brigade, and be subject to the commander, thereof ; and that he be commissioned, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that in case the farm at Jamestown, lately belonging to Governor Hutchinson, now in possession of this colony, shall not be let in ten days from the rising of this Assembly, the commanding officer of the troops on Jamestown make use of the rails on said farm, and improve the farm to the best advantage for the colony.

The return of the choice of officers to command the independent company, in South Kingstown, called the Kingstown Reds, was read in Council, and is as follows, to wit :

John Gardner, captain ; Thomas Potter, first lieutenant ; Rouse J. Helme, second lieutenant ; Rowland Brown, ensign ; which being considered by the Council—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and hereby are, approved.

In Council was read the return of the choice of officers to command the United Company of the Train of Artillery, in Providence, and is as follows, to wit :

Daniel Tillinghast, colonel ; Levi Hall, lieutenant colonel ; Elihu Robinson, major ; Robert Taylor, captain ; Daniel Stillwell, lieutenant ; which being considered by the Council—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and are hereby, approved.

The return of the officers chosen to command the Cadet Company, in Providence, was read in Council, which is as follows, to wit :

Joseph Nightingale, captain ; William Russell, first lieutenant ; Nathaniel Greene, second lieutenant ; Ebenezer Thompson, ensign ; which being considered by the Council—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John G. Wanton be requested to take copies of the acts passed at the last and this present session of the Assembly, respecting damages done by the soldiers in houses belonging to private persons ; and for removing soldiers out of the best houses in Newport, into other convenient houses ; and to cause said copies to be inserted in the Newport Mercury.

Whereas, the Continental Congress, on the 13th day of April last, did resolve that Bohea tea ought not to be sold in the smallest quantity at a higher price, in any colony, than at the rate of three-fourths of a dollar per pound ; and other teas at such price as shall be regulated by the committees of the town or county where the tea is sold ; and that all persons who shall give or take a greater price for it, ought to be considered as enemies to the American cause, and treated accordingly ; and it was earnestly recommended to all committees of inspection and observation, as well to be vigilant in carrying said resolve into execution, as those which prohibit the importation of India tea from any part of the world ; it being the desire of Congress to exclude all teas, except such as may make part of the cargoes of prizes taken by the ships of war or privateers belonging to these colonies ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the committees of inspection of the several towns within this colony, be required to see said resolve strictly complied with ; that they publish the names of all delinquents, as enemies to the liberties of the of the American colonies ; and if in any town within this

colony, there is not any committee of inspection, the good people of said town are requested to give information to this Assembly of any persons counteracting said resolve.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, be, and they, or any two of them are hereby, appointed a committee, to audit the accounts of the persons who have fitted out any vessels upon the colony's account, to purchase warlike stores or salt; and that they make report to this Assembly at the next session.

In Council, was read the return of the officers chosen to command the company of Light Infantry, in Newport, which is as follows :

Jabez Champlin, captain; Charles Spooner, first lieutenant; Philip Moss, second lieutenant; Samuel Spooner, ensign.

Which being considered by the Council,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said officers be, and they are hereby, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Metcalfe Bowler, John G. Wanton, John Jenckes, Thomas Greene and Jabez Bowen, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to audit the accounts of the general treasurer with the colony; and also to burn all the lawful money bills and treasurer's notes, that may remain in the treasurer's hands; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John Brown, Cromel Child, John G. Wanton and Joshua Babcock, be a committee to inquire what wages the several colonies allow their delegates, for attending on the Continental Congress, and make report to the next session.

Whereas, it hath been represented unto this Assembly, that John Wright, of New Shoreham, hath betrayed and delivered up to the officers of a certain ship of war, of the British King, two seamen, who had deserted from said ship; and by so doing, hath manifestly shown himself to be an enemy to his country.

And whereas, there may be some other inhabitants of said New Shoreham, of suspected political characters,—

It is therefore resolved, that Jonathan Hazard, Esq., be, and he is hereby, empowered to proceed, as soon as may be, to said New Shoreham, taking sufficient aid, and apprehend said John Wright, and any other persons, who, it shall appear to him have given any supplies or intelligence to the ships of the said King; and confine the said Wright, and other such suspected persons, in jail, that they may be brought before this Assembly, at their next session, in order that they may be duly examined and passed upon; and that Mr. Hazard earnestly exhort the inhabitants of New Shoreham to remove off from the island.

An Act for granting a bounty upon salt, manufactured within this colony.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that a bounty of three shillings, lawful money, be allowed, out of the general treasury, for every bushel of salt manufactured within this colony, from the rising of this Assembly, to the 1st day of November next.

And be it further enacted, that Messrs. Samuel Fowler, Amos Atwell, John Coddington, Wm. Greene, Joseph Noyes, John Northup, Samuel Seagars, Job Comstock, Benjamin Underwood, Joseph Stanton, Jr., Nicholas Easton, Shearjashub Bourn, John Cooke, Thomas Brownell, Cromel Child, Zuriel Waterman and Edward Bosworth, be, and they, or any one of them, are hereby appointed, to inspect the salt so made; and if they, or either of them, shall approve of said salt, and the manufacturer thereof, declare under oath, before any magistrate or justice of the peace, or either of said inspectors (who are hereby empowered to administer the same), that the salt so inspected, was by them manufactured within this colony, within said time, the said inspector or inspectors shall give such manufacturer a certificate of the quantity of said salt so manufactured, and of his or their approbation thereof; which cer-

tificate, being produced to the general treasurer, the said manufacturer shall be paid said bounty, by the general treasurer.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be requested to write to Mr. Thomas Cushing, informing him of the receipt of his letter ; and that this colony, in case the Massachusetts colony shall be invaded, will assist them to defend the said colony in the best manner we can.

It is voted and resolved, that the following towns be supplied with the following quantities of powder and lead, respectively, to wit :

Coventry,	100 lbs. of powder, and 200 lbs. of lead
Scituate,	250 “ “ “ 600 “ “
Smithfield,	200 “ “ “ 400 “ “
Glocester,	150 “ “ “ 300 “ “
North Providence,	60 “ “ “ 120 “ “
Johnston,	80 “ “ “ 160 “ “
Westerly,	— “ “ “ 100 “ “
Cumberland,	100 “ “ “ 200 “ “
West Greenwich,	50 “ “ “ 100 “ “
Cranston,	50 “ “ “ 100 “ “
Portsmouth,	— “ “ “ 200 “ “
Exeter,	50 “ “ “ 50 “ “

That the same be delivered to the town treasurers of each respective town, out of the colony's magazine, by the committee appointed for that purpose ; and that if any town had rather have cartridges than powder and lead, they shall have liberty to receive the same.

It is voted and resolved, that the colony purchase of Mr. John Brown and Company twenty-three or twenty-four nine-pound cannon, which are already cast.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith be, and he is hereby, appointed to attend the sale of the salt lately taken by the armed gallies of this colony (if the same shall be condemned), and to bid for the same, in behalf of the colony, to such a sum per bushel, as he shall think prudent.

It is voted and resolved, that £60, lawful money, be allowed



and paid to William Ellery, Esq., appointed a delegate in the Continental Congress, out of the general treasury, to defray his present expenses; and that he account for the same, to the General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor or Deputy Governor, and the members of the General Council, five of whom, to be a quorum, together with such of the deputies belonging to the respective towns, in this colony, as may attend, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to act and transact such business as the exigency of public affairs during the recess of the General Assembly may require, and to advise His Honor therein; and that all orders by them made and issued, and all other their transactions, be laid before the next session of the General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that one-half of the nine-pound cannon, purchased of Nicholas Brown and Company, be immediately mounted on field-carriages; and the other half, on carriages suitable for a battery.

That they be ready to be placed in such places as the General Assembly may order at their next session.

That the four eighteen-pound cannon be mounted on carriages suitable for a battery.

That Messrs. Cromel Child, John Collins, Edward Church and Thomas Corey, be a committee for that purpose; and that twelve of said cannon, be sent to Newport.

Whereas, the inhabitants of the island of New Shoreham, from their exposed and defenceless situation, are in the power of the enemy's ships of war; and although in general, they are well effected to the common cause of America; yet, as in all other places, there are, no doubt, some among them, who, for the lucre of gain, will supply the enemy with provisions, and give them all the intelligence in their power.

This Assembly, therefore, not doubting but the inhabitants of that Island will see the necessity of preventing the enemy from receiving supplies, and gaining intelligence, and cheerfully acquiesce in the measure,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that no

person or persons be permitted to come from the said island, to any other place than to Newport, to bring their fish or produce to market.

That they be not permitted to purchase any more provisions, or other necessaries, than shall be permitted them by the committee appointed by this act; who are hereby directed not to suffer any to go upon the said island, but such as are immediately necessary for the internal consumption of the inhabitants.

That if any inhabitant of that island shall be found in any other part of the colony, saving Newport, he shall be immediately confined to jail, and there be kept until the next succeeding session of the General Assembly, to which he shall be brought, to be dealt with, according to his demerits.

That if any person shall be detected in carrying, or in attempting to carry, upon the said island, any provision or necessaries, excepting such as shall be allowed by said committee, he shall be considered as a person supplying the enemy, contrary to law, and shall suffer the pains and penalties in such case provided.

And that Messrs. John Collins, George Sears and John G. Wanton, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, for the aforesaid purposes.

*Thomas Cushing to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Watertown, May 3, 1776.

Sir:—By order of a committee of the General Court of this colony, whereof I have the honor to be chairman, I enclose you a copy of a piece of intelligence which may be depended upon.

As the British troops were driven in a hasty manner from this colony, we think we have reason to expect that they will endeavor to retrieve their character in the same place; we therefore ardently wish that you would hold a number of militia regiments in readiness to reinforce us, or to give us the same assistance you may depend upon from us, should the attack be made on your colony.

I remain, with great respect, &c.,

THOMAS CUSHING.

To the Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq., }  
Governor of the colony of Rhode Island. }

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Thomas Cushing.*

Providence, May 6th, 1776.

Sir:—At the request of the General Assembly, I am to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 3d instant; and to inform you, that in case of an attack upon the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, this colony will afford all the assistance in our power to give. Orders have been given to several of the colonels of militia, to hold their regiments in readiness.

The enclosed act passed the upper house, unanimously, and the lower house, by a vast majority; there being upwards of sixty members present, and only six votes against it.

I am, with great regard, sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Honorable Thomas Cushing, Esq.

*The Governor of Rhode Island, to General Washington.*

Providence, May 6th, 1776.

Sir:—Your Excellency's favor, in which you assure me, that you will recommend this unhappy colony to the Continental Congress, hath been laid before the General Assembly, to whom it gave great satisfaction.

I enclose you a copy of Col. Babcock's dismissal. The office of brigadier general is still kept vacant, in hopes that the brigade will be put upon the Continental establishment, and that a commander in chief will be appointed by Congress.

I also enclose a copy of an act discharging the inhabitants of this colony from allegiance to the King of Great Britain, which was carried in the house of deputies, after a debate, with but six dissentient voices; there being upwards of sixty members present.

I may also inform Your Excellency that the delegates from this colony are instructed and authorized to join with the major part of the delegates in entering into treaty with any prince, state, or potentate for the security of the colonies; and to adopt any other measures that may be thought prudent and effectual. This instruction passed *nem. con.*

The lower house afterwards passed a vote for taking the sense of the inhabitants at large upon the question of independence; but the upper house represented to them that it would probably be discussed in Congress before the sense of the inhabitants could be taken and transmitted to the delegates; in which case, the Colony would lose their voice, as the delegates would be laid under the necessity of waiting for instructions from their constituents; and further observed, that the delegates, when they should receive a copy of the vote renouncing allegiance to the British King, and their instructions, could not possibly be at a loss to know the sentiments of the General Assembly. Upon this, the matter was dropped.

I have the satisfaction, also, to inform Your Excellency, that at a very full town meeting of the inhabitants at Newport, held last Monday, it was unanimously voted, to enter into the defence of the town; and last Thursday, a considerable body of them began to work upon the fort to be erected upon Brenton's Point.

This happy event, I have great hopes will make us a united people, and root up every seed of disaffection in the colony.

I take the liberty once more to press Your Excellency in behalf of the colony, the defence of which must be abandoned, unless we receive assistance from the Congress.

I am, with great respect, sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

P. S. By this day's post, I have forwarded to Mr. Hopkins, an instruction from the General Assembly, directing him to make immediate application to Congress, to put our troops upon the Continental establishment.

*Edmund Pendleton, President of the General Convention of Virginia, to Metcalfe Bowler, Speaker of the House of Deputies of the General Assembly of Rhode Island.*

Virginia, May 22d, 1776.

Sir:—I am honored with the commands of the General Convention of this colony, to transmit to you the enclosed resolutions, which they have thought it indispensably necessary to enter into at this important crisis; requesting you will communicate their contents to the General Assembly of your colony, for their consideration.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

EDMD PENDLETON, President.

To the Honorable the Speaker of the General Assembly of Rhode Island.

*Proceedings of the General Convention of Virginia, relative to a Declaration of Independence by the United Colonies, of the Crown of Great Britain.*

IN CONVENTION,

Present, one hundred and twelve members. }

Wednesday, May 15, 1776.

Forasmuch, as all the endeavors of the United Colonies, by the most decent representations and petitions to the King and Parliament of Great Britain, to restore peace and security to America, under the British government, and a re-union with that people, upon just and liberal terms, instead of a redress of grievances, have produced, from an imperious and vindictive administration, increased insult, oppression, and a vigorous attempt to effect our total destruction.

By a late act, all these colonies are declared to be in rebellion, and out of the protection of the British crown; our properties subjected to confiscation; our people, when captivated, compelled to join in the murder and plunder of their relations and countrymen; and all former rapine and oppression of Americans, declared legal and just. Fleets and armies are raised, and the aid of foreign troops engaged, to assist these destructive purposes.

The King's representative in this colony, hath not only withheld all the powers of government from operating for our safety; but, having retired on board an armed ship, is carrying on a piratical and savage war against us; tempting our slaves, by every artifice, to resort to him, and training and employing them against their masters.

In this state of extreme danger, we have no alternative left, but an abject submission to the will of those overbearing tyrants, or a total separation from the crown and government of Great Britain; uniting and exerting the strength of all America, for defence; and forming alliances with foreign powers, for commerce, and aid in war.

Wherefore, appealing to the Searcher of Hearts, for the sincerity of former declarations, expressing our desire to preserve our connection with that nation; and that we are driven from that inclination by their wicked councils, and the eternal laws of self-preservation,—

Resolved unanimously, that the delegates appointed to represent this colony, in General Congress, be instructed to propose to that respectable body, to declare the United Colonies free and independent states; absolved from all allegiance to, or dependence upon, the crown or Parliament of Great Britain; and that they give the assent of this colony to such declaration, and to whatever measures may be thought proper and necessary by the Congress, for forming foreign alliances, and a confederation of the colonies, at such time, and in the manner, as to them shall seem best.

Provided, that the power of forming government for, and the regulations of the internal concerns of each colony, be left to the respective colonial legislatures.

Resolved unanimously, that a committee ought to be appointed to prepare a declaration of rights, and such a plan of government, as will be most likely to maintain peace and order in this colony, and secure substantial and equal liberty to the people.

EDMUND PENDLETON, President.

JOHN TAZEWELL,

Clerk of the Convention.

(A copy.)

### *General Schuyler to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Fort George, May 23d, 1776.

Sir:—I am honored with your letter of the 13th inst,\* which was yesterday delivered me by Major Robinson; from whom, I also received to the amount of \$1,713, in specie; for which, I have passed my receipt. This sum, small as it is, will much alleviate the distress of our army, and will be sent into Canada this morning, by General Sullivan, who has already received it into his charge.

You have doubtless, ere this, been minutely informed of the particulars of raising the blockade of Quebec; an event greatly unfortunate for us; but which I trust will not be attended with so many dreadful consequences as the generality of people, on the first account of such an occurrence, are apt to imagine.

General Thomas has retired no further than the force of necessity obliged him to do, and he holds his ground at Dechambault; and although he has been greatly distressed, in the article of provision, and reduced to the most scanty allowance, yet he

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\* This letter is not among the files in the Secretary's office.

has been some days since relieved by what I have sent from hence; nor will he experience a scarcity in future, as I have already forwarded more than a month's provision for what army is now in Canada; and the remainder of General Sullivan's brigade will carry considerably more than that with them, for their number.

The sending off General Sullivan's and General Thompson's brigades into Canada, which was done as soon as resolved on, has given me my hands full; and has occasioned the building of two hundred batteaux more than Congress intended; an arduous business, at a season of the year when all forage was expended, and the roads extremely bad. The troops have, however, not been detained, except the last brigade, for a very few days, that it might be preceded by a quantity of provisions; the third regiment will move at eight, this morning; another to-morrow, and the two remaining ones as soon as they can arrive at this place, which I trust will be in the course of this week; part of one of them I have sent into Tryon county, to apprehend the forces there.

The arrival of General Sullivan's brigade, I am confident will have a happy effect on the Canadians, and inspire them with confidence, which is all they want; for I have good intelligence that most of the peasants are warmly attached to us, and will readily afford us every assistance on the prospect of our being able to maintain our ground in Canada.

The first accounts may have exaggerated our loss, although I have no regular return; I cannot learn that it exceeds two hundred, who were in the hospital; the parties stationed at Orleans and Point Levi, having both joined General Thomas; a circumstance that gives me more pleasure, as it is a convincing proof of the friendly disposition of the Canadians, who certainly might have cut off these small bodies, if they chose. All the heavy cannon and ammunition sent from hence this spring, is safe, except about twenty-seven barrels of powder, which the enemy took in a small schooner.

I hope soon to have the happiness to announce to my superiors, that our affairs in Canada, are re-established; and that the Hand which sometimes chastises, will nevertheless support the much injured Americans against their unnatural, unrelenting and cruel enemy; and establish them a free and a happy people.

I am, sir, with esteem,

Your honor's most obedient, humble servant,

PH. SCHUYLER.

To the Honorable Governor Cooke, &c., &c

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the second Monday in June, 1776.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.

The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that the persons at whose houses the picket guard kept at Middletown, the winter and spring last past, be, and they are hereby, allowed two pence, lawful money, per night, for each and every soldier, who kept at said houses, as a picket guard, during the said time.

That the owners of said houses be accountable for what wood they received of the colony; and that the money be paid by the committee of safety.

Whereas, Messrs. Metcalfe Bowler, John Jenckes, Jabez Bowen, Thomas Greene and John G. Wanton, were appointed a committee to audit the accounts of Joseph Clarke, Esq., general treasurer; and they having presented to this Assembly the following state of his account, and report thereon, to wit:

[Here follows the account.]

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, be, and they are hereby, directed to make inquiry what salt is in the colony, belonging to the government, and what the same cost, including the vessels and cargoes which were lost, as well as those which returned safe; and make report to this Assembly, by Friday morning next, at farthest.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport do, and he is hereby directed to, take immediate possession of the tan-yard, vats, leather, stock of hides, and every thing else in the tan-yard, in Newport, belonging to George Rome, for the use of the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Cromel Child be, and he is hereby, directed to make suitable wooden wheels to the ship gun carriages he is employed to make for the colony ; and that Mr. Edward Church make such wheels for the carriages he is employed to make for the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport do, and he is hereby, directed to take immediate possession of a lot of land, with two dwelling houses thereon, lying in Newport, on the south side of the Parade, being the estate of George Rome, to, and for, the use of the colony.

That the said sheriff likewise take into his possession, for the use of the colony, all other the estate of the said George Rome, lying in the county of Newport, which hath not already been seized.

And that the tenants of the estate, aforesaid, account for all arrearages of rent, to the colony.

Whereas, during the recess of the General Assembly, such of the members thereof, as could conveniently be immediately convened, did assemble, and thinking it to be expedient that John Collins, Esq., should present unto the Most Honorable the Continental Congress the following memorial :

*Memorial of the Colony of Rhode Island, to the Continental Congress.*

To the Most Honorable the delegates of the United Colonies, in Congress, assembled at Philadelphia :

In the absence of the Governor and Deputy Governor, Commodore Eseek Hopkins hath applied to us for the re-delivery of twenty pieces of cannon which he hath landed in this colony ; we have thought it absolutely necessary to detain them, until Your Honors should be made acquainted with the circumstances of the colony, not doubting but that upon mature consideration, it would be thought best for the common interest to permit them to remain here.

We beg the most favorable construction of this measure, and assure Your Honors, that no persons living are more sensible of the necessity of establishing the authority of Congress, nor more ready to pay obedience to it.

Your Honors have doubtless frequently with pain reflected upon the unhappy state of the town of Newport, which was entirely defenceless ; surrounded by a powerful naval armament, and daily threatened with, and in danger of, immediate destruction ; for it was incontestibly in the power of the British fleet to destroy it at pleasure.



In this situation, it is not at all strange that near a third part of the inhabitants removed; and that a majority of the remainder were induced to temporize, and even to assume an appearance rather unfriendly to the United Colonies. To this situation, alone, is the former conduct of Newport to be attributed, and not to the want of spirit, or love of their country.

In this state of affairs, the British fleet quitted the harbor, and Commodore Hopkins most providentially arrived with twenty-six cannon and some shot, which he offered to the town. The inhabitants, elated with having this means of defence, assembled in a full town meeting, and unanimously voted to work upon the necessary fortifications, and to defend the town; and immediately entered upon it with vigor. This decisive resolution gave every friend to the United Colonies a new spring, as many of us looked upon Newport as worse than lost to the common cause. Three considerable works have been erected. These cannon have been with great expedition mounted upon carriages, and placed upon the platforms; and the town of Newport is now capable of being defended against all the frigates in the British navy.

Fortifications are also making at Bristol Ferry, and on the east side of Rhode Island; which, when completed, will effectually secure a communication with the continent, and enable us to defend that most valuable island.

We are happy in the idea of having put a total stop to supplying the enemy, of destroying the very seeds of disaffection in the colony, and of being an united people. We looked upon saving the town of Newport; the commanding the harbor in which, from its easiness of access, vessels from sea may find a quick protection under the cannon of the forts; and which will at all times afford a safe assylum to the Continental ships, and to privateers and their prizes, as well as to other vessels; and which, by means of the works now erected, may pass in and out in spite of all the British fleet, as objects of very great importance to the common cause.

But our pleasing prospects are greatly interrupted by the order to deliver twenty of these cannon to Messrs. Hollingsworth and Richardson, to be transported to Philadelphia. From the face of it, which is directed to the commodore, and in his absence, to Mr Tillinghast, it appeared clearly to us that Your Honors thought the cannon were barely landed here; and had no idea of their being fitted with carriages, and planted in forts erected purposely for their reception.

We beg leave to refer you for a general state of the colony, to the memorial from the Assembly, which is now before Your Honors, and is in no degree exaggerated, by which you will be able to judge of the exposed situation of the colony, of its great exertions for the common, as well as our own defence, and of the utter impossibility of our defending ourselves; to which, we would add, that there are now in the colony, exclusive of those brought by the commodore, but twenty-four pieces of heavy cannon; being twenty-four and eighteen-pounders.

The Assembly had contracted with the owners of Furnace Hope, for sixty more; but the commodore having brought twenty-six heavy cannon into the colony, the Assembly consented that the cannon for the Continental ships should be first made, as the owners of the furnace could not possibly supply both departments in season; so that we have yet had but four eighteen-pounders from them; nor can the others be made under a long time, unless a stop be put to those making for the ships.

We are informed by the commodore, that he landed thirty-six heavy cannon at New London; which, from its situation, can be defended with one-quarter of the number required for the defence of the bay, town and harbor of Newport.

And when the difference of the towns of Newport and New London, in point of

the number of inhabitants and value; in point of importance to the United Colonies and in the abilities of the two colonies, of which they are a part, to defend them, are considered, we think it will not admit a doubt from which place the twenty cannon wanted, are to be removed.

We beg leave also to mention to Your Honors some of the probable consequences of depriving us of those cannon:

All the disaffected, all the lukewarm, and all the timid, cry out that this colony hath been totally neglected by Congress, while every other colony that is exposed, is defended by the Continental troops, which the most hearty in the common cause cannot deny; this, with the dangerous situation of the town of Newport, the capital of the colony, containing upwards of thirteen hundred dwelling-houses, and between nine and ten thousand souls, hath produced a very great division, and was near overthrowing that administration which had so greatly exerted the force of the colony. The blow, however, was averted, and the most seasonable arrival of those cannon, with the decisive resolution of the town of Newport, hath given union, spirit and vigor to the colony. Take them from us, and we cannot answer for the event. The town of Newport and the island of Rhode Island are lost. A small part of that army now at Halifax, may, in their way to the westward, effect their destruction, without being detained three days. It will be impossible for the inhabitants to defend themselves; they will not even attempt it. There is danger, that those people who are so desirous of reconciliation with Great Britain upon any terms, will gain the ascendancy, and of the colony's being lost to America. Leave us the cannon, we can save Newport, which hath been induced in consequence of their arrival, to take such steps as must bring upon them the British arms, and who will be most cruelly treated in being deprived of them. We can keep possession of Rhode Island, which is of great consequence to the inhabitants and trade of Taunton and Swanzey Rivers; and we shall be a united people, ready with our lives and fortunes to support the measures of Congress.

We submit this representation to Your Honors, which will be delivered to you by John Collins, Esq., the first assistant in this colony, to whom we beg leave to refer you, for further information; not in the least doubting that upon full inquiry and deliberation, Your Honors will consent that the cannon remain here, until we can be otherwise supplied.

Signed by order and in behalf of such members of the General Assembly, as could conveniently be convened, by— HENRY WARD, Secretary.

Providence, May 20, 1776.

Whereupon, this Assembly, taking the premises into consideration,—

It is voted and resolved, that the foregoing memorial be, and the same is hereby, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport immediately make an inventory of the whole stock in the tan-yard now in the possession of Mr. Edward Cole, of Newport; and that the said sheriff, with Col. Christopher Lippitt and Mr. Robert Taylor, or the major part of them, be a

committee, to employ suitable persons to work up the whole of the said stock, upon reasonable terms, for the benefit of the colony.

It is further voted and resolved, that Messrs. Thomas Greene, Nathaniel Mumford and the aforesaid Robert Taylor, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to examine and state the accounts between the said Edward Cole and George Rome, respecting the said tan-yard, from the time they entered into partnership.

That the said Edward Cole submit to the inspection of the said committee, under oath, the original contract of partnership, and all books of accounts and papers, whatever, relating to the said tan-yard, and to all accounts of every nature, subsisting between them; and that the said committee report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

Whereas, Messrs. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, were appointed a committee to inquire what salt is now in the colony, belonging to the government, and what the same cost, including all charges; and they having presented unto this Assembly an account, by them stated, with their report thereon, as follows, to wit:

*Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, relative to the Quantity of Salt in the Colony, &c.*

June, 1776. Salt, imported and purchased by the colony of Rhode Island, Dr.		£	s.	d.
To amount of cargo, outfits and inward charges, of brig Nancy, fitted by John Northup	- - - - -	310	13	06
To amount of cargo, outfits and loss, of sloop Maryland, by Jacob Greene	- - - - -	445	14	10
To amount of cargo, outfits and inward charges, of schooner Abigail, by William Greene	- - - - -	317	14	04
To amount of cargo and outfits of brig ——— by Smith and Mathewson	- - - - -	216	16	05
To amount of the loss of said brig	- - - - -	480	00	00
To amount of cargo, outfits and portage bill, of the schooner Eagle, by Joseph Stanton, supposed	- - - - -	303	00	00
To amount of eighteen hundred and eighty bushels, purchased by John Smith, averaged as per Paul Tew's account, at 8s.	- - - - -	752	00	00

		£	s.	d.
To amount of six hundred and seventeen bushels, bought by Sylvester Child, at 3s. - - - - -				
		92	11	00
Measuring and shifting do. - - - - -				
			18	00
To amount of Cory and Irish's charges in fitting out two vessels to fetch salt, stopped by the Assembly - - - - -				
		172	13	00
				£3,091 19 01
By salt imported in brig Nancy, 2,500 bushels.				
"	"	"	schooner Abigail,	1,880 "
"	"	"	" Eagle	1,500 "
Bought by John Smith, - - - 1,880 "				
"	"	"	Sylvester Child, - - -	617 "
				8,377 "
Allowed for wastage, wharfage and storage, at 7 1-2 per cent., 628 " deducted.				
				Remain, 7,749, at 7s. 11 3-4 - - 3,091 19 01
At Westerly, purchased by Col. Noyes, 130				
				7,879 bushels.

Newport, June 13, 1776.

Having carefully examined the accounts of the cargoes, outfits and inward charges, of the aforementioned vessels, and the losses thereon sustained, and averaged them with the salt imported and purchased, we find that it cost the colony seven shillings and eleven pence three farthings per bushel.

NATHANIEL MUMFORD,  
THOMAS GREENE.

And the premises being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the aforesaid report be, and hereby is, accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that the thanks of this Assembly be given to His Excellency George Washington, Esq., commander in chief of the forces of the United Colonies, for his favorable representation of the state of this colony, to the Most Honorable the Continental Congress, and interposition, in procuring the colony's brigade to be taken into Continental pay; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to transmit to His Excellency a copy of this vote.

It is voted and resolved, that Jonathan Arnold, Henry Marchant and Henry Ward, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to prepare a bill for establishing suitable

offices at Newport and Providence, for entering and clearing vessels, and fixing the fees of the officers.

Whereas, the inhabitants of the town of Newport, in town meeting, legally assembled, on the 29th day of April last, unanimously voted that they would defend the said town, and ordered that the inhabitants should work upon the fortifications, upon the penalty of paying three shillings per day, for each and every day's neglect; and at a meeting held on the 25th day of May last, ordered, that the fines of the delinquents should be collected by William Davis; and that in case of refusal, he should destrain.

And whereas, some doubts have arisen respecting the authority of the said town meetings to pass the said votes,—

It is therefore resolved and declared, and it is hereby declared by this Assembly, that by the acts of incorporation of the several towns in this colony, they are, and ever were, sufficiently authorized and empowered to make and ordain acts, laws, orders and regulations, binding upon their respective inhabitants, in all cases whatever, for their advantage, safety and defence; and to impose such fines and penalties for the breaches thereof, as they shall deem meet; and to appoint a person or persons to collect such fines and penalties, with power to destrain, in case of refusal or neglect to pay the same.

Provided, such acts, laws, orders and regulations, are not repugnant to the acts, laws, orders and regulations of this General Assembly.

Whereas, Mr. Samuel Johnson exhibited unto this Assembly an account, by him charged against the colony, for four pieces of cannon, for the use of the colony; and the said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that £50 10s., being the amount of said account, be paid unto the said Samuel Johnson, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Mr. Jeremiah Clarke exhibited unto this Assembly an account, by him charged for six pieces of cannon, delivered

to Brigadier General West, for the use of the colony ; which said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that £90, lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid unto the said Jeremiah Clarke, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the persons appointed by this Assembly to take possession of estates belonging to persons disaffected to the United Colonies, in behalf of, and for the use of, the government, be, and they are hereby, directed immediately to render an account, in writing, of their proceedings therein, to this Assembly.

Whereas, William Potter and John Northup, Esqs., who were appointed at the last session, a committee, to let out, in behalf of the colony, all the real estates in the county of Kings county, lately belonging to persons disaffected to the United Colonies, and heretofore ordered by this Assembly to be taken into possession by the sheriff of said county, &c., did, upon a copy of their appointment, make report ; to which they subjoined an account, by them charged against the colony, as follows, to wit :

*Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.*

We, the subscribers, with Peter Philips, Esq., in obedience to the within order, have leased all the estates taken into possession by the sheriff of the county of Kings county, as within mentioned, to wit :

The estate lately belonging to the heirs of John Borland, consisting of two tracts of land ; one of which, we have let to Rowland Robinson, Esq., and the other to Mr. Christopher Robinson.

The estate lately belonging to Dr. Thomas Moflatt, we have let to Mr. Charles Dyer.

The estate lately belonging to George Rome, we have let to Mr. Stephen Boyer ; and the estate lately belonging to Samuel Sewal, consisting of two tracts ; one of which, we have leased to Mr. Silas Niles, and the other, to Mr. David Austin ; and have taken written leases thereof, which we herewith present to Your Honors.

We have also disposed of, at public vendue, four horses, lately belonging to the said George Rome, for the sum of £49 16s. ; which we are ready to account for.

WILLIAM POTTER,  
JOHN NORTHUP.

Both which, being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be accepted; that the said account of the committee be allowed, and paid out of the general treasury, in the aforesaid proportions; and that the committee pay the said sum of £49 16s., into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, be, and they, or the major part of them, are hereby appointed a committee, to prepare a statement of the demands of this colony upon the Continental treasury; and that they lay the same before this Assembly at the next session, in order that it may be transmitted with the vouchers, to the treasury office.

It is voted and resolved, that all the arrearages of rents due from the tenants in possession of the lands lately belonging to persons disaffected to the American cause, and taken into possession of this colony, be paid into the general treasury.

That Col. John Cooke, for the county of Newport; Paul Tew, Esq., for the county of Providence; William Potter, Esq., for the county of Kings county; and Mr. Cromel Child, for the county of Bristol, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to inquire into and settle said arrearages.

That the secretary deliver to the general treasurer all the leases and papers relating to said estates that are in his possession.

And that in case the said arrearages be not paid within two months after the rising of this Assembly, the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to sue for the same.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport, be, and he is hereby, directed to take possession, in behalf of the colony, of a dwelling house and lot, situate in Newport, in the said county, belonging to James Frost, who hath engaged in the service of the enemies to the United Colonies; but that the wife of the said James Frost may reside on the premises, or receive the rents and profits thereof, until further orders from this Assembly.

Whereas, the committee, appointed to examine and state the accounts between George Rome and Edward Cole, have informed this Assembly, that the said Edward Cole refuseth to submit, under oath, the accounts, papers, &c., to the inspection of the said committee,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said Edward Cole be immediately taken into custody by the sheriff of the county of Newport, and safely kept until he shall submit the said accounts, &c., to the inspection of the said committee, agreeably to the act of this Assembly made in that behalf.

In Council, was read the return of the officers chosen for the independent company, called the Kentish Guards, who are as follows :

Richard Fry, captain ; Hopkins Cooke, first lieutenant ; Thomas Holden, second lieutenant ; Sylvester Greene, ensign.

And the same being duly considered,—

It is voted, that the said choice be, and hereby is, approved.

It is voted and resolved, that William Potter, Esq., be, and he is hereby, directed to procure the court house in South Kingstown to be glazed, painted and finished, as soon as possible ; and that he be empowered to draw £300, lawful money out of the general treasury, for that purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that all the soldiers who were stationed at Block Island, be paid the wages still due to them, by John Northup and Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esqs., two of the committee of safety, as soon as conveniently may be ; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

In Council was read the return of the officers chosen for the company called the North Providence Rangers, who are as follows :

John Angell, son of Stephen, captain ; Thomas Olney, Jr., lieutenant ; Joseph Hawkins, Jr., ensign.

And the same being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said choice be, and hereby is, approved.



An Act permitting inoculation for the small pox, in this colony.

Whereas, the small pox hath made the most dreadful ravages in the army lately before Quebec, which was a principal cause of raising the blockade of that city; and there is great danger that the inhabitants of the United Colonies may, by the prevalence of that dreadful distemper, be rendered incapable of defence at a time when their safety may depend upon their most vigorous exertions.

And whereas, that distemper, taken by inoculation, is so easy and light, and the method of treatment so beneficial, that any number of persons inoculated, are more likely to live, than the same number of persons not inoculated; and, as by introducing the practice of inoculation, with prudence and caution, the greater part of the male inhabitants of the colonies, may soon get over that terrible disease, and the fatal consequences to be apprehended from our armies being infected therewith, be averted,--

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that one hospital may be established for inoculating for the small pox, in each county in this colony, in such town as the majority of the deputies in the county, in a meeting duly warned, shall agree upon.

That the hospital in the town which shall be so agreed upon, shall be fixed in some suitable and retired place, in such town, under the direction of the town council, or of such committee as the town shall appoint.

Provided, that when such hospital shall be improved for that purpose, the town shall mark off the ground round said hospital, at a distance not less than two hundred yards every way therefrom, and set and maintain a sufficient guard, to prevent all persons in the hospital from going beyond those limits, and all persons without, from passing within one hundred yards of them, without the permission of the directors of the hospital, upon the penalty of forfeiting and paying, as a fine, into the general treasury, £100, lawful money, to be recovered of the

town treasurer of such town, by the general treasurer, at any inferior court of common pleas in the colony.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that every person passing the said limits, without permission, as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay as a fine, £15, lawful money, to, and for the use of, such town, to be recovered by the town treasurer, at a special court, to be called and holden in the same manner as special courts are called and held in other cases; and shall also suffer three months imprisonment, without bail or mainprize.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall be the duty of the said guard, and they are hereby empowered, to apprehend and immediately commit to jail every person who shall transgress with respect to the said limits, there to remain until he shall be acquitted, or the sentence passed upon him be executed; unless such transgressor shall be under inoculation, in which case he shall be carefully kept within the said limits until he shall be recovered and cleansed, and then be committed to jail, as aforesaid.

And it is further enacted, that if any person, being so inoculated, shall, after his recovery from the small pox, go beyond the said limits, without a certificate of his being thoroughly cleansed therefrom, together with the wearing apparel he shall carry out with him, he shall, in default thereof, be liable to the penalty of £30, lawful money, to be recovered in manner as above directed.

And if any person having such certificate, shall by himself, or by means of the apparel he may carry out with him, communicate the small pox to any person without the hospital, the doctor or physician, of such hospital, shall be liable to the penalty of £30, lawful money, to be recovered in manner as above directed.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person shall carry out from the hospital, where he may be inoculated, any bedding or other articles, linen sheets, and his wearing apparel, as aforesaid, excepted; and that every article

which he shall carry out, shall be particularly enumerated in the certificate from the doctor or physician of such hospital, under the penalty of £30, lawful money, to be recovered of such inoculated person so offending, in manner as above directed.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that any town in which an hospital shall be established, as aforesaid, be, and hereby is, empowered to make such further regulations, to prevent communicating the infection from the hospital in such town, and to lay such fines and penalties upon the offenders, as they shall think proper.

And that all acts made by such town, in that behalf, shall be of the same force and validity as if enacted by this General Assembly.

*Protest against the above Bill.*

The subscribers protest against this bill's passing into an act, for the following reasons, to wit :

1. For that although we urged, that in a case of such vast importance as intimately affects the lives, safety and well-being of the community, the consent and approbation of our respective constituents ought to have been first had and obtained, yet this motion hath been rejected.

2. For that an act of this kind hath not been suffered to continue but for a short time in any of the New England colonies; and that where it hath been permitted or winked at, it is now entirely discontinued, and discountenanced.

3d. For that there is in this act no provision made for the poor, who are by far the much more numerous part of the community.

JOHN G. WANTON,	BENJAMIN UNDERWOOD,
JOSHUA BABCOCK,	THOMAS WELLS,
JOHN NORTHUP,	SYLVESTER GARDNER,
JOSHUA BARKER,	EDWARD SANDS, JR.,
THOMAS FREEBODY.	JOHN THURSTON.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Waterman be, and he is hereby, appointed and empowered to agree with some suitable person, upon the best terms he can, to work in the powder mill belonging to the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, William Potter, George Sears, Jonathan Arnold, William Greene and Henry Ward, Esqs., be, and they are hereby, ap-

pointed a committee, to inquire into the circumstances of the uneasiness subsisting among a number of the officers of the colony's brigade, stationed upon Rhode Island, respecting Maj. Barton ; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

In pursuance of the recommendation of the Most Honorable the Continental Congress,—

Resolved, that an account be immediately taken of the number of inhabitants in each town in this colony ; that the persons whose names are set down in the subsequent list, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, for that purpose, to wit :

Newport—Messrs. George Sears, William Coddington and Gideon Wanton.

Providence—Messrs. Martin Seamans and Theodore Foster.

Portsmouth—Mr. John Coddington.

Warwick—Mr. Charles Holden.

Westerly—Messrs. Ichabod Babcock and Joseph Crandall.

New Shoreham—Mr. Edward Sands, Jr.

North Kingstown—Mr. Joseph Coggeshall.

South Kingstown—Mr. Daniel Rodman.

East Greenwich—Mr. Thomas Sheffield.

Jamestown—Mr. Benjamin Underwood.

Smithfield—Mr. Daniel Mowry, Jr.

Scituate—Mr. Christopher Potter, or Mr. William West.

Glocester—Mr. Zebedee Hopkins, Jr.

Charlestown—Mr. Jonathan Hazard.

West Greenwich—Mr. Judiah Aylsworth.

Coventry—Mr. Ephraim Westcot.

Exeter—Mr. George Pierce.

Middletown—Mr. John Barker.

Bristol—Mr. Shearjashub Bourn.

Tiverton—Messrs. John Cooke and Walter Cooke.

Little Compton—Mr. Thomas Brownell.

Warren—Mr. William Miller.

Cumberland—Mr. John Dexter.

Richmond—Mr. Richard Bailey.

Cranston—Mr. Zuriel Waterman.

Hopkinton—Mr. Thomas Wells.

Johnston—Mr. John Fenner.

North Providence—Mr. Jonathan Jenckes, Jr.

Barrington—Mr. Thomas Allen.

That they take the account in the same manner as the inhabitants of this colony were last numbered.

That they be under engagement for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in them ; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session. .

This Assembly, deploring the unhappy situation of the inhabitants of New Shoreham, and willing to give them every relief in their power ; and being also necessitated to provide for the general safety,—

Do resolve, in addition to, and amendment of, the act passed at the last session, respecting the said island, that the committee appointed in the said act may permit such of the inhabitants of the said island as they can confide in, to go to Pawcatuck River, to procure at the mills there, such a quantity of meal as shall be necessary for the inhabitants of the said island ; they taking the same and other necessaries on board, under the direction and with the written permission of George Sheffield and Phineas Clarke, or either of them, who are hereby directed to transmit to the said committee an account of all the articles so taken on board for the said island.

That the said committee be empowered to permit such inhabitants of the said island as they can confide in, to proceed to any part of the colony, to transact the necessary business of the island ; and that no other person belonging to the said island, besides the deputies, shall go to any other part of the colony, excepting to Goat Island, in the township of Newport, upon the penalty of being committed to jail, as in the aforesaid act is directed.

James Honeyman, Esq., advocate-general of the court of vice admiralty, in this colony, under the crown of Great Britain, having appeared before and informed this Assembly, that if his holding the said office be disagreeable to the colony, he will deliver up his commission,—

It is voted and resolved, that his holding the same, is disagreeable to the colony; and that the sheriff of the county of Newport call upon the said James Honeyman, to receive the said commission; and that he deliver it to His Honor the Governor, to be lodged in the secretary's office.

It is voted and resolved, that all the salt belonging to the colony, be divided among the several towns, in proportion to the number of polls in each town, which is to be ascertained by the account of the number of inhabitants in the colony, at this session ordered to be taken; that the same be delivered by Messrs. John Smith, William Greene, John Northup, Joseph Stanton, Jr. and Sylvester Child; that each town be at the cost of transporting its proportion; and that it be disposed of at the discretion of each town, at the rate of six shillings per bushel, for cash only, by such persons as the town shall appoint.

And it is further voted and resolved, that each town may immediately receive the following quantity, in part of its said proportion, to wit:

	Bushels.		Bushels.
Newport	200	Coventry	80
Providence	100	Exeter	50
Portsmouth	50	Middletown	40
Warwick	100	Bristol	50
Westerly	100	Tiverton	60
New Shoreham	30	Little Compton	50
North Kingstown	100	Warren	50
South Kingstown	150	Cumberland	60
East Greenwich	100	Richmond	50
Jamestown	30	Cranston	100
Smithfield	150	Hopkinton	80
Scituate	150	Johnston	50
Glocester	120	North Providence	20
Charlestown	60	Barrington	25
West Greenwich	80		

Whereas, Mr. John Carter exhibited unto this Assembly, an

account by him charged against the colony, for printing lawful money bills, divers acts of Assembly, commissions, proclamations, &c.,—

It is voted and resolved, upon due examination of the said account, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that £30 4s. 9d., lawful money, being the amount thereof, be paid the said John Carter, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, Capt. Ethan Clarke, administrator to the estate of the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esq., deceased, late a delegate from this colony, in the General Congress, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the colony, for the services of the said Samuel Ward, in the said capacity, from the 26th day of August last, to the 26th day of March last, being the day of his death, for the wages of his servant and horse-hire ; for his expenses in going to Philadelphia, and during his abode there ; and for the charges of his last sickness and funeral, amounting to £392 7d., lawful money ; and deducted therefrom the sum of £120, received by the the said Samuel Ward, from the colony,—

It is voted and resolved, upon due examination of the said account, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that £272 7d., lawful money, being the balance thereof, be paid to the said Ethan Clarke, as administrator to the said estate, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, it appears to this Assembly, by a report of the committee, appointed to estimate the damages done to the estate of Mr. John Banister, by the colony troops stationed in his house, that they have made considerable waste and destruction ; and this Assembly being desirous of making a reasonable allowance therefor, but not being satisfied with the said report,—

Do vote and resolve, and it is voted and resolved, that the sum of £80, lawful money be paid to the said John Bannister, out of the general treasury, towards the damages he hath sustained, as aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Henry Peckham, for the county of Newport ; Mr. Thomas Greene, for the county of

Providence; Mr. Pardon Tillinghast, for the county of Kings county; Mr. Benjamin Bosworth, for the county of Bristol; and Mr. Thomas Tillinghast, for the county of Kent, or the major part of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to inquire into the damages done within this colony, by the troops in the service of the colony, before the act was made directing who should be answerable for such damages; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Nathaniel Mumford, Thomas Greene and Gideon Mumford, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to audit the accounts of the committee of safety, and of the commissary of the colony's brigade; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

An estimate of the damages done to a house in Newport, belonging to John Northup, Esq., by the soldiers of the colony's brigade, having been laid before, and duly considered by, this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that £5 7s. 4d., lawful money, being the sum they were estimated at, be allowed therefor, and paid the said John Northup, out of the general treasury.

An Act empowering the members of the upper and lower houses of Assembly, to tender to such of the inhabitants as are hereinafter mentioned, a declaration, or test, for subscription.

Whereas, the great danger to which this colony is exposed, makes it necessary to use every measure for detecting those persons among us, who are inimical to the United Colonies, and preventing their doing injury to the common cause,—

Be it therefore enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that all the male inhabitants of this colony, of sixteen years of age and upwards, who shall be suspected of being inimical to the United American Colonies, and the arduous struggle in which they are engaged,



against the force of Great Britain, shall make and subscribe the following declaration, or test, to wit :

*Declaration or Test, to be made by suspected persons in the  
Colony, relative to the War with Great Britain*

“ I, the subscriber, do solemnly and sincerely declare, that I believe the war, resistance and opposition, in which the United American Colonies are now engaged, against the fleets and armies of Great Britain, is on the part of the said colonies just and necessary ; and that I will not, directly nor indirectly, afford assistance of any sort or kind, whatever, to the said fleets and armies, during the continuance of the present war ; but that I will heartily assist in the defence of the United Colonies.”

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case any such suspected person shall refuse to subscribe the same, it shall be in the power of either of the members of the upper or lower house of Assembly, in this colony, and they are hereby directed to issue a summons, and call the person so refusing, before him, and make inquiry into the reasons of his refusal ; and if he shall continue such refusal, without giving satisfactory reasons for the same to the member summoning him, or shall refuse to appear upon being summoned, such member shall issue his warrant, directed to the sheriff of the county where the person so refusing shall dwell, or his deputy, commanding him, with sufficient aid, to make strict and diligent search for all arms, ammunition and warlike stores, belonging to such persons so refusing, and to take and deliver the same to the captain of the company of militia in whose district the delinquent shall live, to be made use of in time of an alarm, taking a receipt of the captain, therefor ; which arms, ammunition and warlike stores, shall be appraised by two indifferent persons, to be appointed by such member so issuing the summons, and be paid for out of the general treasury.

And that such member, so summoning any suspected person,

shall make return of all his proceedings, in pursuance of this act, to the General Assembly, at the next succeeding session, after his issuing any summons.

Provided, nevertheless, and it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case any person so summoned, shall produce a certificate from the clerk of any Meeting of the Friends, that he is in unity with that society, or shall take the affirmation directed in an act entitled, "An act for the relief of persons of tender consciences, and for preventing their being burthened with military duty," he shall be excused from subscribing to the said declaration, or test.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a copy of this act be inserted in the next Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith be, and he is hereby, directed to deliver to Mr. Ephraim Westcot, four guns, bayonets and cartouch boxes, for the same articles which are due from the colony to Messrs. Job Greene, Nathan Franklin, Uriah Franklin and Peleg Colvin, taking the said Westcot's receipt therefor.

It is voted and resolved, that the thanks of this General Assembly be, and they are hereby, presented to John Collins, Esq., for his services at the Continental Congress; and that his expenses to, at and from Philadelphia, be allowed and paid, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety for the county of Newport, purchase two hundred spears, for the batteries, in the township of Newport.

It is voted and resolved, that the general treasurer be, and he is hereby, directed to prosecute Mr. Silas Casey, for a breach of contract, in not delivering a quantity of salt purchased of him by the colony.

Whereas, the militia of the town of Exeter, is so numerous, as to be sufficient for three companies,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the same be divided into three companies.

That all the persons living to the eastward of Second River,

so called, where it comes out of West Greenwich, running through the land of John Josselyn, until it comes to John Chapman's grist mill; and from thence, southerly, as it runs, until it comes to South Kingstown, shall compose the first company.

That the persons living to the westward of the said line, and to the eastward of a line beginning at the highway that comes from News Neck, so called, and running from thence, southerly, as the said highway runs, across Black Plain, to the Ten Rod Highway; and from thence, southerly, as the said highway runs, until it comes to the town of Richmond, shall compose the second company.

And that the persons living to the westward of the said last mentioned line, shall compose the third company.

Whereas, Messrs. Richard Beale, John Nicholl, Nicholas Lechmere, Thomas Vernon and Walter Chaloner, having been examined before this Assembly, and refused to subscribe the test, ordered by this Assembly to be tendered to suspected persons; and it appearing that while they continue in the principles by them avowed before this Assembly, they are justly to be deemed unfriendly to the United Colonies,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport forthwith remove the said Richard Beale, John Nicholl, Nicholas Lechmere and Thomas Vernon, to the town of Gloucester, in this colony, where they shall be permitted to go at large, within the limits of said town; they giving their parole of honor to continue there until further orders from this Assembly.

That if either of them shall forfeit his parole, he shall, upon being apprehended, be committed to jail, and kept closely confined until further orders from this Assembly.

And that in case either of them shall refuse to give his parole, as aforesaid, he shall be confined to such house, in the said town of Gloucester, as the said sheriff shall think fit, with liberty of the farm whereon the house stands.

And whereas, the said sheriff hath in his hands, several executions against the said Walter Chaloner, which are soon re-

turnable, and upon which he is now in the custody of the said sheriff,—

It is therefore further voted and resolved, that as soon as the said Walter Chaloner shall be discharged from the said executions, the said sheriff immediately remove him to the said town of Gloucester, in manner as the said Richard Beale and others are ordered to be removed, and under the like conditions and restrictions.

It is voted and resolved, that this colony do purchase of Col. Joseph Noyes all the salt that he hath to dispose of; and that he be allowed and paid therefor at the rate of four shillings per bushel.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, directed to purchase every necessary article for the soldiers, provisions excepted, and deliver the same to the commissary, who shall supply the soldiers with them, at the prime cost, including the charges; and that a bale of clothes, now in the possession of Mr. John Smith, be immediately forwarded to the commissary, for the aforesaid purpose.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to inform the delegates from this colony in Congress, of the act permitting inoculation for the small pox in this colony, and desire them to move in Congress, as a matter of real importance to the safety of the army and the United Colonies, that all common soldiers and seamen, in the Continental service, or who shall hereafter engage therein, be permitted to be inoculated at the expense of the United Colonies, in such hospitals as may be allowed, under such restrictions and rules as are, or may be, enacted by the respective colonies.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. John G. Wanton, Samuel Fowler and John Bartlet, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to procure upon the best terms they can, a suitable house, to be used as an hospital, for the colony troops stationed upon Rhode Island; and that the sick be immediately removed from the present hospital, and the house be cleansed.

It is voted and resolved, that Daniel Mowry, Jr., Esq., be, and he is hereby, appointed to proceed immediately to the county of Providence, and make diligent inquiry after the persons concerned in counterfeiting the bills of credit emitted by this colony.

That he take with him the counterfeit bill now before this Assembly; and that Capt. Joseph Manchester attend this Assembly, to give information of what he knows respecting the said counterfeit bill.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith be, and he is hereby, appointed and empowered to dispose of, at public vendue, the claret, in his possession, belonging to the colony; and that he give notice of the time of sale in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that two tons of gun powder be delivered out of the colony's store to Major Robert Elliott, for the use of the brigade stationed upon Rhode Island.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. Henry Babcock be, and he is hereby, allowed one month's pay, after the time he was dismissed from the command of the regiment in the service of this colony; during which time he was confined by the pleurisy, with which he was seized, while in the service.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathan Miller, commissary of the colony's brigade, forthwith pay into the general treasury £1,000, lawful money, it being part of the sum by him taken out of the general treasury, to purchase necessaries for the said brigade, and now in his hands undisposed of.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the commissary of the colony's brigade purchase wood therefor, as heretofore.

An Act regulating trade within this colony, and establishing proper offices for entering and clearing vessels and merchandize.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that any goods, wares and merchandize, other than shaken or knocked down casks for molasses, may be exported from this colony, by the inhabitants

thereof, and of the other United Colonies, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the King of Great Britain, to any parts of the world which are not under the dominion of the said King.

Provided, that no vessel be permitted to export any greater number of shaken or knocked down molasses casks than the same vessel is capable of carrying, when filled.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that any goods, wares and merchandize, except such as are of the growth and manufacture of, or brought from any country under the dominion of the King of Great Britain, and except East India tea, may be imported from any other parts of the world into this colony, by the inhabitants thereof, and of the other United Colonies, and by the people of all such countries as are not subject to the said King.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that there shall be two persons annually appointed by this General Assembly, as intendants of trade, who shall be under oath for the faithful execution of their offices; one of whom, shall reside in and keep his office in Newport; and the other, shall reside in and keep his office at Providence; and shall each of them, be empowered to appoint a deputy.

That it shall be the duty and business of the said intendants to take a bond, payable to the Governor and Company of this colony, to, and for the use of, the colony, from the master of every vessel cleared out at their respective offices, with one sufficient surety, in double the value of the cargo shipped on board such vessel, conditioned for the true observance of the regulations made by the Most Honorable the Continental Congress, and this General Assembly, concerning trade, and for securing the observance of such parts of the association as are not inconsistent therewith; and that the obligor shall, within eighteen months after the departure of the vessel, produce to such intendant a certificate from the proper officers, at the port or place where the cargo shall be delivered (provided it be within the United Colonies, and proper officers are appointed), or otherwise, under the hands and seals of three or more re-

spectable merchants, residing there, that the same was there unladen.

That the said intendants shall also take manifests upon oath of the cargoes exported and imported, and keep fair accounts and entries thereof, give bills of health when desired, grant registers, showing the property of the vessel cleared out (which registers shall be also given under the hand and seal of the Governor of this colony, for the time being), and sign certificates that the requisites for qualifying vessels for trade have been complied with.

And that the said intendants shall make return to the General Assembly, at every session, of all imports and exports.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any vessel coming into this colony, shall break bulk, before report of her cargo, and whence she came, be made to one of the said intendants, the said vessel and her cargo, or such part thereof, as the General Assembly shall, upon considering their case, think fit, shall be forfeited ; one-half to the use of the colony ; and the other half, to the use of the informer and prosecutor of the same.

And that if the master of any vessel shall be convicted of having taken a false oath before either of the said intendants, he shall suffer the pains and penalties of perjury.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all prosecutions and trials, for any offences against the regulations, aforesaid, shall be commenced and had before the inferior court of common pleas, in the county where such offence shall be committed ; and that no prosecution upon any of the bonds given, as aforesaid, shall be commenced after the expiration of three years from the date thereof.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said intendants shall give constant and regular attendance in their respective offices every day in the year, Sundays excepted, from ten o'clock, in the forenoon, until one in the afternoon ; and shall be allowed and receive the same fees for the same, and similar duty, as by a law of this colony were al-

lowed to the late collector of the customs in this colony, until a proper table of fees shall be established by this General Assembly.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all goods, wares and merchandize, except such as are made prize of, which shall be imported directly or indirectly from Great Britain or Ireland, into this colony, contrary to the regulations established by the said Congress, shall be forfeited; one-half to and for the use of the colony, and the other half to the use of the informer and prosecutor for the same; and shall be liable to trial and condemnation in the court erected in this colony for the trial of prizes.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that a copy of this act be inserted in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, His Honor the Deputy Governor and the assistants of this colony, five of whom to be a quorum, together with such members of the lower house of Assembly, as may attend, and the secretary, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee to act and transact such business as the exigency of public affairs shall make (during the recess of the General Assembly) necessary; and that all their acts and doings be laid before this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Deputy Governor, Mr. Thomas Freebody, Mr. John Brown, William Potter, Esq. and Charles Holden, Esq., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to inquire into the number of cannon in this colony, belonging thereto, and to determine where it will be most advantageous to place them, and to give orders for placing them, accordingly; and that they make report to this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the following officers be, and they are hereby, appointed to command the trained bands, or companies of militia in the town of Newport, to wit:



*Officers to command the several Militia Companies of the Town of Newport.*

William Tripp, captain ; Caleb Carr, Jr., lieutenant ; and Jonathan Simmons, ensign, of the first company.

Henry Wiles, captain ; Robert Dunbar, lieutenant ; and William Pendleton, ensign, of the second company.

Wing Spooner, captain ; Stukely Wyatt, lieutenant ; and Lee Langley, ensign, of the third company.

William Downing, captain ; John Nichols, lieutenant ; and Benjamin Hammett, ensign, of the fourth company.

It is voted and resolved, that the several members of the committee of safety be, and they are hereby, appointed and directed to inquire into and examine the certificates of guns taken from the inhabitants of this colony, while in the Continental service ; and that they make report to this Assembly, at the next session.

It is voted and resolved, that the following persons be, and they are hereby, appointed to command the trained bands or companies of militia, in the town of Exeter, to wit :

*Officers to command the several Militia Companies of the Town of Exeter.*

Jonathan Bates, captain ; Stephen Wightman, lieutenant ; and Henry Reynolds, ensign, of the first company.

John Hoxsie, captain ; George Sweet, Jr., lieutenant ; and Eber Sherman, ensign, of the second company.

Daniel Barber, Jr., captain ; Phineas Kinyon, lieutenant ; and George Wilcox, ensign, of the third company.

Voted and resolved, that the following bills be paid :

*Bills to be Paid.*

	£	s.	d.
To the committee for signing £20,000, in lawful money bills - - -	50	00	0
“ “ “ £20,000, “ “ - - -	100	00	0
Allowance to Watch Company, Newport, 2s. a day each, Dr. Peter Turner for attendance on a sailor belonging to the galley Washington -	16	00	9
Hopkins Cooke, for a whale boat used in the colony's service - - -	6	00	0
Rachel Cranston, for boarding one Hamilton, a prisoner, who was sick at her house - - - - -	9	15	4

	£	s.	d.
William Turner Miller, for rum - - - - -			10 0
Philip Wilkinson, for four four-pound cannon - - - - -	72	16	0
Edward Sands, for three double-fortified three-pounders - - - - -	27	00	0
Dr. Thomas Truman, for attendance on two prisoners wounded on Prudence Island - - - - -		3	07 0
Edward Simmons, for iron-work on three gun carriages - - - - -	37	06	0
Wilkins Treby, for duck for the galley Washington - - - - -		15	0
Nicholas Easton, for cart wheels, taken for the use of the troops - - - - -	6	12	0
John Pitman, for iron-work on gun carriages - - - - -	23	01	9
Samuel Davenport, for " " " - - - - -	36	08	5
Cromel Child, for materials and labor for the galley Washington - - - - -	18	02	6
Benjamin Bosworth, for getting hay off Prudence Island - - - - -	25	07	3
William Gorton, Jr., for victualling the Kentish Guards - - - - -		1	11 6
George B. Allen, for boarding soldiers, and for their passages to Prudence, Bristol, &c. - - - - -		31	02 4
John Waterman, for eight reams of paper, for printing lawful money bills, - - - - -	8	00	0
Amos Lockwood, for sundries for troops at Warwick Neck - - - - -	9	07	0
Edward Simmons, expense of carriage of a cannon to Tower Hill - - - - -	5	16	4
Ezekiel Burr, expenses of express to General Washington, and for bringing prisoners from Boston - - - - -	14	11	7
Welcome Arnold, for carrying express to Governor Trumbull - - - - -	2	14	0
James Wallace, for carrying express to General Washington - - - - -	2	08	0
Sylvester Gardner, for his time, horse-hire and expenses, in removing stock, corn and hay, from Jamestown - - - - -		95	05 1
Ruth Peckham, for boarding a wounded prisoner at Providence - - - - -		3	05 6
Col. Joseph Beleher, for articles furnished the row-galley Spitfire - - - - -		7	01 8
Abraham Anthony, for victualling the Pawtuxet Rangers, while upon alarm at Warwick Neck - - - - -		2	19 9
John Newton, for a boat and oars, taken by General Hopkins, for the use of the colony - - - - -		6	10 0
George B. Allen, for freighting hay and grain from Prudence Island - - - - -		7	02 0
Capt. Benjamin Pierce, for attendance at the trial of Col. Henry Babcock - - - - -		2	02 6
Charles Tillinghast, for services in removing hay and stock from Prudence Island - - - - -		24	16 1
Anthony Low for billeting part of Capt. Thomas Rice's company - - - - -		08	4
Abraham Lockwood, for provisions furnished the militia when upon duty at the alarms on Warwick Neck - - - - -		07	8
Daniel Austin, for rent of a house removed near Newport, to make room for the North Battery - - - - -		6	00 0
Daniel Chace, for a feather bed for the use of a wounded prisoner, damaged, - - - - -		1	05 0
William Barton and others, expense of bringing ten prisoners from Boston to Providence - - - - -		13	08 0
Benjamin Shearman, for the use of his boat seven months, by General Hopkins - - - - -		2	16 0
Solomon Southwick, for paper for printing the rules and regulations of the army - - - - -		6	06 2
John Coddington, for a cedar boat for the service of the colony - - - - -		6	00 0
John Goddard, for transporting by water various detachments of the colony's brigade, at divers times - - - - -		4	13 8

	£	s-	d.
James Smith, for timber for platforms in the fort, at Bristol Ferry - -	2	04	4
Cromel Child, for making twenty-one carriages for cannon, etc. - , -	217	02	0
James Arnold, Jr., for materials for, and laying, a platform in the battery upon Long Neck, in Cranston, and for field-carriages for cannon -	75	16	2
Caleb Carr, for provisions supplied Capt. Throop's company - -	4	05	6
Joshua Ingraham, for rent of house and stores in Bristol, improved by the colony's troops - - - - -	5	00	0
Thomas Sabin, for board and entertainment of the Indian chiefs that were before the Assembly in January last - - - - -	18	14	0
For damages done by troops to the estate of John Banister - - -	2	14	0
William Dillingham, for a large cedar boat taken by Gen. Hopkins, -	8	00	0
Nathaniel Mumford, for his services in settling the accounts of the committee of war, and of the commissary - - - - -	15	15	4
Gideon Mumford, services for the same duty - - - - -	10	04	0
Jonathan Hazard, for expenses to Block Island, to apprehend disaffected persons - - - - -	3	07	6
Dr. William Hunter, for attendance on Daniel Tillinghast, a wounded man,	7	09	6
Dr. Jonathan Easton, " " " " " "	6	19	6
Anthony Holden, for board of prisoners of war - - - - -	6	15	0

God save the United Colonies.

*Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery, Delegates of the Colony of Rhode Island in the Continental Congress, to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Philadelphia, June 8th, 1776.

Sir:—That correspondence between the colony and its delegates, which, by the death of Mr. Ward, and the great inconvenience which attends Mr. Hopkins in writing, hath for some time past been interrupted, we wish might be resumed.

Mr. Hopkins gave the earliest notice, by express, that our brigade was put under the Continental establishment; and John Collins, Esq., informed the Assembly of the determination of Congress respecting the cannon which were landed at Newport by the commander in chief of the Continental navy. Since that, the Congress have ordered six thousand of the militia, to reinforce the army in Canada, and keep up a communication with that province.

Massachusetts is requested to furnish of their militia, for that purpose, four battalions - - - - -	3,000
Connecticut, two battalions - - - - -	1,500
New Hampshire, one battalion - - - - -	750
New York, one battalion - - - - -	750
To reinforce the army at New York, there are ordered of the militia -	13,800
Massachusetts is requested to furnish thereof - - - - -	2,000
Connecticut " " " - - - - -	5,500
New York " " " - - - - -	3,000
New Jersey " " " - - - - -	3,300

A flying camp is ordered to be formed, to consist of ten thousand militia, and to be furnished as follows :

Pennsylvania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000
Maryland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,400
Delaware government	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	600
The Congress have also empowered Gen. Washington to employ in Canada,										
Indians	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000

John Hopkins and Samuel Tompkins are appointed to the command of the two ships built in Providence; but which of the ships they are respectively to command, is not yet determined; when it is, we shall give you notice, thereof, as well as of every thing of importance which passes the Congress.

Please to desire the committee appointed to build the ships in Providence, to transmit to the marine committee of Congress, the names of the lieutenants and other officers they have appointed, in order that they may receive their commissions.

By letters from Canada to Congress, it appears that our affairs there, are in a bad situation. Gen. Arnold in a letter of the 27th of May last, informs that five hundred of our troops were taken prisoners, at a place above Montreal, called The Cedars, by fifty regulars, three hundred Canadians, and two hundred and fifty Indians. We lost only ten privates, and not one officer.

Gen. Arnold writes that as soon as he had intelligence of his defeat, he collected a body of men, and determined to attack the enemy; but he could not get his bateau ready early enough for his purpose; and that he had agreed with the commander of the enemy's forces to an exchange of prisoners; officer for officer, and man for man.

Foster, who commanded the party of the enemy, when he became acquainted with Arnold's design to attack him, told him, with seeming concern, that if he did attack him, his Indians would immediately destroy every prisoner; that it would be out of his power to prevent it, &c., &c. This did not check Gen. Arnold; but it seems that his bateau not being able to get to him seasonably, put a stop to his design. We are at a loss how to account for this capture of our men, by a body but a little superior to them in numbers; in our detachment were Major Sherburn and another major, and nine or ten captains.

Two privateers fitted out from this place, have taken three valuable ships, bound to England, from Jamaica; one of the privateers hath arrived at Egg Harbor, and sent to this city by land \$24,800; the other privateer, with the prizes, were bound for Bedford.

We are, with great respect,

Your Honor's most obedient, humble servants,  
STEP. HOPKINS,  
WILLIAM ELLERY.

To Governor Cooke, Rhode Island.

*The Governor of Rhode Island, to General Washington.*

Providence, June 20th, 1776.

Sir:—It is with great pleasure, that I do myself the honor to transmit to Your Excellency the enclosed vote of the General Assembly.

The putting the colony brigade upon the Continental establishment, for which we esteem ourselves so much indebted to Your Excellency, gave the highest satisfaction

Mr. Hopkins sent me the commissions, with power to fill up those for the captains and subalterns, as should be thought best here; but added, that “as the field officers will be appointed, or at least approved, by Congress, I could wish that you would transmit to me the names of such gentlemen as you may think the most capable to fill those offices.” The General Assembly have not nominated any persons to those offices.

I most earnestly request Your Excellency’s attention to the troops in this colony, and to the necessity of appointing an officer of ability and reputation, to command them, which is most ardently wished for by every body.

I am, with great respect,

Your Excellency’s most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

*John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the  
General Assembly of Rhode Island.*

Philadelphia, June 20th, 1776.

Gentlemen:—I do myself the honor of enclosing, in obedience to the commands of Congress, sundry resolutions, to which I beg leave to request your attention.

I have only time to observe, in general, that it is totally impossible the American troops should ever be on a respectable footing; or that they should render any very essential services to their country, unless the United Colonies, on their part, will take care to have them well appointed and qualified with every thing necessary for an army.

In this view of the matter, the enclosed resolve, respecting the mode of providing proper clothing for our troops, is most certainly of the greatest importance; and I make no doubt, will appear in the same light to you, and claim your immediate and closest attention.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Honorable General Assembly, of Rhode Island.

*Lord Howe to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Eagle, off the coast of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, }

June the 20th, 1776. }

Sir:—Being appointed commander in chief of the ships and vessels of His Majesty’s fleet, employed in North America, and having the honor to be, by His Majesty, constituted one of his commissioners for restoring peace to his colonies, and for granting pardons to such of his subjects therein, as shall be duly solicitous to benefit by that effect of his gracious indulgence; I embrace this opportunity to inform you of my arrival on the American coast, where my first object will be an early meeting with General Howe, whom His Majesty hath been pleased to join with me in the said commission.

In the mean time, I have judged it expedient to issue the enclosed declaration, in order that all persons may have immediate information of His Majesty’s most gracious intentions. And I desire you will be pleased forthwith to cause the said

declaration to be promulgated, in such manner, and at such places within the colony of Rhode Island, as will render the same of the most public notoriety.

Assured of being favored with your assistance in every measure, for the speedy and effectual restoration of the public tranquillity, I am to request you will communicate, from time to time, such information as you may think will facilitate the attainment of that important object in the colony over which you preside.

I have the honor to be, with great respect and consideration, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

HOWE.

To the Honorable Governor Wanton, &c., &c., Rhode Island; }  
or other magistrate of the colony. }

*Proclamation by Lord Howe.*

By Richard Viscount Howe, of the kingdom of Ireland, one of the King's commissioners for restoring peace to His Majesty's colonies and plantations in North America, &c., &c.

DECLARATION.

Whereas, by an act passed in the last session of Parliament, to prohibit all trade and intercourse with the colonies of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower counties on the Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, and for other purposes, therein mentioned, it is enacted, that "it shall, and may be, lawful to, and for, any person or persons, appointed and authorized by His Majesty, to grant a pardon or pardons to any number or description of persons, by proclamation, in His Majesty's name, to declare any colony or province, colonies or provinces, or any county, town, port, district, or place, in any colony or province, to be at the peace of His Majesty: and that, from and after the issuing of any such proclamation in any of the aforesaid colonies or provinces; or, if His Majesty shall be graciously pleased to signify the same, by his royal proclamation; then, from and after the issuing of such proclamation," the said "act, with respect to such colony or province, colonies or provinces, county, town, port, district, or place, shall cease, determine and be utterly void."

And whereas, the King, desirous to deliver all his subjects from the calamities of war, and other oppressions which they now undergo, and to restore the said colonies to his protection and peace as soon as the constitutional authority of government therein may be replaced, hath been graciously pleased, by letters patent, under the great seal, dated the 6th day of May, in the sixteenth year of His Majesty's reign, to nominate and appoint me, Richard Viscount Howe, of the kingdom of Ireland; and William Howe, Esquire, general of the forces in North America, and each of us, jointly and severally, to be His Majesty's commissioner and commissioners, for granting his free and general pardons to all those who in the tumult and disorder of the times, may have deviated from their just allegiance, and who are willing, by a speedy return to their duty, to reap the benefits of the royal favor; and also for declaring in His Majesty's name, any colony, province, county, town, port, district or place, to be at the peace of His Majesty.

I do therefore, hereby declare, that due consideration shall be had to the meritorious services of all persons who shall aid and assist in restoring the public tranquillity

in the said colonies, or in any part or parts thereof; that all pardons shall be granted, dutiful representations received, and every suitable encouragement given for promoting such measures as shall be conducive to the establishment of legal government, and peace, in pursuance of His Majesty's most gracious purposes, aforesaid.

Given on board His Majesty's ship the Eagle, off the coasts of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, the 20th day of June, 1776. HOWE.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on Thursday, the 18th day of July, 1776.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.

The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

This Assembly, taking into the most serious consideration, the resolutions of the Most Honorable the Continental Congress of the United States of America, of the 4th instant, declaring the said states free and independent states, do approve the said resolution; and do most solemnly engage, that we will support the said General Congress, with our lives and fortunes.

It is voted and resolved, that the resolution of the General Congress, declaring the United Colonies free and independent states; and the act of this Assembly, approving said resolution, be published by the secretary, to-morrow, in Newport, at twelve o'clock, in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly.

That thirteen cannon be discharged at Fort Liberty, upon reading the said proclamation; and that the brigade be drawn up on the Parade, in thirteen divisions, and immediately after the discharge of the cannon, make a discharge of musketry; each division firing one volley, in succession.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said resolution and act be published in Providence, on Thursday next, at twelve o'clock, in such manner as His Honor the Governor shall think fit, and that thirteen cannon be discharged on the occasion.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said resolution and

act be read in the several town meetings, to be holden on the last Tuesday in August next ; and that the secretary seasonably furnish the necessary copies.

It is voted and resolved, that the captains of the two row-gallies in the service of this state, forthwith proceed with said gallies to the city of New York ; and that on their arrival there, they receive the orders of His Excellency Gen. Washington, and govern themselves accordingly.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that for the future, the style and title of this government, in all acts and instruments, whether of a public or private nature, shall be the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations ; and that this act, and the act approving the declaration of the General Congress, declaring the United States of America free and independent states, be published in the next Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport be, and he is hereby, ordered and directed forthwith to take into his custody Edward Thurston, of Newport ; and that Messrs. George Sears, Jonathan Arnold, Jonathan Hazzard, William Greene and Cromel Child, be a committee, to proceed with the said sheriff to the dwelling house of the said Edward Thurston, and there to demand of him that he open to their view all desks, chests or other suspected places, under lock or otherwise ; and if he shall refuse to show and unlock the same, that the said committee be, and hereby is, directed to break open the same, and carefully inspect and make search for any and all letters of correspondence upon the disputes between the independent states of America and Great Britain, or of a political nature ; and such letters or papers as they shall think proper to bring with them for the inspection of this General Assembly.

And that the said sheriff at the same time have the said Edward Thurston before this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff for the county of Newport, together with Messrs. George Sears, Jonathan Arnold, Jonathan Hazzard, William Greene and Cromel Child,



proceed to the dwelling house of Mr. Daniel Coggeshall, then and there to demand of him, that he open to their view all desks, chests, or other suspected places, under lock or otherwise; and if he shall refuse to show and unlock the same, that the said committee be, and hereby is, directed to break open the same, and carefully inspect and search make for any and all letters of correspondence, upon the disputes between the independent states of America and Great Britain, or of a political nature, and such letters or papers, as they shall think proper to bring with them, for the inspection of this General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith be requested to pay the captains of the gallies £140, lawful money, on account of the wages due to the officers and men, on board said gallies.

Whereas, the Honorable William Bradford, Esq., Messrs. John Brown and Charles Holden, Jr., who with William Potter, Esq., were appointed a committee to ascertain the places for fixing the cannon belonging to the state, presented unto this Assembly the following report, to wit:

*Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly to determine in what places in the State certain Cannon shall be stationed.*

We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly to place the twenty-seven cannon, to be received from the owners of Furnace Hope, at such places as we should think would prove most advantageous to the state, do determine that the said guns be mounted as soon as possible, and placed as followeth, to wit:

At Jamestown—Three twelve-pounders, on field carriages.

South Kingstown—Four, viz.: two eighteen-pounders, and two nine-pounders; all on field carriages.

Warwick Neck—Two eighteen-pounders. Field's Point—Three nine-pounders. On the opposite shore—Two nine-pounders. Warren—Two nine-pounders. Bristol harbor—Two nine-pounders. Bristol Ferry—Five nine-pounders, viz.: one, on the main; and four, on the island. Howland's Ferry, on the main—Four nine-pounders. Twenty-seven in all.

Cannon now in the state, besides the above mentioned, viz.:

Newport county—Five twenty-four pounders; fourteen eighteen-pounders; twelve twelve-pounders; one nine-pounder; nine six-pounders; ten four-pounders; four three-pounders. Total, fifty-five.

Providence county—Five eighteen-pounders; sixteen two, three and four-pounders, mounted on field carriages, for the several towns on the sea coast, and which lie now ready for them. Two three-pounders, and two four-pounders, old and not mounted. Total, twenty-five.

Bristol county—One twenty-four pounder; three eighteen-pounders; eleven three and four-pounders. Total, fifteen.

Kent county—One nine-pounder; sixteen three, four and six-pounders. Total, seventeen.

Newport county—Fifty-five. Providence county—Twenty-five. Bristol county—Fifteen. Kent county—Seventeen. New cannon, per this account, twenty-seven. Total, one hundred and thirty-nine cannon in all, exclusive of what may be in Kings county.

William Potter, Esq., not being present, the above is agreed to by us,—

WILLIAM BRADFORD,  
JOHN BROWN,  
CHARLES HOLDEN, JR.

And the said report being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and the same is hereby, accepted.

An Act making the paper money bills emitted by the General Congress of the United States of America, and of this state, a legal tender in discharge of all debts and securities.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, it is enacted, that the paper money bills already emitted, or that shall be emitted by the said General Congress of the United States, or by this state, be, and the same are hereby, declared to be a legal tender in all contracts, debts, judgments, executions, mortgages, or securities, for dollars, or money of any kind, whatever; and that if any person or persons shall refuse said bills in payment, or in discharge of any contract, debt, judgment, execution, mortgage, duty, demand, or securities, for dollars, or of a pecuniary nature, the same being tendered before any two or more credible persons, such person shall ever after be precluded from having or recovering upon such contract, debt, judgment, execution, mortgage, security, duty, or demand, if he shall not consent to receive the same in one month from the time of such tender so to

be made, as abovesaid, and give notice thereof to the person or persons who shall have tendered him the same.

Provided, nevertheless, that the person or persons who shall make such tender, shall lodge the principal sum, exclusive of any interest, in the general treasury of this state, for the use thereof, within three months from the time such tender shall be made, together with the deposition of the persons in whose presence such tender shall be made, respecting the time when, and how, such tender was made, taken before a judge of the inferior court and justice of the peace, within the county where the person lives, to whom such tender shall be made, he being duly notified to attend at the taking of such deposition.

And the general treasurer is hereby ordered to give his receipt therefor, and his security in behalf of this state, to the person lodging such moneys, to indemnify and save him harmless from said contract, debt, judgment, execution or mortgage, so far as such principal sum and the interest thereof, from the time the same shall be lodged in said general treasury.

And upon any suit, bill or action, brought upon any such contract, debt, judgment, execution or mortgage, or for redemption of any mortgaged estate, this act shall or may be given in evidence under the general issue, or being specially pleaded, shall be sufficient to bar any such suit, bill or action, or for the redemption of such estate.

An Act to punish persons who shall acknowledge the King of Great Britain to be their sovereign.

Whereas, the General Congress of the United States of America, by their resolution of the 4th instant, after enumerating many of the various acts by which George the Third, King of Great Britain, hath demonstrated his intention to establish an absolute tyranny over the said states, have declared, that, "A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people."

And have further declared, that the said states "are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are

absolved from all allegiance to the British crown ; and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is, and ought to be, totally dissolved ;” which said resolution hath been approved, and solemnly published, by order, and in presence of this General Assembly ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that if any person within this state, shall, under pretence of preaching or praying, or in any other way and manner, whatever, acknowledge or declare, the said King to be our rightful lord and sovereign ; or shall pray for the success of his arms, or that he may vanquish or overcome all his enemies, shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor, and shall therefor be presented by the grand jury of the county where the offence shall be committed, to the superior court of the same county ; and upon conviction thereof, such offender shall forfeit and pay as a fine, to and for the use of this state, the sum of £100, lawful money, and pay all costs of prosecution, and shall stand committed to jail until the same be satisfied ; and that a copy of this act be inserted in the Newport and Providence newspapers.

Whereas, a brigantine was chartered of William West, Esq., by this state, which was afterwards, while in the service of said state, taken by the enemy,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the sum of £480, lawful money, with interest on said sum, from the time said vessel was taken into service, be paid the said William West, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety be empowered and directed to procure, as soon as possible, fifty pick-axes and four hundred and fifty spades and shovels, at the expense of the state ; and that the same be deposited in such places, within this state, as shall be thought proper by the major part of the committee who were appointed to direct where the cannon should be placed.

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of £10,000, be immediately struck off, in bills of the same form and tenor with those ordered to be emitted at the last March session.

That they be signed and lodged in the general treasury, by

the following persons, viz. : Messrs. John G. Wanton, John Dexter, John Cole, Joseph Clarke, Thomas Greene, Welcome Arnold, James Congdon, 3d, and Christopher Ellery, three of whom shall sign all bills of five shillings and upwards, and two all bills under five shillings ; and that the bills be of the following denominations :

800 bills, of sixty shillings each, is	-	-	£2,400
1,000, “ forty	“ - - -	-	2,000
1,500, “ thirty	“ - - -	-	2,250
1,500, “ twenty	“ - - -	-	1,700
1,500, “ ten	“ - - -	-	750
1,500, “ five	“ - - -	-	375
1,500, “ four	“ - - -	-	300
1,500, “ three	“ - - -	-	225
1,050, “ two	“ - - -	-	105
1,000, “ one	“ - - -	-	50
1,200, “ ninepence	“ - - -	-	45

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£10,000

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said lawful bills be a lawful tender, for paying and discharging all debts and demands, whatsoever ; and that said bills be redeemed within six years from the date thereof.

It is further voted and resolved, that the said committee be allowed and paid out of the general treasury one-quarter per cent. for their trouble ; that they procure paper for the same, at the charge of the state.

That Mr. John Carter be employed to print said bills, at one shilling and fourpence for every hundred bills so printed ; and that Mr. Robert Lawton be appointed to superintend the press.

Provided, nevertheless, that said £10,000 be not emitted, if said sum can, within six days be procured by the general treasurer, without interest, for six weeks ; and the said general treasurer is hereby empowered to procure the said sum, and give his note or notes therefor, in behalf of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that £100, lawful money, be allowed His Honor the Governor, for his salary and extraordinary services the year past.

It is voted and resolved, that the clerk of the inferior court of common pleas and general sessions of the peace, of the county of Newport, be, and he is hereby, directed to remove the records and files of said court, to the town of Warren, for safety.

It is voted and resolved, that Capt. Samuel Carr be, and he is hereby, fully empowered to remove by himself, or to employ any other suitable persons to remove two or three obnoxious persons from New Shoreham, to Providence, and deliver them to the authority there.

That the same be done in the best and easiest manner, and with as little charge to the government as conveniently may be; and that Mr. Carr be empowered to draw the charge thereof, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that the blacksmiths in the town of Newport, be allowed ninepence per pound, for the iron-work by them to be done for the carriages ordered to be made for this state.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor and Mr. John Jenckes, be appointed a committee to procure upon charter, and send a suitable vessel to the island of Hispaniola, to procure gun powder, arms and other warlike stores, for the use of this state; and that they be empowered to draw £1,000, lawful money, out of the general treasury, for that purpose.

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority thereof, it is enacted, that no male person, of the age of twenty-one years, being an inhabitant or resident in this state, shall prefer a petition to this General Assembly, for setting aside any judgment or court, or staying any execution, or shall commence any suit, action, bill or plaint, before any court of record in this state, unless he shall have previously signed the declaration or test, prescribed by an act, entitled "An act empowering the members of the upper and lower houses of As-

sembly to tender, to such of the inhabitants of this colony as are herein after mentioned, a declaration, or test, for subscription."

And that in case the General Assembly, or court, before which the same shall be brought or instituted, shall receive information that the person presenting or commencing the same, hath not subscribed the said test, or declaration, such petition, suit, action, bill, or plaint, shall be *ex officio* dismissed, unless a proper certificate of such person's having subscribed said declaration, or test, shall be produced, or he shall there, if personally present, subscribe the said declaration, or test.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person in this state shall have the liberty of voting in any town meeting in this state, in the choice of officers, nor in any other question, unless he shall have previously subscribed the said declaration, or test.

Provided, nevertheless, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that this act shall not be construed to extend to any person who shall take the affirmation, or produce a certificate, as by the said act permitted.

And it is further enacted, that this act shall be in force in ten days after the rising of this Assembly, and be published in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that Henry Ward, Esq., and Col. Jonathan Arnold, forthwith prepare an answer to the express from Lord Howe.\*

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety immediately procure, on the best terms they can, clothing for the Continental troops in this state, agreeably to the resolution of the Most Honorable the General Congress, of the 19th of June last; and that the secretary deliver to them a copy of the said resolution.

Whereas, Henry Ward, Esq., and Col. Jonathan Arnold, who were appointed a committee to prepare an answer to the express from Lord Howe, presented unto this Assembly, a

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\* The letter of Lord Howe, here referred to, is printed on page 579, of this volume.

draught of a letter to His Lordship ; which being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, approved ; that a fair oopy thereof, be made, to be signed by His Honor the Governor, and by him to be forwarded.\*

It is voted and resolved, that the following gentlemen be, and they are hereby, chosen and appointed to the offices ascribed to their respective names, to wit :

*Field Officers Chosen.*

Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esq., lieutenant colonel of the first regiment of militia, in Kings county, in the room of Jesse Champlin, who resigns.

Charles Dyer, Esq., colonel of the second regiment of militia, in Kings county, in the room of Robert Brown, who resigns.

Samuel Seager, Esq., lieutenant colonel of the same regiment, in the room of George Pierce, who resigns.

Ray Sands, Esq., major of the same regiment, in the room of Charles Dyer, who is advanced.

*Officers to command the several companies of militia, or trained bands.*

Providence. Second company—Samuel Black, lieutenant, in the room of William Rhodes, who refuses.

\* *The Governor of Rhode Island to Lord Howe.*

Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, }  
Newport, July 21, 1776. }

My Lord:—I am favored with Your Lordship's letter of the 20th of June last, enclosing your declaration.

I have communicated them to the General Assembly of this state, now sitting here; and at their request, inform Your Lordship that they will transmit copies of them to the Most Honorable the General Congress of the United States of America; to whom, every application respecting the disputes between the said states and Great Britain, ought to be addressed, and must be referred.

I have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem, My Lord,  
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency Lord Howe.



Warwick. First company—James Carder, Jr., ensign, in the room of William Lippitt, who refuses.

New Shoreham company—John Sands, captain ; Simon Littlefield, lieutenant ; John Pain, ensign.

South Kingstown. Second company—Samuel Potter, captain, in the room of Samuel Seager, advanced to lieutenant colonel.

East Greenwich. First company—John Glazier, captain ; Ebenezer Spencer, lieutenant ; William Hall, ensign.

Second company—Allen Johnston, captain ; Michael Spencer, lieutenant ; Stephen Greene, ensign.

Jamestown company—Edward Carr, Jr., captain ; John Weeden, son of Daniel Weeden, Jr., lieutenant ; Samuel Carr, Jr., ensign.

Scituate. Fifth company—Sam'l Wilbour, captain ; Thos. Field, lieutenant ; William Potter, ensign.

West Greenwich. First company—Alexander Hopkins, captain ; Joseph Hopkins, lieutenant ; Nicholas Mias, ensign.

Second company—Jeremiah Aston, captain ; Benjamin Gorton, lieutenant ; Joseph Weaver, ensign.

Third company—Job Angell, captain ; Josiah Mathewson, lieutenant ; Thomas Young, ensign.

Middletown company—John Vars, captain ; Oliver Durfee, lieutenant ; Benjamin Cornell, ensign.

Tiverton. Second company—George Westgate, captain ; Ebenezer Slocum, lieutenant ; Benjamin Borden, ensign.

Hopkinton. Third company—Nathan Barber, captain ; Jesse Burdick, lieutenant ; Weight Burdick, ensign.

North Providence company—James Angell, Jr., ensign, in the room of Jesse Angell, who refuses.

An Act to prevent the depreciation of the Continental currency, and other current money of the United States of America, or the current paper bills of either of the states of New England.

Whereas, many evil minded persons, with a view to prejudice the cause of the United States of America, have made use

of several methods to depreciate the Continental currency, and other current moneys, of the said states ; to keep up the value of which, is a matter of the greatest importance, and essential to the safety of the United States ; for preventing such evil practices in future,—

It is enacted by this General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, that if any person shall hereafter receive any discount between the Continental currency, or the current paper bills of either of the states in New England, and silver or gold in exchange, or in receiving moneys in payment of any debt or obligation, or shall sell goods, wares or merchandize, or offer them for sale, for any less price for silver or gold, than for either of the currencies or bills, aforesaid, or shall by any other ways or means do any act or thing, tending to depreciate the value of said currencies and bills ; every person so offending, upon due conviction thereof, by bill, plaint or information, before any of the inferior or superior courts in this state, shall, for every offence, forfeit and pay the sum of £50, lawful money ; one-half, whereof, shall, upon conviction, be paid to the informer and prosecutor, and the other half, into the general treasury, to and for the use of this state.

Provided, that information be given, and the prosecution thereupon, be made, within three months next after such offence shall be committed.

And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no person shall be empowered to take out an execution upon any judgment, until he shall, upon oath or solemn affirmation, declare that he hath never directly sold or received silver or gold, at any higher rates than are established by the laws of this state ; that is to say, reckoning six shillings of the said currencies and bills to be equal to one silver milled dollar ; and in gold, in the like proportion.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. William Champlin be captain of the fourth company of militia, in the town of Newport, in the room of William Downing, who hath resigned.

It is voted and resolved, that Col. George Sears be appointed to receive of Mr. Nathan Miller, the provisions and all other

stores now in his possession belonging to this state, and give him a receipt therefor ; and that he deliver the same to Peter Phillips, Esq., commissary for supplying and issuing provisions to the Continental troops within this state ; that he estimate the value of the same, at the prime cost and charges, and that he receive the amount thereof of the said Peter Phillips, and pay the same into the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that a company of fifty men, to be led by one captain, and two lieutenants, be immediately enlisted for the defence of Fort Liberty, and be there stationed ; that the said officers and men be allowed the same wages and rations as are allowed to the artillery company in the brigade ; that they be enlisted for one year, and according to the form of enlistment by which the soldiers of the brigade were enlisted, *mutatis mutandis* ; that Samuel Sweet, be appointed captain ; Daniel Vaughan, first lieutenant ; and Ebenezer Adams, second lieutenant, of the said company.

It is voted and resolved, that £1,300, lawful money, be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, to the owners of the Furnace Hope, in part of their demand for cannon supplied the colony.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. John Smith pay to the captains of the row-gallies the sum of £10 15s., lawful money, to pay off the men.

Whereas, Messrs. Joseph Wanton, Jr., Mathew Cozzens, John Haliburton, William Hunter, Samuel Gibbs, Silas Cook, Jr., Anthony Lechmere, Christopher Hargill, Augustus Johnston, Andrew Christie and Joseph Farrish, have refused, and still refuse, to subscribe the test, or declaration, prescribed by an act of the Assembly, tendered to them, agreeably to said act ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the persons above-named, be, by the sheriff of the county of Newport, removed at their own expense, to the following places, viz. :

Col. Joseph Wanton to be removed to the town of Jamestown, and have the liberty of that town, under the inspection

of the commander in chief at Rhode Island ; and that he be permitted, whenever the said commander in chief shall think proper, to pass under a guard, to visit his farm on Prudence ; but to no other place, whatever, off the island of Conanicut.

That Augustus Johnston, be removed to the town of South Kingstown.

That Mathew Cozzens, be removed to Cumberland.

John Haliburton, to Hopkinton.

William Hunter, to Smithfield.

Samuel Gibbs, to Scituate, north of Plainfield Road.

Silas Cooke, Jr., to South Kingstown.

Anthony Lechmere, to Gloucester.

Christopher Hargill, to Cumberland.

Andrew Christie, to North Kingstown.

Joseph Farrish, to Cumberland.

And that they continue within the limits of the said towns, and support themselves, therein ; excepting the said Samuel Gibbs, who is to continue within the limits before mentioned.

That if either of said persons transgress said limits, they be immediately apprehended and committed to jail, within the county to which they are removed ; and if either of said persons shall refuse to pay the expense of their removal, and for their support in said towns, that the same shall be allowed by this state ; and that their estates be immediately seized to, and for the use of the state, and their persons immediately confined in the jail within the county where they are removed.

It is voted and resolved, that William Greene and John Collins, Esqs., be a committee, to wait on the Most Honorable the Continental Congress, with a draught in behalf of this state, for \$120,000; and to request payment ; and give a receipt for the same, on account of the moneys due to this state, for the expense of the brigade, taken into Continental pay.

It is voted and resolved, that if any sheriff for the county of Newport, or the town sergeant of said town, have any writs or executions against any or either of the persons ordered by this Assembly to be removed out of the town of Newport, for not

subscribing the test act, be, and they are hereby, empowered to commit such persons to the jail of the county to which they are respectively removed, in the same manner as they might commit them in the county of Newport; and the sheriffs or keepers of said jails are hereby ordered to receive them in like manner as though committed by any officer of said counties.

It is voted and resolved, that the nine-pound cannon, already delivered by the owners of the Furnace Hope, to this state, be received in part of those to be delivered by their contract.

It is voted and resolved, that the town of Scituate be allowed one hundred and thirty pounds weight of lead, out of the stock belonging to this state.

God save the United States.

*Christopher Lippitt to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Newport, July the 13th, 1776.

Dear Sir:—It is with much anxiety I am to inform Your Honor of the present state of affairs here.

It is not long since, there begun to be much altercation among the officers of the brigade, concerning the persons of this town that have been thought to be inimical to their country; and on the whole, thought ourselves under the necessity of showing who are friends, and ready to take up arms in the glorious cause [in which] America is now a struggling.

The 11th instant, many of the officers lodged a complaint with Judge Bowler, against about twenty persons, requesting him, as a member of the General Assembly, to tender the test act to those persons whose names were annexed thereunto; which was done immediately; they refused all but one, and were summoned to give their reasons the next day; for which reasons, I refer Your Honor to Esquire Bowler, who will lay them before you.

We then thought fit to try about sixty more; but to my sorrow, found only two that would subscribe. The reason that many of them would not subscribe, I believe is greatly owing to the unwearied pains taken by them that were first taken up, in order to save themselves that way, by getting as many to refuse as possible; therein thinking to destroy the force of the act.

Your Honor will advise what is best to be done. Had they been guilty of any real facts of late, we should have fined them; but as the accusation was general, purely to find who are friends and which are enemies, could do no more by the act than disarm them.

Therefore, as matters now stand, sir, you must be sensible that something ought to be done soon. Should an army or fleet arrive here now, what a horrid situation

should we be in! Will it then be a time to take care of those that we have now amongst us? God forbid that we stop until we have tried them to the utmost; and if found to be notorious, remove them immediately from amongst us:

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

CHRIST. LIPPITT.

To Governor Cooke.

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*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, on the third Monday in August, 1776.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.

The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that the act of this Assembly, passed at their session, holden in March last past, subjecting the principal and commanding officers of the colony's brigade to the payment of damages sustained by any householder, by means of the troops that may be quartered or billeted in such house, be in force from and after the 13th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1776; any law, custom or usage, to the contrary in any wise, notwithstanding.

Whereas, Col. James Arnold, Jr., Col. John Waterman and Capt. James Aborn, were appointed by this Assembly a committee to inquire into the damages sustained by Capt. Samuel Tompkins, occasioned by the soldiers being quartered upon him, at Prudence; and to examine the account by him presented for the soldiers burning his rails, and for supplying them with blankets, hay for bedding, &c., &c., and they, or the major part of them, to make report thereon, presented to this Assembly the following report:

*Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.*

We, the subscribers, being appointed by the General Assembly, a committee, to examine the within account; and also

to set a price on the several articles mentioned in said account; agreeably to the said appointment, we met this 18th day of March, and have duly considered and examined the said account, and set a price to each article therein mentioned, according to the best of our judgment.

In witness whereof, we have severally set our hands.

JAMES ARNOLD, JR.,  
JOHN WATERMAN.

Which said premises being duly considered,—

It is voted and resolved, that the said report be, and hereby is, accepted; and that the sum of £76 15s. 5d., lawful money, being the sum by said committee estimated and amages, be allowed, and paid unto the said Samuel Tompkins, out of the general treasury.

An account being laid before this Assembly, by Mr. Joseph Coggeshall, for drawing leases of the lands lately belonging to the disaffected persons in Kings county, which were ordered to be leased out for the use of government; which being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed; and that ten shillings, being the amount thereof, be paid unto the said Joseph Coggeshall, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, the sheriff of the county of Newport, was, by order of this Assembly, to remove from out of the town of Newport, those disaffected persons who refused to subscribe the test, in said order mentioned; and the said sheriff thereupon made the following report:

*Report of the Sheriff of the County of Newport, to the General Assembly, relative to the Removal of Disaffected Persons, from the town of Newport.*

Agreeably to the act of this Assembly, and in conformity thereto, I have removed Col. Joseph Wanton, to the town of Jamestown; Augustus Johnston, to the town of South Kings-

town : Matthew Cozzens, to Cumberland ; Dr. John Haliburton, to Hopkinton ; Dr. William Hunter, to Smithfield ; Andrew Christy, to North Kingstown ; and Silas Cooke, Jr., to South Kingstown.

Samuel Gibbs, Joseph Farrish and Christopher Hargill, refusing to pay the expense of their removal, I committed them to the jail of this state, in Providence.

Anthony Lechmere, who by the aforesaid order, was also to be removed, was not, nor is not, to be found, having (as it is said), embarked on board of a vessel belonging to Mr. William Vernon, to proceed to the West Indies, whereof, George Sweet, is master.

JABEZ CHAMPLIN, Sheriff.

Whereupon, the said report being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

It is voted and resolved, that Matthew Scallion, now a prisoner, in the jail at Providence, be removed from thence to the town of Smithfield, upon his parole ; and that he have liberty to enter on board any of the privateers fitted out from this state.

Whereas, Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esq.'s accounts, as one of the committee of safety, were audited, and report made to this Assembly, at their session, holden in March last past, and the said report accepted, and a balance due thereon, to said Joseph Stanton, Jr., of £140 18s. 5*d.*, lawful money ; which balance, it does not appear was ever voted to be paid him out of the general treasury ;—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the aforesaid sum of £140 18s. 5*d.*, be, and hereby is, ordered to be paid unto the said Joseph Stanton, Jr., out of the general treasury.

Both houses joined in a grand committee, recommended to the Most Honorable the General Congress of the United States of America, the following persons, as suitable for field officers of the brigade raised by this state, and taken into Continental pay :



*Field Officers chosen to command the State's Brigade.*

William Richmond, Esq., colonel ; Caleb Gardner, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; and Benjamin Tallman, Esq., major of the first regiment.

*Officers chosen to command the several Companies in the First Regiment.*

The following officers are chosen and appointed in the first regiment :

Thomas Wells, 3d, Christopher Manchester, James Wallace, Josiah Gibbs, Jr., Benjamin Diamond, Samuel Phillips, Jr., Caleb Carr, Abimilech Riggs, Malachi Hammet, Royzel Smith, Lemuel Bailey and Jonathan Wallen, captains.

Peleg Berry, Walter Palmer, Jonathan Deval, Jr., Philip Arnold, Philip Traffan, Benjamin West, Samuel Stevens, Squire Fisk, Stephen Hopkins, Ebenezer Macomber, Benjamin Church and Edmond Arrow Smith, lieutenants.

John Pearce, Peleg Simmons, Jr., Benjamin Burroughs, Elisha Parker, Benjamin Stelle, John Handy, Samuel Hicks, Henry Alexander, Zephaniah Brown, Joseph Springer, Philip Palmer and Moses Watson, ensigus.

Benjamin Stelle, adjutant ; John Handy, quartermaster ; John Bartlet, surgeon.

*Field Officers chosen to command the Second Regiment.*

The following persons are recommended to the Most Honorable the General Congress, for field officers in the second regiment :

Christopher Lippitt, Esq., colonel ; Adam Comstock, Esq., lieutenant colonel ; James Tew, Esq., major.

*Officers chosen to command the several Companies in the Second Regiment.*

The following officers are chosen and appointed for the second regiment :

Nathaniel Blackmar, Jonathan Brownel, David Dexter, Loring Peck, John Carr, Thomas Gorton, Arthur Fenner, Benjamin Hoppin, Simeon Martin, Christopher Dyer, Thomas Arnold and Lemuel Bailey, captains.

Wilson Rawson, William Jones, David Searls, Gilbert Grant, Alexander Thomas, Ichabod Prentice, Jacob Williams, Abraham Turtulot, William Belcher, Peleg Hoxsie, Thomas Noyes and Reuben Hewitt, lieutenants.

Joseph Bowen, Gilbert Richmond, Samuel Dexter, Joseph Read, Brenton Bliss, Caleb Matthews, William Pullen, John Cowen, Philip Martin, John Holden, Benjamin Bourne and David Melvil, ensigns.

John Holden, adjutant ; Benjamin Bourne, quartermaster ; Isaac Ross Bliven, surgeon ; William Barton, Esq., major of brigade.

*Officers of the Train of Artillery.*

Robert Elliot, captain ; William Bull, captain-lieutenant ; Joshua Sayer, first lieutenant ; Nathaniel Gladding, second lieutenant ; Rhodes Packard, lieutenant fireworker.

*Militia and other Officers Chosen.*

Reuben Ballou, captain ; Amos Whipple, lieutenant ; Nathaniel Gould, ensign, of the second company of militia, for the town of Cumberland.

James Parker, captain ; Barber Peckham, lieutenant ; Hazard Champlin, ensign of the second company of militia, for the town of South Kingstown.

Samuel Day, captain ; George Streeter, lieutenant ; Benjamin Ballou, ensign, of the first company of militia, in the town of Smithfield.

Stephen Smith, captain ; William Troop, lieutenant ; Joseph Reynolds, Jr., ensign, of the company of militia in the town of Bristol.

John Davis, lieutenant ; Stephen Pearce, ensign, in the

second company of militia, in the town of Little Compton, in the room of David Cooke and Forbes Little, who refused.

Andrew Harris, Esq., justice of the peace, for the town of Cranston, in addition.

Solomon Southwick, Esq., intendant of trade, for the district of Newport.

Henry Ward, Esq., intendant of trade, for the district of Providence.

*Justice of the Superior Court.*

Metcalf Bowler, Esq., chief ; William Greene, Esq., second ; Shearjashub Bourn, Esq., third ; Jabez Bowen, Esq., fourth ; and Thomas Wells, Esq., fifth, justices of the superior court of judicature, court of assize, and general jail delivery, in and throughout the state, aforesaid.

*Justices of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, for Kings County.*

Simeon Perry, Esq., the second justice of the inferior court of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, for the county of Kings county, refuses to accept said office ; wherefore,—

Sylvester Robinson, Esq., second ; John Northup, Esq., third ; Carder Hazard, Esq., fourth ; and Joseph Hoxsie, Esq., fifth, justices of the inferior court of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, in and for the county of Kings county.

*Justices of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, for the County of Newport.*

George Hazard, Esq., chief justice of the inferior court of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, in and for the county of Newport, resigns his commission ; wherefore—

John Jepson, Esq., chief ; John Barker, Esq., second ; Thomas Church, Esq., third ; Benjamin Underwood, Esq., fourth ; and Gideon Wanton, Esq., fifth, justices of the inferior

court of common pleas, and general sessions of the peace, in and for the county of Newport.

Daniel Rodman, Esq., major of the second regiment of militia, in Kings county, in the stead of Ray Sands, Esq., who refuses.

It is voted and resolved, that Dr. William Hunter, be, and he is hereby, permitted to return to Newport, to visit his family, under their present distress, occasioned by the dangerous illness of one of his children ; but that he return back to Smithfield (the place ordered by this Assembly for his residence), as soon as the situation of his family may permit.

That John Collins, Esq., John Jepson, Esq., and Peter Phillips, Esq., three of the magistrates of this state, be, and they are hereby, appointed to direct when the said Dr. Hunter shall be sent back to Smithfield.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. George Sears and Thomas Freebody be, and they are hereby, appointed to remove the cannon from Providence to Newport.

It is voted and resolved, that when any vacancies shall happen in the militia officers in the county of Providence, the company in which such vacancy may be, shall, and may, recommend to His Honor the Governor, a suitable person to fill said vacancy up ; and upon His Honor the Governor's approving the choice, he is hereby requested to commission the person recommended, accordingly.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to procure, and transmit as soon as may be, to the board of war, at Philadelphia, an account of the number and rank of the prisoners of war now in this state ; and also a list of the officers of the Continental troops in this state, and the dates of their respective commissions.

Whereas, by an act of this Assembly, made and passed at their session holden in March last past, the sheriffs in the several counties in this state are authorized and empowered to dispose of any vessels and their cargoes, that shall be made prize of, and condemned within their respective counties.

And whereas, inconveniences have arisen from the sheriffs being alone empowered to dispose of the said vessels and their cargoes, made prize of and condemned, as aforesaid,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the owners of the privateers, and agents, hereby have liberty to employ the sheriff, his deputy, or either of the vendue masters within either of the counties in which any vessels or goods shall be brought, that shall be made prize of and condemned, as aforesaid; who are hereby authorized to dispose of the same, agreeably to said act; and the said sheriff, his deputy, or vendue master, employed, as aforesaid, is hereby directed to dispose of the goods, in small quantities, by the cask, bag, &c.; and that he have the same fees, as are already allowed by law.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said sheriff, his deputy, and vendue master, and the purchasers at the vendue, be liable to be prosecuted at a special court, in the same manner, as heretofore.

It is voted and resolved, that the court martial now convened, for the trial of Capt. Zerobabel Westcot, proceed in said trial, and pass sentence, agreeably to the rules and regulations of the army, and cause their said sentence to be carried into execution.

Whereas, His Honor the Governor, and Mr. John Jenckes, were appointed to fit out and send a vessel to Hispaniola, to import gunpowder for this state; and as it now appears that some other parts of the West Indies (other than the British islands), will answer better than the said island of Hispaniola,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor and Mr. Jenckes, proceed, as soon as may be, and send the said vessel to any part of the West Indies they may judge best, other than the British islands, aforesaid.

It is voted and resolved, that Benjamin Smith, deputy sheriff of the county of Providence, be, and he is hereby, ordered forthwith to remove Richard Beale, John Nichol, Nicholas Lechmere and Thomas Vernon, from the house and farm of Stephen Keech, to some other house or houses within the town

of Gloucester, agreeably to an act of this Assembly, made and passed at their session, holden in June, A. D. 1776.

That unless the said Richard Beale, John Nichol, Nicholas Lechmere and Thomas Vernon, pay the expenses of their removal and for their board and maintenance in said town, that their several and respective real estates be taken into possession by the sheriff for the county of Newport, in behalf of this state.

That the aforesaid Richard Beale, John Nichol, Nicholas Lechmere and Thomas Vernon, have liberty to remove their families, to be with them in said town, and to hire, at their own expense, any house or houses in said town, to live or reside in, upon condition that they give their promise in writing, to the sheriff of said county of Providence, that they will not depart from said town of Gloucester, without license first had and obtained from this Assembly; which said sheriff is hereby empowered to take such promise, accordingly.

And it is further voted and resolved, that the said Nicholas Lechmere be, and he is hereby, permitted to reside in any town in the state of Connecticut that he shall choose; first having liberty from the committee of such town, and giving his parole to observe the restrictions he shall be laid under by such committee.

It is voted and resolved, that the sheriff of the county of Newport forthwith remove Mr. Matthew Cozzens from the town of Newport, to the town of Providence, and commit him to jail in said town of Providence, agreeably to a resolve of this Assembly, made and passed at their session, holden in July, in the year of our Lord, 1776.

And it is further voted and resolved, that if any other of the persons removed from Newport, shall return, or transgress the bounds prescribed to them by this Assembly, that the sheriffs in the several counties within this state, are hereby empowered and directed forthwith to apprehend and take such offender, and him commit to the jail in the county to which he or they were removed.

It is voted and resolved, that the commander in chief of the

brigade in this state, be, and he is hereby, allowed £20, lawful money, per month, and twelve rations per day, from the time of his taking the command of said brigade.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested immediately to write to the delegates of this state, that they endeavor to procure the appointment by Congress of a paymaster to the brigade now in this state, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety pay the brigade in this state the wages due unto them up to the 1st day of September, and no longer, without further orders from this Assembly; and that they draw money sufficient for that purpose, out of the general treasury.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid, viz. :—

*Bills to be Paid.*

	£	s.	d.
Daniel W. Hookey, for horse hire and expenses, in removing from the town of Newport divers persons who refused to subscribe to the test,	5	04	0
Israel Church, for a gun, lost in the attack on Quebec - - -	2	08	0
Henry Peckham, for repairs on the state house, Newport - - -	7	04	6
William Stevens, for carrying express to Gov. Trumbull - - -	3	00	0
John Low, for services in collecting the militia upon the alarms at Warwick Neck, and Prudence Island - - - -	4	04	0
Benjamin Pierce, for supplying the minute men at Jamestown, with beef, cheese and cider - - - -	18	05	0
Nicholas Power, for gun carriages, junk, wads, plank, &c. - - -	128	09	1
Richard Smith, for warning the members of the Assembly in Bristol county,	12	0	0
Joseph Brown, for directing the making of gun carriages, timber, plank, duck, &c. - - - -	183	06	8
Thomas Carr, for the use of oxen to remove cannon in Jamestown -	18	9	0
Andrew Freebody, for labor in fitting up whale boats, &c. - -	58	18	5
Job Almy, for labor, rails, boards, lime, bricks for barracks for soldiers, &c.,	80	08	8
Benjamin Greene, for beef pork, bread, cheese, &c. -	27	17	4

God save the United States.

*Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Providence, on the first Monday of September, 1776.*

The Hon. Nicholas Cooke, Governor.

The Hon. William Bradford, Deputy Governor.

It is voted and resolved, that the two regiments in the service of this state, proceed under the particular directions of the commander in chief of the brigade, to Long Island, for the protection of the inhabitants and the stock, on said island; together with a detachment to consist of forty men from the artillery company, with two field-pieces not exceeding four-pounders, under the direction of such officers as the said commander shall think proper.

That Col. Lippitt immediately proceed with his regiment, and said detachment from the artillery company; and that the other regiment be held in readiness to march at a moment's warning, when ordered by the commander in chief of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the standing committee of audit for this state, inquire into the number of cannon now in the service, thereof, and of whom they were purchased, and what price they cost; and that they make report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Nathaniel Mumford be, and he is hereby, appointed to visit the several fortifications in this state, and to inquire into the number and sizes of the cannon in each and every fortification; and likewise the number of cannon now in possession of the state, and in what towns they are.

That he take an exact account of the number that are mounted upon different carriages, with their several sizes.



That he inquire what number of cannon have been taken from any of the forts, and by whom, and who are the present owners of any of the cannon in this state's possession ; and that he make report to this Assembly as soon as may be.

And it is further voted and resolved, that not any person in future take any of the cannon now in possession of this state, upon any pretence, whatever, unless permission first be had therefor, from this Assembly, upon the penalty of forfeiting and paying £100, lawful money, to and for the use of this state.

Whereas, the corporation of the university or college, in this state, preferred a petition to this Assembly, setting forth, that divers persons in Great Britain, Ireland, and different states in America, of charitable and benevolent dispositions, sensible of the many and great advantages derived to society from the establishment of useful seminaries of learning, have generously contributed towards endowing the said college.

That their donations have been made upon express condition that the principal sum should be placed at interest, upon good security, and be for ever kept undiminished ; and that the interest should be applied to the support of the president, and other uses, for the benefit of said institution.

That many of the donors were solicitous that the money so given, should be put to interest out of this state ; but it being thought that the introducing so large a sum of circulating specie would be of eminent service, the corporation offered it (being almost the whole of their funds, and amounting to upwards of \$4,000,) to the General Assembly, who were pleased to receive it into the public treasury, and to order the interest of it to be paid annually.

That by an act, passed in March last, all persons to whom any money was due from the state, were ordered to receive it by a limited time, upon penalty of forfeiting the interest ; and that the said act will operate greatly to the prejudice of said institution, unless this Assembly should think proper to make an exception in its favor ; and thereupon prayed this Assembly, that the fund, aforesaid, might be continued in the general

treasury, upon the same terms upon which it was at first received.

And this Assembly, taking the premises into consideration, and having maturely considered the same,—

It is thereupon voted and resolved, that the prayer of the said petition be, and the same is hereby, granted.

It is voted and resolved, that the towns of Bristol, Westerly, Charlestown, North Providence, Coventry, Warwick, Cumberland, Johnston, West Greenwich, Barrington and Smithfield, be, and they are hereby, permitted to erect an hospital, for the inoculation of the small pox within their respective towns, they complying with the regulations contained in an act made and passed in June, A. D. 1776, for introducing inoculation within this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the four four-pounders belonging to Mr. Henry John Overing, and the three four-pounders belonging to Jacob Isaacs, in the possession of this state, be delivered to Mr. John Smith, he producing an order for the same, from the aforementioned persons, they first making proof of their property to the satisfaction of Peter Phillips, Esq., and giving up the receipts given therefor in behalf of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that an addition of eleven men be raised and made to the artillery company in the town of Westerly.

That an addition also of fourteen men be raised and made to each of the artillery companies, in the towns of South Kingstown and North Kingstown.

And that the artillery companies, heretofore ordered to be raised in this state, be equipped with small arms and bayonets, at their own expense; and that they be subject to be drafted.

It is voted and resolved, that £2,000, in lawful money bills of public credit, be struck off; that Mr. John Brown, Joshua Babcock and John Dexter, Esqs., be a committee, to draw up an act accordingly.

And that Messrs. John G. Wanton, John Cole, Thomas

Greene, Joseph Clarke, John Dexter, Welcome Arnold James Congdon, 3d, and Jonathan Haszard, be the signers of said bills.

It is voted and resolved, that Joshua Babcock, John Collins and Joseph Stanton, Jr., Esqs., be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, they, or any two of them, to wait on His Excellency General Washington, to acquaint him with the state of this government; and confer with him respecting the best method of defending the same.

Both houses in a grand committee, chose Ray Sands, Esq., colonel, of the second regiment of militia, in Kings county, in the room of Samuel Seagar, who is gone to sea.

Esek Olney, ensign, of the company of militia, in North Providence, in the room of James Angell, Jr., who declined.

Joseph Draper, lieutenant, of the third company of militia, in West Greenwich, in the room of Josiah Mathewson, who refused.

It is voted and resolved, that the draught of a letter to His Excellency General Washington, drawn up and presented to this Assembly, by the committee appointed for that purpose, be approved of; and that His Honor the Governor be requested to sign and transmit the same, by the committee appointed to wait on His Excellency, to confer with him on the subject matter thereof.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, and Mr. John Jenckes, have liberty to draw out of the general treasury the amount of the cargo of the sloop Diamond, purchased by them, for this state, and of her outfits, agreeably to a vote of this Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that the Colonels Church, Cooke and Belcher, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to examine all the arms of the brigade, on Rhode Island, and to have the same, and all other arms, belonging to this state, put in the best order; and that they remove such of the cannon from the town of Newport, as shall not be mounted, to such places upon the main as they may think most for the service of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that all the troops on the island of Jamestown, be removed to the town of Newport ; and that the cannon on said island be removed to such place, as the committee appointed to examine the arms of the brigade shall think most for the service of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that Messrs. Cromel Child and Sylvester Child, immediately build ten flat-bottomed boats, for the use of the state, large enough to transport about seventy men each.

It is voted and resolved, that it be recommended to Mr. Thomas Greene, to furnish the commissary of the brigade in this state, from time to time, with so much of the salt in his hands, belonging to the continent, as he may stand in need of, for the use of said brigade.

It is voted and resolved, that the rolls be delivered to the standing committee, this evening ; that they proportion the salt to the several towns, according to the number of inhabitants in this state ; and that they make report of the same to this Assembly, in the morning.

It is voted and resolved, that Dr. William Hunter and Dr. John Halliburton, have the liberty of returning to the town of Newport, there to remain until the next October session of Assembly.

Whereas, Mr. Stephen Keech, exhibited unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the state, for eleven weeks board of John Nicholl, Richard Beale, Nicholas Lechmere and Thomas Vernon ; which said account being duly examined,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, allowed ; and that the amount thereof, being £19 16s., lawful money, be paid unto the said Stephen Keech, out of the general treasury.

It is voted and resolved, that no part of the salt ordered to be distributed within this state, be delivered to the town of New Shoreham ; but that their proportion thereof, be reserved for said inhabitants, to salt any provisions that may be brought from the said town to the main, there to be disposed of.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Daniel Owen be, and he is hereby, appointed to procure suitable and convenient places, within the town of Gloucester, for Richard Beale, Thomas Vernon and John Nicholl; and that he immediately remove them to such places, accordingly.

Resolved, that no person chosen to any office, civil or military, within this state, shall officiate in his office after one month from the rising of this Assembly, without previously subscribing the test prescribed by law, in the presence of a member of Assembly, under the penalty of £100, lawful money, to be recovered before the inferior court for the county where the offence shall be committed, to be paid into the general treasury of this state.

And that no person shall act as a counsellor or attorney, in any court of record in this state, after said one month, without subscribing said test, in like manner as above, under the like penalty, and to be recovered in like manner.

Provided, nevertheless, that this act be not construed to extend to such persons as shall take the affirmation prescribed for tender consciences; or produce a certificate of his being in union with the people called Friends, from the clerk of their meeting; and that this act be published in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that the sum of \$66,670, be immediately struck off in bills of credit, and placed in the general treasury; that said bills be of the following form, to wit:

*Form of Bills of Credit.*

“The possessor of this bill shall be paid, by the general treasurer of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, ——— dollars, within six years, from the date hereof. By order of Assembly. Providence, the 5th day of September, A. D. 1776.”

That said bills be signed by the following persons, to wit: John G. Wanton, John Cole, Thomas Greene, John Dexter, Joseph Clarke, Welcome Arnold, James Congdon, 3d, and

Jonathan Hazard ; three of whom, shall sign all bills of \$1, and upwards ; and two, all bills under \$1 ; and that said bills be of the following denominations, to wit :

700	bills, of thirty dollars each	-	-	-	\$21,000
600	“ twenty	“	-	-	12,000
667	“ ten	“	-	-	6,670
600	“ eight	“	-	-	4,800
600	“ seven	“	-	-	4,200
600	“ six	“	-	-	3,600
600	“ five	“	-	-	3,000
600	“ four	“	-	-	2,400
600	“ three	“	-	-	1,800
600	“ two	“	-	-	1,200
2,000	“ one	“	-	-	2,000
4,000	“ half a dollar each	-	-	-	2,000
4,000	one-quarter of a	“	-	-	1,000
4,000	one-eighth	“	-	-	500
8,000	one-sixteenth of a	“	-	-	500
<hr/>					
28,167					\$66,670
					\$66,670, at 6s. each, is £20,001

And it is further resolved, that said bills be a lawful tender for paying and discharging all contracts, debts, dues and demands whatsoever, whether of a public or private nature ; and that said bills be redeemed within six years from the time of emission.

And it is further resolved, that said committee be allowed and paid out of the general treasury, one-quarter per cent. for their trouble.

That they procure paper for the same, at the charge of the state ; that Mr. John Carter be employed to print said bills, at one shilling and four pence for every hundred bills ; and that Joseph Clarke, Esq., be appointed to superintend the press.

And it is further resolved, that the said Joseph Clarke, Esq., procure at the charge of the state, new escutcheons,

and such other devices as may be necessary for printing said bills.

Whereas, Capt. Asa Kimball presented unto this Assembly, an account by him charged against the state, for his services as conductor and engineer of the works of defence on Rhode Island ; for one blanket, by him supplied to a soldier newly enlisted ; for one barrel, used for tubs in digging the well at the fort ; and for his expenses in attending the Assembly, at East Greenwich, as an evidence in the trial of Col. Babcock, by order of His Honor the Governor ; and the said account having been duly examined by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that £11 Ss., lawful money, thereof, and no more, be allowed ; and that said sum be paid the said Asa Kimball, out of the general treasury.

Whereas, there is no provision, by law, for the town clerks in this state, to be paid for their trouble, in attending town meetings, to draw jurors for the trial of prize causes :

Be it enacted by this General Assembly, and the authority thereof it is enacted, that each town clerk who shall attend, and do his duty at such town meeting, for drawing jurors to attend the trial of any prize causes or causes, to be tried at the maritime court in this state, shall be allowed the sum of six shillings, lawful money, for his attendance and trouble therein ; which sum shall be taxed and allowed by the judge of said court, to be paid out of the money arising from the sale of the prize condemned, in the same manner as other charges are by law ordered to be paid.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, the Deputy Governor and the members of the General Council, any five of whom to be a quorum, together with such of the deputies belonging to the respective towns in this state as may attend, be, and they are hereby, appointed a committee, to act and transact all such business as the exigency of public affairs, during the recess of the General Assembly, may require ; and to advise His Honor therein ; and that all orders by them made and issued, and all other their transactions, be laid before the next session of the General Assembly.

It is voted and resolved, that Mr. Rufus Waterman be, and he is hereby, appointed inspector of saltpeter in the county of Providence, in the room of Jabez Bowen, Esq. ; and that the said Rufus draw on the general treasurer, from time to time, for the amount of the saltpeter he may receive on account of this state.

And it is further resolved, that the several inspectors immediately deliver the saltpeter they may have on hand, to Mr. John Waterman.

That they from time to time, deliver what they may hereafter receive, to the said John Waterman, who is appointed to receive the same, and make it into powder, for the use of this state ; and that the expense of transporting the saltpeter to the said John Waterman's, be paid by this state.

It is voted and resolved, that two hundred small arms be sent for in the vessel ordered to be fitted out by this Assembly, on account of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that the committee of safety immediately furnish the commissary with the necessary clothing for the brigade in this state ; and that the commissary deliver them to the captains, at the prime cost and charges, who are to deliver the same to said troops at the same price, and to account therefor, to the commissary.

That as many tents and marquees be immediately made, as by the return of the colonels commandant, shall be thought necessary ; and that Messrs. Thomas Greene and Jacob Greene, be requested to deliver as much of the continental duck now in their hands, as shall be wanted for the purpose, aforesaid, to the committee of safety, who are directed to have the said tents made as soon as may be.

And the said committee are further directed to insert an advertisement in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette, for procuring fifteen hundred pair of yarn stockings, and fifteen hundred pair of double-soled shoes, for the use of the brigade, and notifying that a good price will be given for the same.

It is voted and resolved, that the standing committee examine the accounts of Commodore Hopkins, respecting the



money by him received of the general treasurer ; and that they make report to this Assembly, as soon as may be.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor sign an order to Major Elliott, to deliver to Mrs. Mary Mason the two swivel guns, taken from her, by order of Eseek Hopkins, Esq., when commander in chief of the forces on Rhode Island.

Whereas, the inhabitants of New Shoreham, from their peculiar situation, are entirely in the power of the enemy, and very pernicious consequences may attend the intercourse of the said inhabitants with the continent, by means of the intelligence and supplies which the enemy may procure thereby,—

It is therefore voted and resolved, that the said inhabitants be, and they are hereby, prohibited from coming from said island into other any part of this state, upon pain of being considered as enemies to the state, and of being imprisoned in the jail in the county where they may be found, there to remain until they shall be discharged by the General Assembly.

And all officers, both civil and military, and every other person, being an inhabitant of this state, is hereby directed and empowered to apprehend all persons so offending, and to commit them, as aforesaid.

Provided, nevertheless, that this act shall not extend to any inhabitant of the said island, who shall remove from thence with his or her family, with an intention to settle in any other part of the United States.

It is further voted and resolved, that in case any person in this state shall be convicted of having any intercourse or correspondence with the persons so offending, he or she shall forfeit and pay as a fine, to the use of this state, £30, lawful money, to be recovered by the general treasurer, at the inferior court of common pleas, in the county where the offence shall be committed.

It is further resolved, that a copy of this act be inserted in the Newport Mercury and Providence Gazette.

It is voted and resolved, that no person be exchanged in future in the brigade, without the permission of the commander in chief of this state.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor be requested to write an answer to the letter received this day from Governor Trumbull, and acquaint him with the measures taking in this state for the common defence.

It is voted and resolved, that His Honor the Governor, and Mr. John Jenckes be, and they are hereby, appointed to purchase or hire a proper vessel, and fit her out for any place they may think best, to get a load of salt, for, and at the expense and risk of, this state ; and that they be empowered to draw a sum of money, not exceeding £1,000, out of the general treasury, for the purpose, aforesaid.

Resolved, that the persons chosen by any of the towns, to sit in the Assembly at the October session, the electors of whom, had not subscribed the test, be not allowed to take their seats at the said session of the Assembly ; but that the said towns proceed, at any day before the 15th of October next, in the election of new members, according to law ; and that this act be published in the Newport Mercury, and Providence Gazette.

Whereas, the committee appointed to proportion the salt belonging to this state, to the several towns within the same, laid before this Assembly, the following report, to wit :

*Proportion of Salt to the several Towns in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.*

	Inhabitants.	Bushels.
Newport - - -	5,299	763 6-8
Providence - - -	4,355	629 7-8
New Shoreham - - -	478	68 7-8
Charlestown - - -	1,835	264 7-8
Johnston - - -	1,022	147 3-8
East Greenwich - - -	1,664	239 4-8
Barrington - - -	538	77 3-8
North Providence - - -	813	117 4-8
Bristol - - -	1,067	153 4-8
Portsmouth - - -	1,347	193 5-8
Exeter - - -	1,982	285 4-8
Cranston - - -	1,701	244 7-8

	Inhabitants.			Bushels.
South Kingstown -	2,779	-	-	400 4-8
Coventry -	2,300	-	-	288 3-8
Richmond -	1,204	-	-	173 1-8
Little Compton -	1,302	-	-	187 5-8
Tiverton -	2,091	-	-	301 4-8
Warwick -	2,376	-	-	342 5-8
Warren -	1,005	-	-	144 6-8
Scituate -	3,289	-	-	473 3-8
Cumberland -	1,686	-	-	243 7-8
Westerly -	1,824	-	-	262 3-8
Glocester -	2,832	-	-	407 6-8
West Greenwich	1,653	-	-	238 1-8
Hopkinton -	1,845	-	-	265 4-8
Smithfield -	2,781	-	-	400 4-8
Jamestown -	322	-	-	46 4-8
Middletown -	860	-	-	123 6-8
North Kingstown -	2,761	-	-	397 7-8
	<hr/>			<hr/>
	54,715			7,875
				4
				<hr/>
Total	-	-	-	7,879

We suppose it must lose more than the allowance made.

The above is the proportion of the salt, as calculated by—

NATHANIEL MUMFORD,  
THOMAS GREENE,  
GIDEON MUMFORD.

Providence, September 7, 1776.

And the said report being duly considered by this Assembly,—

It is voted and resolved, that the same be, and hereby is, accepted.

Voted and resolved, that the following accounts be paid out of the general treasury :

*Bills to be Paid.*

	£	s.	d.
Thomas Sheffield, for victualling the militia in Kings county - -	5	13	03
Capt. Joseph Noyes, expense for watching the shores in Westerly -	15	00	00
“ “ “ “ of a guard at Watch Hill, in “ - -	14	04	00
Nicholas Davis and others, for watching the shore in Charlestown -	12	12	00
Robert Brown, for watching the shore in North Kingstown - -	37	12	00
Thomas Greene, for adjusting the accounts of the commissary -	34	04	06
Nathaniel Mumford, for the same, and for attending the General Assembly,	29	11	08
Gideon Mumford, “ “ “ “ “ -	21	13	11
Thomas Allin, for iron-work on field carriages - - -	25	11	10
Jonathan Pierce, for iron-work on two field-pieces - - -	44	01	04
Cromel Child, for materials for iron-work on field and ship gun-carriages,	321	19	11
Benjamin Man, for cannon-shot delivered to Eseck Hopkins -	44	03	06
Isaac Corey, for billeting, ferriage for minute-men and for materials for barracks on Rhode Island - - - - -	83	02	00
William Bradford, Charles Holden and John Brown, for expenses in going to Newport, to place twenty-seven cannon from Furnace Hope - - - - -	5	17	00
Ray Sands, for expenses of guard on the shores of Boston Neck -	12	09	01
John Coon, for time and expenses in taking care of a sick soldier -	35	08	03
Thomas Allin, for his services as captain of minute-men, and of those under him, on Prudence Island - - - - -	7	04	00

God save the United States of America.

*Resolves of the Continental Congress, calling upon certain States  
to raise additional Troops.*

In Congress, September 3, 1776.

Resolved, that three more battalions be ordered from Virginia, to reinforce the army at New York.

That two of the North Carolina battalions be ordered to march with all possible expedition under the command of Brigadier Gen. Moore, to reinforce the army at New York.

That it be recommended to the Assemblies and Conventions of the several states to the northward of Virginia, immediately to send all the aid in their power to the army at New York.

That one of the Continental battalions in Rhode Island, be ordered immediately to march to reinforce the army in New York.

That it be recommended to the Assembly of Massachusetts, to send to Rhode Island a battalion of their militia to supply the place of the Continental battalion ordered from thence.

By order of Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

*John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress, to the  
General Assembly of Rhode Island.* 619

Philadelphia, September 3d, 1776.

Gentlemen:—Our enemies being determined to make a powerful attack on New York, and the states adjoining thereto; and having for this purpose, collected their whole force, from every part of the continent, it is incumbent on the United States of America, to take the most effectual measures to defeat this deep laid scheme against their country.

The Congress have just received information from General Washington, of the very great and superior strength of the enemy; and if we consider the recent change in the situation of our affairs at New York, we shall soon be convinced that nothing will prove an adequate remedy in our present circumstances, but the most vigorous exertions on our part. I am therefore, by order of Congress, to request you will immediately send all the aid in your power to our army at New York.

The state of our affairs is so extremely critical, that delay may be attended with fatal consequences. Suffer me, therefore, to press you, in the name and by the authority of your country, to an immediate compliance, and with all the earnestness so naturally suggested by the importance of the cause. Although I doubt not your own ardor would be a sufficient stimulus when called on by the voice of liberty; yet my anxiety is so great, I cannot refrain, on the present occasion, from beseeching you to exert yourselves. Every thing is at stake; our religion, our liberty, the peace and happiness of posterity, are the grand objects in dispute; which, that we interrupted to preserve and transmit to future generations, is the constant and unanimous wish of, gentlemen,—

Your Honors' most obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Hon. Assembly of Rhode Island.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Gen. Washington.*

Providence, September 6th, 1776.

Sir:—The necessity which caused the unexpected evacuation of Long Island, hath alarmed the General Assembly of this state; as it seems that communications cannot be kept open with an island where the enemy's ships can approach. This hath filled us with apprehensions for the town of Newport and the island of Rhode Island, which are of so great importance to this and the other United States.

Upon which, the Assembly have thought proper to appoint John Collins, Joshua Babcock and Joseph Stanton, Esqs., a committee, to wait upon Your Excellency, to acquaint you with the state of this government, and to confer with you upon the best measures to be taken for its defence; and with respect to the island of Rhode Island, I beg the favor of Your Excellency to treat them with the most entire confidence, and have no doubt but that the same disposition which hath always induced you to manifest your regard to this state, will induce you to give us your best advice and assistance.

Upon receiving information of the landing of the enemy upon Long Island, and a

letter from Gov. Trumbull, acquainting us with your request, that a body of men might be thrown upon the east end of that island, this state ordered the whole brigade, with the two galleys and a sufficient quantity of provisions and ammunition, to proceed to that island, and ordered them to be re-placed by the militia of the state. We exerted ourselves to get them in readiness; and some of them were under orders to proceed; when we received the most uncertain and aggravated accounts of the evacuation of Long Island, which occasioned us to stop the men, until we could receive intelligence to be depended upon, which we did not gain until the last evening.

I beg leave to observe to Your Excellency the advantages that may accrue to the common cause, from the several states having early and authentic intelligence of all matters of importance, that shall happen, and to request Your Excellency to favor us with accounts of every thing material.

I have the honor to be,

With every sentiment of esteem and respect, sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To His Excellency General Washington.

*The Governor of Connecticut to the General Assembly of Rhode Island.*

Lebanon, September 9th, 1776.

Gentlemen:—The vast importance of preventing the ministerial army taking the benefit of the stock on Long Island, and availing themselves of the advantage of that post, assisting such of the inhabitants to remove with their effects who are disposed for it, and prevent their total seduction, I apprehend are matters of more consequence to the common cause, than we can easily imagine. To dislodge that army from Long Island, and destroy the two ships and tender in the Sound, which at present prevent supplies that way by water, to our army, might at one blow, in a great measure, relieve our bleeding country from its impending danger.

How far it would be practicable, or what measures are proper to take at this alarming crisis, is matter of serious concern with us.

It is supposed here, that in case an attempt should be made to collect a force at the east end of Long Island, to remove stock, &c., that a number of whale-boats would be absolutely necessary to troops, stores, supplies, &c., as they might avoid all the vessels of force, the enemy could send to obstruct us.

I am informed that a large number of whale-boats that belong to the continent, are at, and near Boston, and might be used for that important purpose; we have but very few with us.

I am also informed that a regiment is ordered from you, to Providence, to re-place the Continental battalion removed from the state of Rhode Island; and whether your regiment could not come in the whale-boats to Providence, carrying them across the land at Buzzard's Bay, is, I apprehend worthy of your consideration, and to be executed without delay.

We are equipping what naval force we have, with all possible expedition; we are exerting ourselves, and desirous to unite our whole strength with the other states in our common cause. I don't doubt of your utmost attention and most vigorous

exertions therein; must entreat your answer to this, and such other measures as you judge may be beneficial. I have communicated to Governor Cooke on the subject.

I am, with great truth and esteem, gentlemen,

Your obedient, humble servant,

JONA. TRUMBULL.

To the Honorable General Assembly, of Rhode Island.

*The Governor of Connecticut to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Lebanon, September 9th, 1776.

Sir:—Since my last, I have made inquiry what naval force can be had in this state to assist in an attempt to clear the Sound of the enemy's ships; and find we can soon have a ship mounting twenty guns, nine-pounders, and a brigantine of sixteen guns, ready for that service; we could also add another brigantine, of eight guns, could we procure cannon to put upon her, besides our gallies, which we hope may be able to join them.

I persuade myself you are advised of the present situation of our army and the enemy; from which it will appear how much it imports the success of the army under Gen. Washington, as well as the safety of these states, to achieve this enterprise.

Could Commodore Hopkins be prevailed upon to join the force under his command, with your gallies and such naval force as your state can furnish to our ship, brigantine and gallies, I flatter myself it would be sufficient to effect the purpose intended; if greater force should be thought necessary, there are two privateers in the harbor of New London, that may be had, to assist them.

Permit me to request your attention to this subject, and your answer by the return of this express; and to assure you—

I am, with the greatest respect and esteem,

Your obedient, humble servant,

JONA. TRUMBULL.

To the Honorable Governor Cooke.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Governor Trumbull, of Connecticut.*

Providence, September 10th, 1776.

Sir:—Your letter to Gov. Cooke, by express, came to hand this evening. His Honor being in the hospital, makes it necessary for me to inform you, that a Council will be held at Newport on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, to take the necessary steps to forward one or both regiments with all possible dispatch. The Council will acquaint you by express of the measures taken.

In the mean time, I beg leave to refer you to Governor Cooke's letter, for a state of the naval force of this state; and am, with great respect, sir,

Your honor's most obedient, humble servant.\*

To the Honorable Governor Trumbull.

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\* This letter and the one of the 14th of September, 1776, written to Governor Trumbull are both unsigned by the person who wrote them. Gov. Cooke was sick at this time.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to the General Assembly of Massachusetts.*

Newport, September 13th, 1776.

Gentlemen:—The Most Honorable the Continental Congress having ordered one battalion of their troops stationed here, to march immediately to New York, and informed this state that they recommended to you to re-place the same with a regiment of your militia, the general committee appointed to act during the recess of the General Assembly, have exerted themselves to get that battalion in readiness to proceed with the greatest expedition; part of which will march to-morrow, and the remainder the next day.

The committee have appointed Col. Church, who will deliver you this, to make application to you to send forward the said regiment as soon as possible.

Mr. President Hancock having also written in the most pressing terms to this state, to afford all the aid in our power to the army at New York, the committee have recommended to Col. Richmond to hold the other Continental battalion in this state in readiness to march at a moment's warning. And he will accordingly march with it as soon as he receives authentic intelligence that the regiment of militia from your state, shall enter into this. They have also ordered a battalion, to consist of seven hundred militia, to be immediately raised, to supply the place of one of the Continental battalions, removed.

I have no doubt of your compliance with the application of Col. Church, and beg leave to subscribe myself,—

With great respect and esteem, gentlemen,  
Your most obedient and most humble servant,

NICHOLAS COOKE.

To the Hon. General Assembly of Massachusetts Bay.

*The Governor of Rhode Island to Governor Trumbull, of Connecticut.*

State of Rhode Island, &c., )  
Bristol, September 14th, 1776. )

Sir:—Governor Cooke having entered the hospital for inoculation, it becomes necessary for me to acquaint Your Honor that I laid your letter of the 9th instant before the committee, appointed to act in cases of emergency, during the recess of the General Assembly, upon which Commodore Hopkins also attended.

It is with pain I inform Your Honor that it is not in the power of this state to afford such assistance to the naval power of your state as would make an attack upon the enemy's ships in the Sound in any manner advisable. The two gallies and the Alfred, which is not a quarter manned, constituting the whole force in this state.

The Congress have ordered one of the Continental battalions stationed here, to march to New York; and recommended it to the Massachusetts Bay to supply its place with a regiment of their militia. Part of the former will proceed this day, and the remainder to-morrow.

In this great crisis, the committee not having it in their power to afford so speedy an aid in any other way, have requested Colonel Richmond, who commands the other Continental battalion in this state, to hold it in readiness to march at the shortest notice; and he accordingly will proceed with it to New York as soon as he shall receive intelligence of the arrival of the regiment from the Massachusetts in this



state; to make application for which, the committee have deputed one of their members.

To re-place Col. Richmond's battalion, the committee have ordered a body of seven hundred militia to be immediately raised and equipped.

I have the honor to be, with great esteem and respect, sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant.

To the Honorable Governor Trumbull.

*General Washington to the Governor of Rhode Island.*

Headquarters, at Col. Morris's House, }

September 17th, 1776. }

Sir:—I received the honor of your favor of the 6th inst., by Messrs. Collins, Babcock and Stanton, and should have acknowledged it before now, had I not been prevented by the peculiar situation of our affairs.

I communicated my sentiments to those gentlemen upon the subject of your letter, and the several propositions that were before me, who, I doubt not, will make a full and due report of the same to you and your Honorable Assembly.

However, I shall take the liberty of adding, that the divided state of our army, which, when collected in one body, is inferior to that of the enemy; their having landed almost the whole of their force on Long Island, and formed a plan of cutting off all communication between that and the city of New York, which we had but too good reasons to believe practicable and easy to effect with their ships of war, made it necessary and prudent to withdraw our troops from the former, that our chance of resistance and opposition might be more probable, and likely to be attended with a happy issue.

I feel myself much concerned on account of your apprehensions for the town of Newport and the island of Rhode Island; and should esteem myself peculiarly happy were it in my power to afford means for their security and that of the state in general; or to point out such measures as would be effectual for that purpose. But circumstanced as I am, it is not possible for me to grant any assistance; nor can I with propriety undertake to prescribe the mode which will best promote their defence.

This must depend on such a variety of circumstances, that I should suppose you and the Assembly, who are in the state, will be much more competent to the task, than what I or any person out of it, can be; and therefore I can only recommend that you will pursue such steps as you, in your judgment shall think most conducive to that end; observing that it appears to me a matter of extreme difficulty (if practicable,) to prevent the enemy's ships doing damage to every island accessible to them, unless the passes between them and the main are so narrow as to oblige them to come near such batteries as may be erected for their annoyance, on commanding ground.

I cannot sufficiently express my thanks for the readiness you and your Assembly manifested in ordering troops, &c., to Long Island, on hearing of my request to Gov. Trumbull upon that subject. At the time that I made it, I conceived the plan of much importance; and that many valuable and salutary consequences might have resulted from it. But as things have undergone a material change since, it may not be improper to consider, and be satisfied of some facts which ought to be clearly known, previous to any attempt to carry it into execution, and on which the success of it will greatly depend; such as an entire conviction of the friendly disposition of the inhabitants on the island; the number that would join the troops that might be sent over; the

length they would go; the support they would and can give, and whether a retreat from thence, could be safely effected in case it should be necessary.

These matters, and others, which a more minute consideration of the plan will present to your view, should be well weighed and digested, and which I thought it my duty to mention, especially as the scheme had originated with me. My anxiety and concern for the inhabitants at the east end of the island, who have been represented always as friendly, and well attached to the cause of the states, prompt me to wish them every assistance; but if the efforts you could make in conjunction with Governor Trumbull, would not promise almost a certainty of success, perhaps they might tend to aggravate their misfortunes.

The committee stated sundry propositions respecting this expedition; such as if any thing was attempted, where a stand should be made?

This must be left to the discretion of those who command; nor can I spare an officer for that purpose, or recommend one.

What number of men should be sent, and what proportion from the Massachusetts?

The number necessary will depend upon the force they will have to oppose, and the assistance they would derive from the islanders; the proportion from the Massachusetts on the will of the legislature, or voluntary engagement of the people in the service.

What artillery should they have?

I am of opinion the artillery would be subject to loss, without any great advantage resulting from it.

They also asked, whether any frigates should be sent, &c.

As the enemy have now the free and entire command of the Sound; and in any ships of war in it, they will be much more liable to be taken, than they would have been some time ago, and when it was proposed by Governor Trumbull to make an attempt upon the ships above Hell Gate. In this instance, however, I do not conceive myself at liberty to say any thing peremptory one way or the other, having no power over the frigates.

I am sensible of the force of your observation, that the common cause might be benefitted by the several states receiving early and authentic intelligence of every material occurrence. Permit me at the same time, to assure you, that I often regret my incapacity in this instance; and that the neglect does not arise from want of inclination or through inattention, but from the variety of important matters that are always pressing upon, and which daily surround me.

Before I conclude, I shall take this opportunity to inform you, that having received certain information that the enemy's plan of operations was to pass from Long Island and land in our rear with their army, to cut off all communication with the country, and for which they were making every possible disposition; a council of general officers determined last week on a removal of the army from the city, in order to prevent the fatal consequences which must inevitably ensue, if they could have executed their scheme; resolving at the same time, that every appearance of defence should be kept up till our sick, ordnance and other stores could be removed.

This was set about with the greatest industry, and as to the sick, was completely effected; but on Sunday morning, before we had accomplished the removal of all of our cannon, provisions and baggage, they sent the ships of war up the North River, whereby the water carriage was totally stopped, the ships anchoring not far above the city; and about eleven o'clock, those that were laying at Turtle Bay, or rather below it, in the East River, being six or seven in number, besides some trans-

ports, began and continued for some time a most severe and heavy cannonade, to scour the ground, and cover the landing of their troops.

I had gone the night before, to the main body of the army, which was posted on the plains and heights of Harlem, apprehending from many uncommon and great movements among the enemy, that they meant to make an attack then, that night or to land on the east side of Harlem River.

As soon as the firing began, I rode with all possible despatch towards the place of landing, where breast-works had been thrown up, and to my great surprise and mortification, found the troops that had been posted in the lines, retreating with the utmost precipitation and disorder; and those ordered to support them, notwithstanding the exertions of their Brigadiers Parsons and Fellows to form them, running away in the most disgraceful and shameful manner; nor could my utmost efforts rally them, or prevent their flight. This scandalous conduct occasioned a loss of several tents and other baggage, which otherwise would have been easily secured. The remainder of the troops that were in the city, got out, and the retreat of the whole was effected with the loss of but very few men; not more than three or four, that I have heard of, were made prisoners, and only one or two killed.

I am now encamped on the heights, abovementioned, which are so well calculated for defence, that I should hope, if the enemy make an attack, and our men will behave with tolerable resolution, they must meet with a repulse, if not a total defeat.

They advanced in sight yesterday, in several large bodies, but attempted nothing of a general nature; though in the forenoon, there were some small skirmishes between some of their parties and detachments sent out by me, in which I have the pleasure to inform you our men behaved with bravery and intrepidity, putting them to flight when in open ground, and forcing them from posts they had seized two or three times. From some of their wounded men which fell into our hands, the appearance of blood in every place where they made their stand; and on the fences they passed, we have reason to believe they had a good many killed and wounded, though they did not leave many on the ground.

In number, our loss was very inconsiderable; but in the fall of Lieut. Col. Knolton, I consider it as great, being a brave and good officer; and it may be increased by the death of Major Leitch, of the Virginia regiment, who unfortunately received three balls through his side.

Having given you a summary account of the situation of our affairs, and in such manner as circumstances will admit of, I have only to add, that—

I have the honor to be, with sentiments of the highest esteem, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

To Governor Cooke.

P. S. The committee have expressed their apprehensions of being obliged to abandon the island of Rhode Island and Newport, and requested my opinion. At present, I can see no cause for it; and the propriety of the measure, must depend upon circumstances. But I should suppose they ought to be very pressing, and the necessity great, before they ought to be given up. Most certainly no imaginary ills or necessity should lead to such a measure. At this time, the danger can only be ideal; and if the enemy persevere in their plans here, and our men behave as they should do, I am persuaded they will not have an opportunity to employ their attention elsewhere, this campaign.



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