

## CONVENTION OF BRISTOL COUNTY.

At a meeting of the gentlemen, delegates from the following towns in the county of Bristol, viz.: Taunton, Dartmouth, Rehoboth, Freetown, Dighton, Swansea, Norton, Mansfield, Raynham, Berkeley and Easton, held at the court house, in Taunton, on the 28th and 29th days of September, 1774, to consult upon proper measures to be taken at the present alarming crisis of our public affairs :

Zephaniah Leonard, Esq., was chosen chairman.

After having read the act of parliament for regulating the government of this province, and the resolves of the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, &c., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, our ancestors, of blessed memory, from a prudent care for themselves, and a tender concern for their descendants, did, through a series of unparalleled dangers and distresses, purchase a valuable inheritance in this western world, and carefully transmitted the same to us, their posterity ; and whereas, for many years past, we have quietly enjoyed certain rights and privileges, stipulated by charter, and repeatedly confirmed by royal engagements, which rights and privileges are now unjustly invaded by the pretended authority of a British parliament, under pretext that it is inexpedient for us any longer to enjoy them ; and as the same persons who found out this inexpediency, will, no doubt, in time, discover that it is inexpedient for us to enjoy any rights, and even any property at all ; we cannot, in justice to ourselves and posterity, and in gratitude to our revered ancestors, tamely stand by, and suffer every thing that is valuable and dear to be wrested from us ; but are resolutely determined, at the risk of our fortunes and lives, to defend our natural and compacted rights, and to oppose, to our utmost, all illegal and unconstitutional measures, which have been, or may be hereafter, adopted by a British parliament or a British ministry. And though we deprecate the evils which are naturally consequent upon a breach of that mutual affection and confidence which has subsisted betwixt Great Britain and her colonies, yet we think it better to suffer those evils, than voluntarily submit to perpetual slavery. We are sensible that the important crisis before us demands the exercise of much wisdom, prudence, and fortitude, and we sincerely hope, that all our deliberations and actions will be guided by the principles of sound reason, and a hearty desire to promote the true interest of the British empire. Accordingly, we resolve in the following manner, viz. :

*Resolved*, That we freely recognize George the third, king of Great Britain, &c., as our rightful sovereign, and as allegiance and protection are reciprocal, we are determined faithfully to yield the former as long as we are allowed the enjoyment of the latter.

*Resolved*. That the late acts of the British parliament, relating to the continent in general, and this province in particular, are contrary to reason and

the spirit of the English constitution, and, if complied with, will reduce us to the most abject state of servitude.

*Resolved*, That all civil officers in this province, considered as holding their respective offices by the tenure specified in a late act of the British parliament, deserve neither obedience nor respect; but we will support all civil authority that is agreeable to the charter of the province granted by king William and queen Mary.

*Resolved*, That it is our opinion, that the several towns of this county should regulate themselves in all their public proceedings, agreeably to the laws of this province.

*Resolved*, That we will use our utmost endeavors to discountenance and suppress all mobs, riots, and breaches of the peace, and will afford all the protection in our power to the persons and properties of our loyal fellow subjects.

*Resolved*, That, in all things, we will regulate ourselves by the opinion and advice of the Continental Congress, now sitting at Philadelphia; and as we place great confidence in the abilities of the gentlemen, members of that congress, we will cheerfully subscribe to their determinations.

*Resolved*, That our brethren of the town of Boston, who are now suffering under the cruel hand of power in the common cause of America, are justly entitled to all that support and relief which we can give, and are now ready to afford them.

*Resolved*, That whereas, our brethren of the county of Suffolk have, by their spirited and noble resolutions, fully made known our sentiments, we therefore think it unnecessary for us to be more particular, as we most cheerfully adopt their measures and resolutions.

*Voted*, That the above proceedings be inserted in the public papers.

*Voted*, That the committee for the town of Taunton, be empowered to call a meeting of this body, whenever they think it necessary.

*Voted*, That the thanks of this body be given to the chairman, for his faithful services.

*Voted*, That this assembly be adjourned, and it was accordingly adjourned.

DAVID COBB, *Clerk*.

## CONVENTION OF WORCESTER COUNTY.

JOURNAL of a convention of the committees of correspondence and delegates, of the several towns in the county of Worcester.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1774.

At a meeting of the committees of correspondence for the county of Worcester, in county Congress assembled, on the 9th day of August, A. D. 1774, at the house of Mrs. Mary Sternes, in Worcester, there were present: