

Continental Congress. Proceedings of the Grand American Continental Congress at Philadelphia, September 5, 1774. Association, &c. ... In Congress, Philadelphia October 20, 1774 Signed Peyton Randolph, President ... Sold at the Printing-office in Portsmouth [1774] [Positive photostat.].

Continental Congress.

Proceedings of the Grand American Continental Congress at *Philadelphia, September 5, 1774*

ASSOCIATION, &c.

WE his Majesty's most loyal Subjects, the Delegates of the several Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower Counties of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex, on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, deputed to represent them in a Continental Congress, held in the City of Philadelphia, on the fifth Day of September, 1774, avowing our Allegiance to his Majesty, our Affection and Regard for our Fellow-Subjects in Great-Britain and elsewhere, affected with the deepest Anxiety, and most alarming Apprehensions at those Grievances and Distresses, with which his Majesty's American Subjects are oppressed, and having taken under our most serious Deliberation the State of the whole Continent, find, that the present unhappy Situation of our Affairs, is occasioned by a ruinous System of Colony Administration, adopted by the British Ministry about the Year 1763, evidently calculated for enslaving these Colonies, and, with them, the British Empire. In Prosecution of which System, various Acts of Parliament have been passed for raising a Revenue in America, for depriving the American Subjects in many Instances, of the Constitutional Trial by Jury, exposing their Lives to Danger, by directing a new & illegal Tryal beyond the Seas, for Crimes alledged to have been committed in America; and in Prosecution of the same System, several late, cruel, and oppressive Acts, have been passed respecting the Town of Boston and the Massachusetts-Bay, and also an Act for extending the Province of Quebec so as to border on the Western Frontiers of these Colonies, establishing an Arbitrary Government therein, and discouraging the Settlement of British Subjects in that wide extended Country; thus by the Influence of civil Principles and ancient Prejudices to dispose the Inhabitants to act with Hostility against the free Protestant Colonies, whenever a wicked Ministry shall choose so to direct them.

To obtain Redress of these Grievances, which threaten Destruction to the Lives, Liberty & Property of his Majesty's Subjects in North-America, we are of Opinion that a Non-Importation, Non-Consumption, and Non-Exportation Agreement faithfully adhered to, will prove the most speedy, effectual, & peaceable Measure:—And therefore we do for ourselves, and the Inhabitants of the

several Colonies, whom we represent, firmly agree and associate under the sacred Ties of Virtue, Honor, and Love of our Country, as follows:

First, That from and after the first Day of December next, we will not import into British America, from Great-Britain or Ireland, any Goods, Wares or Merchandize whatsoever, or from any other Place any such Goods, Wares or Merchandize, as shall have been exported from Great-Britain or Ireland; nor will we, after that Day, import any East-India Tea from any Part of the World; nor any Molasses, Syrups, Paneles, Coffee, or Piemento, from the British Plantations, or from Dominica; nor Wines from Medeira, or the Western Islands; nor foreign Indigo.

Second, That we will neither import nor purchase any Slave imported after the 1st Day of December next, after which Time we will wholly discontinue the Slave Trade, and will neither be concerned in it ourselves, nor will we hire our Vessels, nor sell our Commodities or Manufactures to those who are concern'd in it.

Third, As a Non-Consumption Agreement, strictly adhered to will be an effectual Security for the Observation of the Non-Importation, we, as above, solemnly agree and associate, that from this Day, we will not purchase or use any Tea imported on Account of the East-India Company, or any on which a Duty hath been or shall be paid; and from and after the 1st Day of March next, we will not purchase or use any East-India Tea whatever, nor will we, nor shall any Person for or under us, purchase or use any of those Goods, Wares or Merchandize, we have agreed not to import, which we shall know or have Cause to suspect, were imported after the first Day of December, except such as come under the Rules & Directions of the tenth Article hereafter mentioned.

Fourth, The earnest Desire we have, not to injure our Fellow-Subjects in Great-Britain, Ireland, or the West-Indies, induces us to suspend a Non-Exportation until the tenth Day of September, 1775; at which Time is the said Acts and Parts of Acts of the British Parliament, herein after mentioned, are not repealed, we will not, directly or indirectly, export any Merchandize or Commodity whatsoever, to Great-Britain, Ireland or the West-Indies, except Rice to Europe.

Fifth. Such as are Merchants, and use the British and Irish Trade, will give Orders, as soon as possible, to their Factors, Agents and Correspondents, in Great-Britain and Ireland, not to ship any Goods to them on any Pretence whatsoever, as they cannot be received in America; and if any Merchant residing in G. Britain or Ireland, directly or indirectly ship any Goods, Wares, or Merchandize, for America, in Order to break the said Non-Importation Agreement or in any Manner contravene the same, on such unworthy Conduct being well attested, ought to be made public; and on the same being so done, we will not from thenceforth have any commercial Connexion with such Merchant.

Sixth. That such is are Owners of Vessels will give positive Orders to their Captains, or Masters not to receive on board their Vessels any Goods prohibited by the said Non-Importation Agreement on Pain of immediate Dismission from their Service.

Seventh. We will use our utmost Endeavours to improve the Breed of Sheep and increase their Number to the greatest Extent, and to that End, we will kill them as sparingly as may be, especially those of the most profitable kind; nor will export any to the West-Indies, or elsewhere; and those of us who are or may become overstocked with, or can conveniently spare any Sheep, will dispose of them to our Neighbours, especially to the poorer Sort, on moderate Terms.

Eight. That we will in our several Stations encourage Frugality, Economy, and Industry; and promote Agriculture, Arts, and the Manufactures of this Country, especially that of Wool; and will discountenance and discourage, every Species of Extravagance and Dissipation, especially all Horse-Racing, and all Kinds of Gaming, Cock Fighting, Exhibitions of Shews, Plays, and other expensive Diversions and Entertainments. And on the Death of any Relation, or Friend, none of us or any of our Families, will go into any further Mourning Dress, than a black Crape or Ribbon on the Arm or Hat for Gentleman, and a black Ribbon and Necklace for Ladies, and we will discontinue the giving of Gloves and Scarfs at Funeral.

Ninth. That such as are Venders of Goods or Merchandize, will not take Advantage of the Scarcity of Goods that may be occasioned by this Association, but will sell the same at the Rates we have been respectively accustomed to do, for twelve Months last 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 any such Person, or his or her Factor or Agent, at any Time thereafter, for any Commodity whatever.

Tenth, In Case any Merchant, Trader, or other Persons shall import any Goods or Merchandize after the first Day of February next, the same ought forthwith at the Election of the Owner, to be either re-shipped, or delivered up to the Committee of the County, or Town wherein they shall be imported, to be stored at the Risque of the Importer, until the Non-Importation Agreement shall cease, or be sold under the Direction of the Committee aforesaid; and in the last mentioned Case, the Owner or Owners of such Goods, shall be reimbursed (out of the Sales) the first Cost and Charges, the Profit if any, to be applied towards relieving and employing such poor Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, as are immediate Sufferers by the Boston Port-Bill; and a particular Account of all Goods so returned, Stored, or Sold, to be inserted in the public Papers; and if any Goods or Merchandizes shall be imported after the said first Day of February, the same ought forthwith to be sent back again, without breaking any of the Packages thereof.

Eleventh. That a Committee be chosen in every County, City, and Town, by those who are qualified to vote for Representatives in the Legislature, whose Business it shall be attentively to observe the Conduct of all Persons touching this Association; and when it shall be made to appear to the Satisfaction of a Majority of any such Committee, that any Person within the Limits of their Appointment has violated this Association, that such Majority do forthwith cause the Truth of the Case to be published in the Gazette, to the End that all such Foes to the Rights of British American may be publickly known and universally contemned as the Enemies of American Liberty; and thenceforth we respectively will break off all Dealings with him or her.

Twelfth, That the Committees of Correspondence in the respective Colonies do frequently inspect the Entries of their Custom-Houses, and inform each other from Time to Time of, the true State thereof, and of every other material Circumstance that may occur relative to this Association.

Thirteenth, That all Manufactures of this, Country be sold at reasonable Prices, so that no undue Advantage be taken of a future Scarcity of Goods.

Fourteenth, And we do further agree and, resolve, that we will have no Trade, Commerce, Dealings or Intercourse whatsoever, with any Colony or Province in North-America, which shall not accede to, or which shall, hereafter violate this Association, but will hold them as unworthy of the Rights of Freedom, & as inimical to the Liberties of their Country.

And we do solemnly bind ourselves and our, Constituents, under the Ties aforesaid, to adhere to this Association until such Parts of the, several Acts of Parliament passed since the Close of the last War, as impose or continue Duties on Tea, Wine, Molasses, Syrups, Paneles, Coffee, Sugar, Piemento, Indigo, Foreign, Paper, Glass, and Painters Colours, imported into America, and extend the Powers of the Admiralty Courts beyond their ancient Limits, deprive the American Subject of Trial by Jury, authorize the Judge's Certificate to, indemnify the Prosecutor from Damages, that, he might otherwise be liable to from a Trial by his Peers, require oppressive Security from, a Claimant of Ships of Goods seized, before he shall be allowed to defend his Property, are repealed.—And until that Part of the Act of the 12. G. 3. Chap. 24, entitled, “An Act for the better securing his Majesty's Dock-Yards, Magazines, Ships, Ammunition, and Stores,” by which, any Persons charged with committing any of the Offences therein described, in America, may be tried in any Shire or County within the Realm, is repealed—And until the four Acts passed in the last Session of Parliament, *viz.* That for stopping, the Port, & blocking up the Harbour of Boston—That for altering the Charter and Government of the Massachusetts-Bay—And that which is entitled “An Act for the better, Administration of Justice, &c.—And that “For extending the Limits of Quebec, &c. are repealed. And we recommend it to the Provincial Conventions, and to the Committees in the respective



Colonies, to establish such further Regulations as they may think, proper, for carrying into Execution this Association.

The foregoing Association being determined upon by the CONGRESS, was ordered to be subscribed by the several Members thereof; and thereupon we have hereunto set our respective Names accordingly.

In Congress Philadelphia October 10, 1774. Signed, PEYTON RANDOLPH, President.

For New Hampshire. John Sullivan, Nathaniel Folsom.

Massachusetts-Bay. Thomas Cushing, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine.

Rhode-Island. Stephen Hopkins, Samuel Ward.

Connecticut. Eliphalet Dyer, Roger Sherman, Silas Deane.

New-York. Isaac Low, John Alsop, John Jay, James Duane William Floyd, Henry Wisener, S. Boerum.

New-Jersey. J. Kinsey, W. Livingston, S. Crane, R. Smith.

Pennsylvania. Joseph Galloway, John Dickinson, C. Humphreys, Thomas Mifflin, Edward Biddle, John Morton, G. Ross.

New-Castles, &c. Cæsar Rodney, Thomas Mc. Keane, George Read.

Maryland. Mathew Tilghman, Thomas Johnson, William Pica, Samuel Chace.

Virginia. Richard H. Lee, George Washington, P. Henry jr. Richard Bland, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton.

North-Carolina. William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, R. Caswell.

South-Carolina. Henry Middleton, Thomas Lynch, Christopher. Cadsden, John Rutledge, Edward Rutledge.

Sold at the Printing-Office in Portsmouth.