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T H E
P R O C E E D I N G S

O F T H E
C O N V E N T I O N *of* D E L E G A T E S

For the COUNTIES and CORPORATIONS

In the colony of VIRGINIA,

Held at Richmond town, in the county of Henrico,

On Monday the 17th of JULY, 1775.

W I L L I A M S B U R G:
PRINTED BY A L E X A N D E R P U R D

PROCEEDINGS

O F T H E

CONVENTION of DELEGATES.

AT a convention of delegates from the counties and corporations in the colony of *Virginia*, at the town of *Richmond*, in the county of *Henrico*, on Monday the 17th of *July*, 1775.

P R E S E N T,

The Hon. Peyton Randolph, esquire, for the city of *Williamsburg*.
 John Walker, and Charles Lewis, esquires, for *Albemarle*.
 John Tabb, and John Winn, esquires, for *Amelia*.
 William Cabell, junior, and Joseph Cabell, esquires, for *Amherst*.
 Samuel M'Dowell, and Thomas Lewis, John Harvie, and George Rootes, esquires, for *Augusta*.
 John Talbot, and Charles Lynch, esquires, for *Bedford*.
 John Bowyer, esquire, for *Botetourt*.
 Frederick Maclin, and Henry Tazewell, esquires, for *Brunswick*.
 John Nicholas, and Robert Bolling, esquires, for *Buckingham*.
 Robert Rutherford, and Adam Stephen, esquires, for *Berkeley*.
 James Taylor, and William Woodford, esquires, for *Caroline*.
 William Acrill, and Benjamin Harrison, jun. esquires, for *Charles City*.

- Paul Carrington, and Isaac Read, esquires, for *Charlotte*.
 Archibald Cary, and Benjamin Watkins, esquires, for *Chesterfield*.
 Henry Field, junior, ~~and Henry Pennington~~, esquires, for *Culpeper*.
 William Fleming, and John Mayo, esquires, for *Cumberland*.
 John Banister, and John Ruffin, esquires, for *Dinwiddie*.
 Jonathan Clarke, esquire, for *Dunmore*.
 Henry King, and Worlich Westwood, esquires, for *Elizabeth City*.
 Meriwether Smith, esquire, for *Essex*.
 Charles Broadwater, and George Mason, esquires, for *Fairfax*.
 Thomas Marshall, and James Scott, esquires, for *Fauquier*.
 Isaac Zane, esquire, and Charles M. Thruston, clerk, for *Frederick*.
 William Christian, and Stephen Trigg, esquires, for *Fincastle*.
 Lewis Burwell, esquire, for *Gloucester*.
 John Woodson, and Thomas Mann Randolph, esquires, for *Goochland*.
 Micajah Watkins, esquire, for *Halifax*.
 James Mercer, esquire, for *Hampshire*.
 John Syme, and Garland Anderson, esquires, for *Hanover*.
 Richard Adams, and Richard Randolph, esquires, for *Henrico*.
 Robert C. Nicholas, and William Norvell, esquires, for *James City*.
 John S. Wills, and Josiah Parker, esquires, for *Ile of Wight*.
 Joseph Jones, and William Fitzhugh, esquires, for *King George*.
 George Brooke, and George Lyne, esquires, for *King & Queen*.
 Carter Braxton, and William Aylett, esquires, for *King William*.
 James Selden, and Charles Carter, esquires, for *Lancaster*.
 Francis Peyton, and Josiah Clapham, esquires, for *Loudoun*.
 Thomas Johnson, and Thomas Walker, esquires, for *Louisa*.
 David Garland, and Thomas Tabb, esquires, for *Lunenburg*.
 James Montague, esquire, for *Middlesex*.
 Robert Burton, and Bennett Goode, esquires, for *Mecklenburg*.
 Andrew Meade, and James Murdeagh, esquires, for *Nansemond*.
 Burwell Bassett, and Bartholomew Dandridge, esquires, for *New Kent*.
 Thomas Newton, and James Holt, esquires, for *Norfolk county*.
 Peter Presley Thornton, and Rodham Kenner, esquires, for *Nor-
thumberland*.
 Thomas Barbour, esquire, for *Orange*.

Robert Lawfon, and William Bibb, esquires, for *Prince Edward*.

Richard Bland, and Peter Poythress, esquires, for *Prince George*.

William Robinson, esquire, for *Princess Anne*.

Henry Lee, and Thomas Blackburn, esquires, for *Prince William*.

Robert Wormeley Carter, esquire, for *Richmond*.

Edwin Gray, esquire, for *Southampton*.

George Stubblefield, and Mann Page, jun. esquires, for *Spotsylvania*.

Charles Carter, and Thomas Ludwell Lee, esquires, for *Stafford*.

Allen Cocke, and Nicholas Faulcon, esquires, for *Surry*.

David Mason, and Henry Gee, esquires, for *Suffex*.

William Langhorne, esquire, for *Warwick*.

Richard Lee, and John A. Washington, esquires, for *Westmoreland*.

Dudley Digges, and Thomas Nelson, esquires, for *York*.

Champion Travis, esquire, for *Jamestown*.

Joseph Hutchings, esquire, for *Norfolk borough*.

The Hon. *Peyton Randolph*, esquire, was unanimously elected president of this Convention, and mr. *John Tazewell* clerk.

Resolved, that this Convention will observe, in their debates and proceedings, the same rules and orders as are established in the House of Burgesses of this colony.

Resolved, that the rev. *Miles Selden* be appointed chaplain to this Convention, and that he be desired to read prayers every morning at 8 o'clock; and also to preach a sermon on *Thursday* next, being the day recommended by the General Congress to be kept as a solemn fast.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, JULY 18, 1775.

On a motion made,

Resolved, **T**HAT this Convention will immediately resolve itself into a committee to take into consideration the state of the colony. The Convention accordingly resolved itself into the said committee; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Bland* reported, that the committee had had under their consideration the state of the colony, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee, to take under their farther consideration the state of the colony.

A petition of *William Preston*, gentleman, surveyor of *Fincastle* county, setting forth, that early in the month of *April* last he had received instructions from lord *Dunmore* to survey lands in the uninhabited parts of this colony, agreeable to a proclamation his lordship had just then issued, and which was under the consideration of the late Convention; but as there was then no final determination respecting it, he apprehended the same was tacitly allowed, to prevent disputes among the first settlers of such lands. That he gave directions to his assistants to survey a small district of land each, until it could be known what report the committee appointed by the late Convention would make. That he hath given the strongest assurances no survey should be returned, under the said instructions, without the approbation of the House of Burgesses, or this Convention; yet that many persons were displeased with his conduct, not knowing the motives on which he acted. And praying, that this Convention will take the same under their most serious consideration; as nothing is farther from his intentions than to carry into execution any ministerial instructions contrary to the chartered rights or real interest of his country, let the consequence be what it will to his family or private emolument.

Also a petition from the committee of *Fincastle* county, complaining that surveys had been made in consequence of lord *Dunmore's* proclamation and instructions, contrary to the ancient usage of taking up lands in this colony, which were likely to be the occasion of much confusion and litigation; and praying the advice of this Convention in the premises, were severally presented to the Convention, and read.

Ordered, that the said petitions be referred to *mr. Nicholas*, *mr. Bland*, *mr. Cary*, *mr. Mercer*, *mr. Lewis*, *mr. Jones*, *mr. Carrington*, *mr. Rootes*, and *mr. Thomas Walker*; and that they inquire into the allegations thereof, and report the same, with their opinion thereupon, to the Convention.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, JULY 19, 1775.

Resolved, THAT the rev. *Charles Minn Thruston* be desired to read prayers to this Convention, and to preach to-morrow, in the room of the rev. *Miles Selden*, who is at present indisposed.

The order of the day being read, the Convention resolved itself into a committee to take into their farther consideration the state of the colony; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Bland* reported, that the committee had had the same under their consideration, and had come to a resolution thereon, which he read in his place, and then delivered it in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that a sufficient armed force be immediately raised and embodied, under proper officers, for the defence and protection of this colony.

Ordered, that mr. *Bland*, mr. *Robert Carter Nicholas*, mr. *Mercer*, mr. *Jones*, mr. *George Mason*, mr. *Rootes*, mr. *Stephen*, mr. *Zane*, mr. *Banister*, mr. *Blackburn*, mr. *Thruston*, mr. *Thomas Ludwell Lee*, mr. *Braxton*, mr. *Nelson*, mr. *Woodford*, mr. *Henry Lee*, and mr. *Christian*, do prepare and bring in an ordinance pursuant to the said resolution.

Resolved, that this Convention will again resolve itself into a committee, on *Friday* next, to take into their farther consideration the state of the colony.

Adj. n. ed till *Friday*, 9 o'clock.

F R I D A Y, JULY 21, 1775.

THE president laid before the Convention a letter from *James Wood*, esq; on the subject of *Indian* affairs; which was read, and ordered to lie on the table, for the perusal of the members.

The proceedings at a treaty lately concluded with the *Indians* at *Pittsburg*, together with several resolutions of the committee for the county of *Augusta*, were laid before the Convention, and read.

Ordered, that the said proceedings and resolutions be referred to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony.

A petition of sundry persons, freeholders of the county of *Berkeley*, complaining of an undue election and return of *Mr. Adam Stephen* to serve in this Convention for the county of *Berkeley*, and also the proceedings of the committee of the said county relating thereto, were presented to the Convention, and read.

Ordered, that the said petition and proceedings be referred to *Mr. Digges*, *Mr. Robert Carter Nicholas*, *Mr. Bland*, *Mr. Cary*, *Mr. Jones*, *Mr. Braxton*, *Mr. Fitzbush*, *Mr. Carter of Stafford*, *Mr. Carter of Lancaster*, *Mr. Carrington*, *Mr. Nelson*, *Mr. David Mason*, *Mr. Bassett*, *Mr. Dandridge*, *Mr. Holt*, *Mr. Henry Lee*, *Mr. Richard Lee*, *Mr. Mercer*, *Mr. Fleming*, *Mr. Page*, and *Mr. McDowell*; and they are to examine the matter thereof, and report the same, together with their opinion thereupon, to the Convention.

Resolved, that eleven of the said committee be a sufficient number to proceed on business.

Resolved, that it be an instruction to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance, for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, that they receive a clause, or clauses, for the pay and support of the forces so to be raised.

Ordered, that *Mr. Marshall*, *Mr. Dandridge*, and *Mr. Rutherford*, be added to the said committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y, JULY 22, 1775.

RICHARD BLAND, esq; a member of this Convention, and one of the deputies appointed to represent this colony in General Congress, informed the Convention, that certain false and scandalous reports, highly reflecting on him in his publick character, had been propagated; to wit, that he had made application to the earl of *Dartmouth*, or some of the ministry, for an appointment to collect the taxes imposed on *America* by parliament; and that, as an inducement to them to grant the same, had promised to promote the designs of the ministry against this country; and also, that his conduct in General Congress had been such that he was obliged suddenly to decamp from the city of *Philadelphia*.

That he had served as a member of the General Assembly for upwards of 30 years, and hoped the part he had always publicly taken would have secured him, in his age, from an imputation so injurious to his character. That he earnestly requested a full and publick inquiry should be made into the truth of the said reports, and that the rev. *Samuel Sheild* the rev. *John Hurt*, and *Samuel Overton* and *Joseph Smith* who, he understood, had propagated the said reports, should be summoned to attend the said inquiry; and that every other person who had heard any thing of the said reports would also attend, that the fullest examination might be made into the truth thereof.

Resolved, that this Convention will, on *Friday* next, examine into the truth of the reports mentioned in the said information.

Ordered, that *mr. Thomas Claiborne* be appointed messenger to this Convention, and that he summon the rev. *Samuel Sheild*, and the rev. *John Hurt*, and *Samuel Overton* and *Joseph Smith*, to attend this Convention on *Friday* next.

Ordered, that *mr. Travis* be added to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence of this colony.

Adjourned till *Monday*, 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, JULY 24, 1775.

THE president laid before the Convention a letter just received from the deputies appointed to represent this colony in General Congress, enclosing several resolutions and proceedings of the General Congress; which were read, and ordered to lie on the table.

On a motion made,

Resolved, that no flour, wheat, or other grain, or provisions of any kind, be exported from this colony, to any part of the world, from and after the fifth day of *August* next, until the Convention or Assembly, or the Honourable the Continental Congress, shall order otherwise; that no quantities of the said articles, more than are necessary for the use of the inhabitants, be brought to, collected, or stored, in the towns, or other places, upon or near the navigable waters; that the respective county committees be directed to take

care that this resolve be effectually carried into execution; and that all contracts made for the sale and delivery of any such articles for exportation, between this time and the tenth day of *September* next, be considered as null and void.

Ordered, that *Mr. Thomas Walker* be added to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony,

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock,

T U E S D A Y, JULY 25, 1775.

Ordered, **T**HAT *Mr. Cary, Mr. William Cabell, Mr. Bassett, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Peyton, Mr. John Nicholas, and Mr. Carrington,* be added to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony.

A memorial of the committee for the county of *Chesterfield* was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that doubts had arisen whether the volunteers raised for the defence of this colony were under the command of the officers of the militia, which were likely to be productive of many inconveniencies, and praying that the same may be taken into consideration, and that such regulations may be made therein as will best answer the design of the Convention in raising the said volunteers.

Ordered, that the said memorial be referred to the consideration of the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony.

The committee to whom the late treaty with the different tribes of *Indians* at *Pittsburg*, together with several resolutions of the committee on the *Western Waters* of *Augusta* county, were referred, reported, that they had had the same under their consideration, and come to the following resolutions:

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the committee of the county of *Augusta* have acted with the greatest propriety and prudence, and that the expenses of the treaty, and the money advanced in presents to the *Indians*, ought to be reimbursed by the publick.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that two companies of one hundred men each, besides officers, ought, with all convenient speed, to be stationed at *Pittsburg*; one other company, of one hundred men, at *Point Pleasant*; twenty five men at fort *Fincastle*, at the mouth of *Weeling*; and that one hundred men be stationed at proper posts in the county of *Fincastle*; for the protection of the inhabitants on the south-western frontiers, exclusive of the troops to be raised for the defence of the lower parts of the country.

The said resolutions being severally read a second time, were agreed to by the Convention.

Resolved, that the thanks of this Convention be presented to the committee on the *Western Waters of Augusta*, for their great prudence in conducting the treaty with the *Indians*, and securing the important fort at *Pittsburg*.

Ordered, that *Patrick Kirk* be paid as a publick express for bringing down the treaty with the *Indians*, and other proceedings relating thereto, to this Convention.

Resolved, that eleven of the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony be a sufficient number to proceed on business.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in an ordinance to make provision for defraying the expenses of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, and for paying the same; and that *mr. Zane* do prepare and bring in the said ordinance.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in an ordinance for regulating the election of delegates and committees for the several counties and corporations in this colony; and that *mr. Cary*, *mr. Digges*, *mr. Watkins*, *mr. Lawson*, *mr. Ruffin*, and *mr. Banister*, do prepare and bring in the same.

Ordered, that *mr. William Dandridge, jun.* be appointed clerk to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony.

Adjourned till *Thursday*, 9 o'clock,

T H U R S D A Y, JULY 27, 1775.

Resolved, **T**HAT this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee to take under consideration the state of the colony.

Ordered, that the letter from the deputies appointed to represent this colony in General Congress, together with the papers enclosed therein, be referred to the said committee.

The committee to whom the petition of sundry inhabitants of the county of *Berkeley* was referred reported, that they had had the same under their consideration, agreed upon a report, and come to a resolution thereupon; which was read, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to by the Convention, as follows:

It appears to your committee, that col. *Adam Stephen*, with the approbation of some of the committee of the county of *Berkeley*, caused notice to be given, appointed a day for the election of delegates to represent the said county in General Convention, and that such notice was published about ten days before the day of election, but was not generally known by the inhabitants of the said county; it appearing to your committee, that the inhabitants of two precincts of the said county were almost wholly unacquainted therewith, and therefore did not attend on the day of election. It also appears to your committee, that col. *Adam Stephen*, who was commander in chief of the said county, had, previous to his appointing the day of election of delegates, ordered a general muster of the militia on the same day, at which a considerable number of people attended, and were exercised and kept under arms for several hours, and were then marched directly to the courthouse, and proceeded immediately to vote for delegates to represent the said county in General Convention.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the election of delegates for the county of *Berkeley* was irregular, and that the freeholders of the said county, after due and regular notice being publickly given, ought to proceed to a new election of delegates to represent them in General Convention.

A letter from *Ouconostota*, the great Indian warriour, was laid before the Convention, and read.

Ordered, that the said letter, together with the other papers relative to *Indian* affairs, be referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the colony,

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

F R I D A Y, JULY 28, 1775.

Ordered, **T**HAT mr. *David Mafon*, and mr. *Reade*, be added to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony.

The Convention, according to the order of the day, went into an examination of the reports said to have been propagated to the prejudice of *Richard Bland*, esq; a member of this Convention, and one of the deputies appointed to represent this colony in General Congress; and, after examination of the rev. *Samuel Sheild*, and the rev. *John Hurt*, and many other witnesses, and a full inquiry into the same, do find the said reports to be utterly false and groundless, and tending not only to injure the said *Richard Bland* in his publick character, but to prejudice the glorious cause in which *America* is now embarked.

Resolved unanimously, that this Convention do consider it as their duty to bear to the world their testimony that the said *Richard Bland* hath manifested himself the friend of his country, and uniformly stood forth an able asserter of her rights and liberties.

Ordered, that the president be desired to transnit a copy of the proceedings of this Convention, relative to the said inquiry, to the General Congress.

On the motion of mr. *Bland*,

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the Committee of Correspondence that they also transnit a copy of the said proceedings to *Arthur Lee*, esq; in *London*, and request him to make strict inquiry for the authors and propagators of the said reports in *England*.

The president laid before the Convention a letter from the officers of the volunteer companies in *Williamsburg*, informing the Convention, that they had resolved, immediately, to secure all the publick monies in the hands of the receiver-general, naval officers, and other collec-

tors for his majesty; that they had sent out detachments for that purpose; and desiring the opinion of the Convention relative thereto, as they should cheerfully submit to their determination on the subject.

Resolved, that this Convention will immediately resolve itself into a committee to take the said letter into consideration.

The Convention accordingly resolved itself into a committee; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Bland* reported, that the committee had the letter from the officers of the volunteer companies in *Williamsburg* under their consideration, and had come to a resolution thereupon, which he read in his place, and delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this committee, that the proceedings of the officers of the volunteer companies in *Williamsburg*, mentioned in their letter to the Convention, though they arose from the best motives, cannot be approved, and that they be required to desist from carrying their resolutions into execution.

The order of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the state of the colony, being read,

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into the said committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y, JULY 29, 1775.

THE order of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the state of the colony, being read,

Resolved, that this Convention will on *Monday* next resolve itself into the said committee.

On a motion made,

Resolved, that the several inspectors of this colony be directed to preserve the trash tobacco at their respective inspections, for the purpose of making saltpetre; and that they deliver the same, when required, to such person, or persons, as may be appointed for that purpose by the committee of the county.

Resolved, that the several inspectors of the publick warehouses in this colony do, some time before the last of *August* next, and after

advertising the same in the publick papers, at the warehouses, and at the courthouses of their respective counties, sell, for ready money, all transfer and other tobacco, which may have laid one year in their respective warehouses, and pay the money arising from such sale, as the law directs.

Resolved, that the chairman of the committees of the several counties do, without delay, procure all the saltpetre and sulphur which may be had, and that the same be paid for by the publick; and it is earnestly recommended to all persons in this colony to be assisting in procuring those necessary articles, and cheerfully to deliver to the said chairman what they may have in their families, except so much as may be necessary for medicinal purposes.

Adjourned till Monday, 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, JULY 31, 1775.

THE order of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the state of the colony, being read,
Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into the said committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, AUGUST 1, 1775.

APETITION and remonstrance from the merchants of the borough of Norfolk, and also instructions from the committee of the said borough to their delegates in Convention, setting forth the great hardships and inconveniencies to which they should be reduced by the resolution entered into by this Convention for stopping the exportation of grain and provisions after the fifth day of this month, and praying that the same might be rescinded, was presented to the Convention, and read.

Ordered, that the said petition and remonstrance, together with the said instructions, do lie on the table.

The Convention then, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee to take into consideration the state of the colony; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. Bland reported, that the committee had had the state of the

colony under their consideration, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will, on *Thursday* next, resolve itself into a committee to take into their farther consideration the state of the colony.

Adjourned till *Thursday*, 9 o'clock.

T H U R S D A Y, AUGUST 3, 1775.

A PETITION from the committee of the county of *Northampton*, complaining of the great hardships and inconveniencies to which the inhabitants of their county would be particularly exposed by the resolution entered into by this Convention for stopping the exportation of grain and provisions after the fifth day of this month, and praying that they might have liberty to export their grain till the tenth of *September*, agreeable to the resolutions of the Continental Congress, was presented to the Convention, and read.

Ordered, that the said petition do lie on the table.

A letter from the committee of the borough of *Norfolk*, informing the Convention of the arrival of troops from *St. Augustine*, about sixty in number, under the command of one captain and two lieutenants; that they had learned, from good authority, another vessel, with more forces, might be hourly expected; that at present they were under no apprehensions from the troops, but found exceeding bad effects among the slaves from the neighbourhood of the men of war, which they had great reason to believe would be very much increased by the arrival of these troops.

Also a letter from the officers of the volunteer companies in *Williamsburg*, requesting that some certain line for their conduct might be laid down, lest, in their zeal to serve their country, they might precipitate their countrymen into unnecessary calamities; informing the Convention, that the governour's cutter had carried off a number of slaves belonging to private gentlemen, and that they thought it high time to establish the doctrine of reprisal; that one *Phillips* commanded an ignorant disorderly mob, in direct opposition to the measures of this country, and they wished to crush such attempts in embryo, and to take every advantage a kind providence might make them masters of;

acknowledging the execution of the measures they had formerly laid before the Convention, though ever so proper, ought first to have received the sanction of this Convention; that they stood reproved for their too precipitate conduct on that occasion, and held themselves in readiness to execute any instructions the Convention should be pleased to give, at the expense of life and fortune; were laid before the Convention, and read,

Resolved, that the said letters be referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the colony.

The Convention then, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into the said committee; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Bland* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the state of the colony, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee to take into their farther consideration the state of the colony.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

F R I D A Y, AUGUST 4, 1775.

Ordered, **T**HAT the petition and remonstrance from the borough of *Norfolk*, the instructions from the committee of the said borough, and the petition from the committee of the county of *Northampton*, be referred to the committee appointed to take into consideration the state of the colony.

The Convention then, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the state of the colony; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Bland* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the state of the colony, and had come to several resolutions thereupon, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, and agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, that the instructions from the committee of the borough of *Norfolk*, and the petition from the committee of the county of

Northampton, are decent and respectful, and that they merit due consideration.

Resolved, that the petition and remonstrance of the merchants and traders of the borough of *Norfolk* is indecent, highly reflecting on the honour of the General Convention, and directly tending to destroy that necessary confidence reposed by the good people of this colony in their representatives, regularly deputed to guard and preserve their just rights and privileges.

Resolved, that the former resolution of the Convention, for restraining the exportation of provisions, was not adopted with great haste, as unjustly insinuated in the said petition and remonstrance; but that it was done on the maturest deliberation, a member of the Convention having given previous notice, that, at a future day, he intended to move for such a resolution, the substance of which was fairly and candidly laid open for the consideration of the different members, and the motion not made till several days after such notice.

Resolved, that the merchants and traders of the borough of *Norfolk*, being as properly and fully represented in the Convention as other parts of this colony, it is unreasonable in them to expect, especially at this alarming crisis, that any important business, in which not only this colony, but the whole continent, is essentially and deeply interested, should be suspended till their particular opinions can be asked on the subject.

Resolved, that although it is with concern this Convention at any time adopts resolutions by which individuals may be materially affected, yet it becomes their duty, as good citizens, to acquiesce in such measures as are calculated for the general publick weal.

Resolved, that the resolution complained of was adopted on the fullest conviction of its utility, founded on certain facts, some of which the Continental Congress, in all probability, could not be well acquainted with; and that the Convention consider it as their indispensable duty to pursue such measures as are necessary, not only for their own security, but that of the whole continent.

Resolved, as the opinion of this committee, that the primary and true design of the resolution of the Continental Congress, in allowing a free export till the tenth of *September* next, could only be intended

to respect the crops of the last year; that the members of the Convention, as well for themselves as most of their constituents, offered the greatest sacrifice to the publick good in adopting the resolution complained of, as many of them have large crops of wheat now on hand, equally liable to perish with such grain as may be in the hands of the petitioners and remonstrants. Willing, however, as far as is consistent with the interest of the country, to remove every colourable complaint, this committee doth resolve, that any of the inhabitants of this colony who may have purchased, and have now on hand, any quantities of *Indian* corn of the last crop, for the exportation of which they had actually provided, or chartered vessels previous to the former resolution of this Convention, upon their making these facts appear by proper proofs, that they be allowed to export the same, at any time between this day and the tenth day of *September* next, provided they give a proper and satisfactory assurance to the committee of each county, from which such commodity is to be exported, that they will not, directly or indirectly, suffer the same to be carried to either of the northern colonies.

Resolved, that the committee of each county in this colony, except the counties of *Accomack* and *Northampton*, do immediately appoint one captain, one lieutenant, and ensign, within their county; and that the officers proceed immediately to enlist a company of fifty regulars in each county, to be marched as soon as enlisted to such place of rendezvous as shall be hereafter appointed by this Convention.

Resolved, that five hundred effective men, part of the regulars to be raised for the defence of the colony, be sent for the protection of the towns of *Norfolk* and *Portsmouth*, and the neighbourhood thereof.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee to take into their farther consideration the state of the colony.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y, AUGUST 5, 1775.

On a motion made,

Resolved. **T**HAT any person who shall hereafter accept any office of profit or pecuniary appointment under the crown shall be disqualified from sitting in this Convention, the General Congress, Council of Safety, or County Committee.

Resolved, that no person who shall accept of a commission, as an officer, to command any of the regular forces now to be raised, or which may hereafter be raised, for the defence of this colony, be capable of sitting or voting as a member of the Convention, General Congress, or Committee of Safety, during his continuance in the said office.

Ordered, that it be an instruction to the committee appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance, for regulating the election of delegates and committees, that they receive a clause, or clauses, pursuant to the foregoing resolutions.

On a motion made,

Ordered, that there be a call of the Convention on *Wednesday* next.

Resolved, that this Convention will immediately proceed, by ballot, to the appointment of officers to command the regular forces to be raised for the defence and protection of this colony.

Ordered, that the members of this Convention do immediately prepare tickets to be put into the ballot box, with the name of the person to command the first regiment; which being accordingly done, *Mr. Robert Carter Nicholas*, *Mr. Charles Carter of Lancaster*, *Mr. Lawson*, and *Mr. Dandridge*, were appointed a committee to examine the ballot box, and report to the Convention upon whom the majority falls. The committee then withdrew, and, after some time, reported, that they had, according to order, examined the ballot box, and that the numbers appeared as follows:

For <i>Hugh Mercer</i> , esq;	-	41
<i>Patrick Henry</i> , esq;	-	40
<i>Thomas Nelson</i> , esq;	-	8
<i>William Woodford</i> , esq;	-	1

The question being then put, whether the said *Hugh Mercer* or *Patrick Henry*, esquires, upon whom the greatest numbers fell on the ballot, should be appointed to command the said regiment, the majority appeared in favour of *Patrick Henry*, esquire.

Resolved, therefore, that the said *Patrick Henry*, esq; be appointed colonel of the said first regiment.

The Convention then proceeded, in the same manner, to the appointment of a colonel to command the second regiment; and it ap

pearing, from the report of the committee appointed to examine the ballot box, that there was a majority in the Convention in favour of *Thomas Nelson*, esquire.

Resolved, that the said *Thomas Nelson*, esq; be appointed colonel to the said second regiment.

The Convention then proceeded, in the same manner, to the appointment of a colonel to command the third regiment; and it appearing, from the report of the committee appointed to examine the ballot box, that the numbers stood as follows:

For <i>William Woodford</i> , esq;	-	44
<i>William Christian</i> , esq;	-	36
<i>Hugh Mercer</i> , esq;	-	8

The question was then put, whether the said *William Woodford* or *William Christian*, on whom the greatest numbers fell on the ballot, should be appointed to command the said regiment, the majority appeared in favour of *William Woodford*, esquire.

Resolved therefore, that the said *William Woodford*, esq; be appointed colonel of the said third regiment.

Resolved, that the farther appointment of officers be postponed till *Wednesday* next.

A letter and deposition upon the subject of *Indian* affairs were laid before the Convention, and read.

Ordered, that the said letter and deposition do lie on the table, for the perusal of the members.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in an ordinance for paying the delegates of this and two former Conventions the same wages as are allowed the Burgesses of this colony, and that *mr. Henry Lee* do prepare and bring in the same.

Resolved, that this Convention doth applaud the zeal of the gentlemen officers and volunteers in the city of *Williamsburg*, and do recommend that they keep themselves on the defensive, exerting their utmost endeavours and vigilance to discover and defeat any hostile attempts of the enemies of this country.

Adjourned till *Monday*, 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, AUGUST 7, 1775.

Resolved, **T**HAT this Convention will proceed on *Friday* next to the appointment of deputies to represent this colony in General Congress, and that such appointment be made by ballot.

Resolved, that *John Neavill* be directed to march with his company of one hundred men and take possession of *Fort Pitt*, and that the said company be in the pay of this colony from the time of their marching.

Ordered, that *Edward Sniggars* be employed to furnish provisions for the forces under *John Neavill*, directed to march to, and take possession of, *Fort Pitt*.

Resolved, that it be an instruction to the committee ordered to prepare an ordinance for regulating the election of delegates and committees, in the several counties and corporations in this colony, to receive a clause, or clauses, for settling the allowances to delegates in future, and for their attendance at former Conventions.

Ordered, that the committee appointed to prepare an ordinance for paying the delegates for their attendance, at this and two former Conventions, be discharged from preparing such ordinance.

Resolved, that the Convention will on *Thursday* next resolve itself into a committee, to take under their consideration the state of the colony.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, AUGUST 8, 1775.

A LETTER from the Honourable *Matthew Tilghman*, esq; president of the Convention of the province of *Maryland*, in answer to a letter from the president of this Convention, enclosing the resolution entered into the fourth day of *July* last, to prevent the exportation of flour, wheat, or other grain, or provisions of any kind, from this colony, to any part of the world, from and after the fifth day of this month, was laid before the Convention; and read; and it appearing that the Convention of *Maryland* will not come into a similar resolution, and that the good purposes intended by the said resolution cannot be effected without a general agreement of the neighbouring provinces,

Resolved, therefore, that the above-mentioned resolution of this Convention, for the non-exportation of flour, wheat, or other grain, and provisions, be repealed and rescinded.

Mr. *Robert Carter Nicholas*, from the persons appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, presented to the Convention, according to order, the said ordinance; which was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

The ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, AUGUST 9, 1775.

THE order of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for raising a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, being read, the Convention accordingly resolved itself into the said committee; and after some time spent therein, Mr. President resumed the chair, and Mr. *Bland* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

The orders of the day for a call of the Convention, and for the appointment of officers, being read,

Ordered, that the same be put off till to-morrow.

Patrick Henry, *Edmund Pendleton*, *Benjamin Harrison*, and *Thomas Jefferson*, esquires, appeared in Convention, and took their seats; and the gentlemen appointed to represent their counties, during their necessary absence, retired.

Ordered, that Mr. *Pendleton*, Mr. *Harrison*, Mr. *Henry*, and Mr. *Jefferson*, be added to the committee appointed to take into consideration the governour's proclamation, relative to granting lands in this colony.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

T H U R S D A Y, AUGUST 10, 1775.

THE Convention, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Bland* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the ~~state of the colony~~ ^{said ordinance}, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into the said committee.

The order of the day for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the state of the colony, being read, the Convention accordingly resolved itself into the said committee; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Bland* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the state of the colony, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee to take into their farther consideration the state of the colony.

A memorial of *Charles Duncan*, of the town of *Blandford*, merchant, was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that he had, for some years past, had a store in the county of *Brunswick*, on account of himself and others, his partners, which had for some time past been under the care and management of *Thomas Crawford*, who had always been in the esteem of his customers and acquaintances, and has, ever since the unhappy dispute with *Great Britain*, endeavoured to conduct himself in such a manner as to avoid giving cause of offence to any of the inhabitants of this colony, and has also endeavoured, as far as in him lay, to conform to the regulations of the General Congress, and Convention of this colony; that, under these circumstances, he hoped he should have been allowed to transact business, and conduct his own affairs in quiet and security, without being called upon, or compelled, to enlist as soldiers, or take part in any military regulations, other than such as were prescribed by the laws of the colony, or the recommendation of the Convention; but

that such was the unhappy situation of himself, his partners, and servants, in the county of *Brunswick*, that they have been called upon, by the gentlemen who command the volunteer company in the said county, to enlist as soldiers therein, under pain of incurring the displeasure of the said company, and of being treated as enemies to the country, with no other alternative left them than either to desert the property and interest which they have in the said county, or remain therein to protect the same at the hazard of all that is dear and valuable to freemen and good citizens; and praying that this Convention would take the same into consideration, and do therein as should appear just and reasonable.

Ordered, that the President be desired to write to the commanding officers of the said company, requiring them to desist from a farther prosecution of the measures mentioned in the said memorial.

On a motion made,

Resolved, that the powder purchased by *Patrick Henry*, esq; for the use of this colony, be immediately sent for, and applied by the deputies appointed to represent this colony in General Congress in such manner as they shall judge most for the interest of this colony.

Mr. Henry Pendleton, a member for the county of *Culpeper*, appeared in Convention, and took his seat.

Lewis Burwell, esq; a member for the county of *Gloucester*, appeared in Convention, and took his seat.

The order of the day, for the Convention to proceed to the appointment of officers to command the regular forces to be raised for the defence and protection of the colony, being read,

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow proceed to the said appointments.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

F R I D A Y, AUGUST II, 1775.

Ordered, **T**HAT *Mr. Thomas Walker*, and *Mr. John Walker*, have leave to be absent from the service of this Convention for the remainder of the session.

Mr. Richard Henry Lee appeared in Convention, and took his seat as a member for the county of *Westmoreland*.

A letter from the officers of the volunteer companies in *Williamsburg* was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that they had seized a vessel outward bound, laden with bread and flour; that the captain informed them, that the Convention had come to a resolution posterious to that by which the exportation of grain and provisions was stopped after the fifth instant, and had allowed a free export till the time limited by the General Congress; that, under these circumstances, they applied themselves to the Convention for information, and requested certain directions by which they might regulate their conduct on similar occasions.

Resolved, that the President be desired to write to the officers of the said volunteer companies, informing them that the Convention is well pleased with the zeal they have shewn on this occasion to carry into execution their resolutions; that it is true, as the captain had informed them, that the Convention had rescinded their former resolution, in consequence of a letter from *Maryland*, by which they were informed that province could not come into a similar one.

On a motion made,

Ordered, that the commissioners appointed by the House of Burgesses to examine, state, and settle the accounts of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, do also state and report the case of such wounded foldiers, and poor widows and orphans, as may have suffered by the late expedition against the *Indians*.

The Convention being about to proceed to the choice of deputies to represent this colony in General Congress, *Edmund Pendleton*, esq; expressed his most grateful acknowledgments for the honour done him in two former appointments to that important trust, but, on account of the declining state of his health, entreated to be excused from the present nomination; which excuse being accepted,

Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this Convention are justly due to his excellency *George Washington*, esq; *Patrick Henry*, and *Edmund Pendleton*, esquires, three of the worthy deputies who represented this colony in the late Continental Congress, for their faithful discharge of that important trust; and this body are only induced to dispense with their future services, of the like nature, by the appointment of the two former to other offices in the publick service, incompatible with their attendance on this, and the infirm state of health of the latter.

Mr. President accordingly delivered the thanks of the Convention to Mr. Henry and Mr. Pendleton in their places, who expressed the great pleasure they received from this distinguished testimony of their country's approbation of their services.

Resolved, that the President be desired to transmit the thanks of this Convention, by letter, to his excellency general *Washington*.

The Convention then proceeded, according to the order of the day, to the appointment of deputies to represent this colony in General Congress for one year; and the members having prepared tickets with the names of the deputies to be appointed, and put the same into the ballot box, Mr. Robert Carter Nicholas, Mr. Cary, Mr. Pendleton, and Mr. Adams, were appointed a committee to examine the ballot box, and report upon whom the majority fell, who retired, and after some time returned into Convention, and reported, that they had, according to order, examined the ballot box, and that the numbers appeared as follows:

For Peyton Randolph, esq;	89
Richard Henry Lee, esq;	88
Thomas Jefferson, esq;	85
Benjamin Harrison, esq;	83
Thomas Nelson, esq;	66
Richard Bland, esq;	61
George Wythe, esq;	58

Resolved, that the said PEYTON RANDOLPH, RICHARD HENRY LEE, THOMAS JEFFERSON, BENJAMIN HARRISON, THOMAS NELSON, RICHARD BLAND, and GEORGE WYTHE, esquires, be appointed deputies to represent this colony in General Congress for one year; and that they have power to meet and adjourn, for such time, and to such place, or places, as may be thought most proper.

Resolved, that the said deputies, or any four of them, be a sufficient number to represent this colony.

Ordered, that Mr. George Mason, and Mr. Harvie, be added to the committee appointed to inquire into the petitions of William Preston, gentleman, and the committee of the county of Fincastle.

The orders of the day, for the committee to proceed to the appointment of officers to command the regular forces to be raised for the defence and protection of this colony, for the Convention to resolve itself into

a committee on the state of the colony, and for a call of the Convention, being read,

Resolved, that the call of the Convention be postponed till to-morrow; and that the Convention will then proceed to the appointment of the said officers, and resolve itself into a committee on the state of the colony.

The Convention, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for raising a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Bland* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the ordinance for raising a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into the said committee, to take into their farther consideration the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y, AUGUST 12, 1775.

RICHARD BLAND, esq; returned the Convention his most grateful acknowledgments for the great honour they had pleased a third time to confer on him, by appointing him one of the deputies to represent this colony in General Congress, and said this fresh instance of their approbation was sufficient for an old man, almost deprived of sight, whose greatest ambition had ever been to receive the plaudit of his country, whenever he should retire from the publick stage of life; that the honourable testimony he lately received of this approbation, joined with his present appointment, should ever animate him, as far as he was able, to support the glorious cause in which America was now engaged; but that his advanced age rendered him incapable of taking an active part in these weighty and important concerns which must necessarily be agitated in the great council of the united colonies, and therefore begging leave to decline the honour they had been pleased to confer on him, and desiring that some person more fit and able might supply his place.

Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this Convention are justly due to the said *Richard Bland*, esq; one of the worthy deputies who represented this colony in the late Continental Congress, for his faithful discharge of that important trust; and this body are only induced to dispense with his future services, of the like nature, on account of his advanced age.

The President accordingly delivered the thanks of the Convention to the said *Richard Bland*, esq; in his place, who expressed the great pleasure he received from this distinguished testimony of his country's approbation of his services.

Resolved, that this Convention will, on *Tuesday* next, proceed to the appointment of a deputy to represent this colony in the room of the said *Richard Bland*, esquire.

Mr. Cary, from the persons appointed, presented to the Convention, according to order, an ordinance for regulating the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committee-men in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and the same was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

A letter from the officers of the volunteer companies in *Williamsburg* was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that the bearer, mr. *John Farquharson*, had supplied the troops under their command with all kinds of vegetables, and they had conceived an exceeding good opinion of him, and hoped he would meet with the favour and approbation of the Convention.

Ordered, that the said letter do lie on the table.

An ordinance for regulating the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committee-men in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned, was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

Resolved, that this Convention will, on *Monday* next, resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

The members from the county of *Frederick* informed the Convention, that some gentlemen in their county had purchased a number of

rifles, and a quantity of gunpowder, at a low rate, which they were willing, and proposed, to deliver up for the use of the publick at the same price at which those articles had been purchased by them.

Ordered, that *mr. Bland*, *mr. Pendleton*, *mr. Henry*, *mr. Cary*, and *mr. Richard Henry Lee*, be a committee to examine and state the said proposition, and report the same, together with their opinion thereupon, to the Convention.

Resolved, that the resolution of this Convention, directing the committees of the several counties to appoint officers, and to have fifty men immediately enlisted in each county, be rescinded; and that where any officers have been appointed, and men enlisted, in pursuance of the said resolution, they be immediately disbanded.

Resolved, that the officers so appointed, and men so enlisted, be in the pay of this colony from the time of their appointment and enlistment to the time of their being disbanded.

Ordered, that *mr. Adams*, *mr. Randolph*, *mr. Carrington*, *mr. Pendleton*, and *mr. Mayo*, be a committee to examine, state, and report, the claims of such officers and men who shall apply to them for that purpose; and that the committee appointed by the House of Burgesses to examine, state, and settle, the claims of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, do also examine, state, and settle, the claims of such officers and men as may have been appointed and enlisted under the former resolution in the counties of *Frederick* and *Augusta*.

Mr. Zane, from the persons appointed, presented, according to order, an ordinance for appointing commissioners to settle the accounts of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, and for making provision to pay the same; which was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

The Convention, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony; and after some time spent therein, *mr. President* resumed the chair, and *mr. Robert Carter Nicholas* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the said ordinance, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will, on *Monday* next, resolve itself into the said committee.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in an ordinance to encourage the making saltpetre, gunpowder, lead, the refining sulphur, and providing arms, for the use of the colony; and that *mr. Richard Henry Lee*, *mr. Henry*, *mr. Robert Carter Nicholas*, *mr. Cary*, *mr. Lynch*, and *mr. Pendleton*, do prepare and bring in the same.

The order of the day, for a call of the Convention, and for the appointment of officers to command the regular forces to be raised for the defence of this colony, being read,

Resolved, that this Convention will, on *Monday* next, proceed to the appointment of the said officers; and that the order for the call of the Convention be put off till *Tuesday* next.

Adjourned till *Monday*, 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, AUGUST 14, 1775.

THE Convention being informed, that lord *Dunmore* was meditating an hostile march, with an armed force, to attack the city of *Williamsburg*,

Resolved, that the committee for the said city, and the committees of *York* and *James City*, be desired to pay particular attention to the subject; and if lord *Dunmore*, or any other person, shall land, or attempt to land, any armed troops in their neighbourhood, that they immediately request the assistance of the volunteer companies now in that city to repel such troops by force; and, it need be, to call in the assistance of the volunteer companies, or militia, for effecting that purpose.

A resolution of the General Congress, recommending the making of saltpetre, and several methods which had been practised with success, was laid before the Convention, and ordered to be referred to the committee appointed to bring in an ordinance to encourage the making saltpetre, gunpowder, lead, the refining sulphur, and providing arms for the use of the colony.

The Convention then, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony; and after some time spent therein, *mr. President* resumed the chair, and *mr. Robert Carter Nicholas* reported, that the committee had, according to

order, had under their consideration the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, and had made a farther progress therein, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

Ordered, that mr. *Nelson* have leave to be absent from the service of this Convention for the remainder of the session.

The orders of the day, for the Convention to proceed to the appointment of officers to command the regular forces to be raised for the defence and protection of this colony, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for regulating the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committee-men in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned, and for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the state of the colony, being read,

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance, and will on *Wednesday* next proceed to the appointment of the said officers.

Ordered, that mr. *Richard Henry Lee* be added to the committee appointed to inquire into the petitions of *William Preston*, gentleman, and the petition from the committee of the county of *Fincastle*.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, A U G U S T 15, 1775.

On a motion made,

Resolved, **T**HAT *Robert Carter Nicholas*, esq; be directed to pay the officers and soldiers of the two rifle companies sent from the counties of *Frederick* and *Berkeley*, to serve in the continental army, such sums of money, out of the publick treasury, as will make their pay equal to the pay of the officers of the like rank, and soldiers, who were on the late *Indian* expedition commanded by lord *Dunmore*, including the pay allowed by the Continental Congress.

Mr. *Robert Carter Nicholas*, from the committee to whom the petitions of the surveyor and committee of the county of *Fincastle*, and a proclamation of lord *Dunmore*, dated the 8th of *May 1775*, were referred, reported, that they had had the same under their consideration, and had come to the following resolution thereupon; which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same was again twice read, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, that until the committee appointed by the Convention in *March* last, to inquire whether the king may of right advance the terms of granting lands in this colony, shall have made their report, the recommendation then made, that all persons should forbear to purchase or accept grants of lands under the late instructions from the governour, be observed; and that, in the mean-time, all surveyors be, and they are hereby directed, to make no surveys under the said instructions, nor pay any regard to the said proclamation.

The Convention then, according to the order of the day, proceeded to the appointment of a deputy to represent this colony in General Congress, in the room of *Richard Bland*, esq; who hath declined the said appointment; and the members having prepared tickets with the name of the deputy to be appointed, and put the same into the ballot box, mr. *Robert Carter Nicholas*, mr. *Pendleton*, mr. *Henry*, mr. *George Mason*, and mr. *Cary*, were appointed a committee to examine the ballot box, and report on whom the majority fell, who retired, and after some time returned into Convention, and reported, that the members on the ballot stood as follows:

For <i>Francis Lightfoot Lee</i> , esq;	-	37
<i>Carter Braxton</i> , esq;	-	36
<i>John Banister</i> , esq;	-	I
<i>George Mason</i> , esq;	-	I

And the question being then put, whether the said *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, or the said *Carter Braxton*, who appeared to have the greatest numbers on the ballot, should be appointed a deputy to represent this colony in General Congress, the majority appeared in favour of the said *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, esquire.

Resolved therefore, that the said *Francis Lightfoot Lee*, esq; be appointed a deputy to represent this colony in General Congress.

The order of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for the election of delegates, and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committeemen in the several counties and corporations in this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned, being read,

The Convention accordingly resolved itself into the said committee; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Robert Carter Nicholas* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the said ordinance, and had made a considerable progress therein, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

The orders of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the state of the colony, and on the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, being read,

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance, and on the state of the colony.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, AUGUST 16, 1775.

A N address from the Baptists in this colony was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that however distinguished from the body of their countrymen, by appellatives and sentiments of a religious nature, they nevertheless consider themselves as members of the same community in respect to matters of a civil nature, and embarked in the same common cause; that, alarmed at the oppression which hangs over *America*, they had considered what part it would be proper to take in the unhappy contest, and had determined that in some cases it was lawful to go to war, and that they ought to make a military resistance against *Great Britain* in her unjust invasion, tyrannical oppressions, and repeated hostilities; that their brethren were left at discretion to enlist, without incurring the censure of their religious community; and, under these circumstances, many of them had enlisted as soldiers, and many more were ready to do so, who had an

earnest desire their ministers should preach to them during the campaign; that they had therefore appointed four of their brethren to make application to this Convention for the liberty of preaching to the troops at convenient times, without molestation or abuse, and praying the same may be granted them.

Resolved, that it be an instruction to the commanding-officers of the regiments or troops to be raised that they permit dissenting clergymen to celebrate divine worship, and to preach to the soldiers, or exhort, from time to time, as the various operations of the military service may permit, for the ease of such scrupulous consciences as may not choose to attend divine service as celebrated by the chaplain.

The Convention then, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the state of the colony; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Robert Carter Nicholas* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the state of the colony, and had come to several resolutions thereupon, which he read in his place, and then delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, and agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, that for the more effectual carrying into execution the several rules and regulations established by this Convention, for the defence and protection of this colony, a Committee of Safety be appointed, to consist of eleven members, to be chosen by ballot, by the members of this Convention, who are to continue to the next sitting of the Convention, or for one year, in case the Convention shall not meet within that time.

Resolved, that no member of the Committee of Safety shall hold any military office whatsoever after the end of this session of the Convention.

Ordered, that mr. *Robert Carter Nicholas*, mr. *Henry*, mr. *Richard Henry Lee*, mr. *Jones*, and mr. *Jefferson*, be a committee to prepare and bring in an ordinance pursuant to the said resolutions.

Ordered, that leave be given to bring in an ordinance for establishing a general test in this colony, and that mr. *Parker* and mr. *George Mason* do prepare and bring in the same.

A letter from the committee on the *Western Waters of Augusta*, enclosing several papers on the subject of *Indian* affairs, was laid before the Convention, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, that *mr. Jefferson* have leave of absence from the service of this Convention for the remainder of the session.

The orders of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for regulating the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committee-men in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned, for the Convention to proceed to the appointment of officers to command the regular forces to be raised for the defence and protection of this colony, and for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, being read.

Resolved, that the same be postponed till to-morrow.

It being observed, with great concern, that the President was much indisposed, and that the time of his departure for the General Continental Congress was nearly approaching, it was unanimously recommended to him to retire for the present from the fatigues of the business of this Convention; in which he was pleased, though with reluctance, to acquiesce. It was then unanimously resolved, that the thanks of this Convention be presented to his Honour the President for his unremitted attention to the important interests of this country, and his unwearied application to, and able, faithful, and impartial discharge of, the duties of his office; assuring him, that he hath the warmest wishes of this Convention for a speedy return of health, and uninterrupted enjoyment of every felicity.

Adjourned till to morrow, 9 o'clock.

T H U R S D A Y, AUGUST 17, 1775.

THE delegates being assembled, *Edmund Pendleton*, esq; a member for the county of *Caroline*, reminded them that the honourable *Peyton Randolph*, esq; having, in consequence of what was yesterday recommended to him by the Convention, retired, it became necessary that they should proceed to the choice of another president, to act in

that office during his indisposition or absence; and he recommended *Robert Carter Nicholas*, esq; as a gentleman in every respect qualified to fill that important office. Mr. *Nicholas* was then, by general consent, called to the chair; and after being seated, arose and returned his thanks to the Convention for the honour they had been pleased to confer on him. Professions of unworthiness, he said, he considered as more trite than sincere, and therefore declined every thing of that kind; but candour obliged him to acknowledge he felt the greatest diffidence in succeeding to an office lately filled by a worthy gentleman, of confessed abilities, so much to his own honour, and so greatly to the advantage of this Convention.

The President then reminded the Convention how much a due observance of order and decorum redounded to the honour and dignity of every society, and hoped a continuance of the same attention to those objects, which he had been hitherto happy to observe; that, on his part, no endeavours should be wanting to justify their choice; and that, on all occasions, he should conduct himself with the utmost impartiality.

Ordered, that *mr. Thornton*, and *mr. Harvie*, have leave of absence from the service of this Convention for the remainder of the session.

The Convention then proceeded, by ballot, to the appointment of the Committee of Safety; and the members having prepared tickets with the names of eleven persons to be of the said committee, and put the same into the ballot box, *mr. Richard Henry Lee*, *mr. Henry*, *mr. Harrison*, and *mr. Jefferson*, were appointed a committee to examine the same, and report on whom the majority fell, who retired, and after some time returned into Convention, and reported, that the numbers stood as follows:

For <i>Edmund Pendleton</i> , esq;	77	For <i>Dudley Digges</i> , esq;	42
<i>George Mason</i> , esq; -	72	<i>William Cabell</i> , esq;	39
The hon. <i>John Page</i> , esq; -	70	<i>Carter Braxton</i> , esq;	38
<i>Richard Bland</i> , esq; -	66	<i>James Mercer</i> , esq;	38
<i>Thomas Ludwell Lee</i> , esq;	63	<i>John Tabb</i> , esq; -	36
<i>Paul Carrington</i> , esq; -	54		

+ Resolved therefore, that the said Edmund Pendleton, George Mason, John Page, Richard Bland, Thomas Ludwell Lee, Paul Carrington, Dudley Digges, William Cabell, Carter Braxton, James Mercer, and John Tabb, esquires, be appointed members of the said Committee of Safety.

Resolved, that William Woodford, esq; be appointed colonel to the second regiment of regular forces to be raised for the defence and protection of this colony, in the room of Thomas Nelson, esq; who hath declined the said appointment.

The Convention, according to the order of the day, proceeded by ballot to the appointment of a lieutenant-colonel to the first regiment; and the members of the Convention having prepared tickets with the name of the person to be appointed, and put the same into the ballot box, mr. George Mason, mr. Thomas Ludwell Lee, mr. Banister, and mr. Holt, were appointed a committee to examine the ballot box, and report on whom the majority falls; and it appearing, from their report, that there was a majority of the whole Convention in favour of William Christian, esq;

Resolved therefore, that the said William Christian be appointed lieutenant-colonel to the said first regiment.

The Convention proceeded, in the same manner, to the appointment of a lieutenant-colonel to the second regiment; and it appearing, from the report of the committee, that there was a majority of the whole Convention in favour of Charles Scott, esq;

Resolved therefore, that the said Charles Scott be appointed lieutenant-colonel to the second regiment.

The Convention proceeded, in the same manner, to the appointment of a major to the first regiment; and it appearing, from the report of the committee appointed to examine the ballot box, that the numbers stood as follows:

For Francis Eppes, esq;	-	-	39
Alexander Spotswood, esq;	-	-	20
George Matthews, esq;	-	-	12
Alexander M ^c Clanahan, esq;	-	-	9

The question was then put, whether the said Francis Eppes, or the said Alexander Spotswood, on whom the greatest numbers fell on the

ballot, should be appointed major to the first regiment, the majority appeared in favour of *Francis Eppes*, esquire.

Resolved therefore, that the said *Francis Eppes* be appointed major to the said first regiment.

The Convention then proceeded, in the same manner, to the appointment of a major of the second regiment; and it appearing, from the report of the committee appointed to examine the ballot box, that the numbers stood as follows:

For <i>Alexander Spotswood</i> , esq;	-	31
<i>George Matthews</i> , esq;	-	15
<i>Alexander M'Clanahan</i> , esq;	-	13
<i>William Grayson</i> , esq;	-	12

The question was then put, whether the said *Alexander Spotswood*, or the said *George Matthews*, on whom the greatest numbers fell on the ballot, should be appointed major to the second regiment, the majority appeared in favour of *Alexander Spotswood*, esquire.

Resolved therefore, that the said *Alexander Spotswood* be appointed major to the said second regiment.

The Convention proceeded, in the same manner, to the appointment of an adjutant-general; and it appearing, from the report of the committee appointed to examine the ballot box, that there was a majority of the whole Convention in favour of *Thomas Bullitt*, esq;

Resolved therefore, that the said *Thomas Bullitt* be appointed adjutant-general.

The order of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for regulating the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committee-men in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned, and for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, being read,

Resolved, that the Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinances.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

F R I D A Y, AUGUST 18, 1775.

THE Convention, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Harrison* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, and had gone through the same, and made several amendments thereto, which he read in his place, and then delivered in at the clerk's table.

Ordered, that the consideration of the said amendments be postponed till to-morrow.

The order of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committee-men in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned, being read,

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y AUGUST 19, 1775.

THE amendments to the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, yesterday reported by the committee, were twice read, and on the question severally put thereon, agreed to by the Convention.

Ordered, that the said ordinance, with the amendments, be fairly transcribed, and read a third time.

Mr. *Cary*, from the persons appointed, presented to the Convention, according to order, an ordinance for appointing a Committee of Safety, for the more effectual carrying into execution the several rules and regulations established by this Convention for the protection of this colony; and the same was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

Mr. *Cary*, from the persons appointed, presented to the Convention, according to order, an ordinance to encourage the making of saltpetre,

gunpowder, lead, the refining of sulphur, and providing arms for the use of this colony; and the same was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

An ordinance for appointing a Committee of Safety, for the more effectual carrying into execution the several rules and regulations established by this Convention for the protection of this colony, was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

Resolved, that the Convention will, on *Monday* next, resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

An ordinance to encourage the making of saltpetre, gunpowder, lead, the refining of sulphur, and providing arms for the use of this colony, was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

Resolved, that this Convention will, on *Monday* next, resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

Mr. *Mason*, from the persons appointed, presented to the Convention, according to order, an ordinance for establishing a general test; which was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

Ordered, that mr. *Gray*, and mr. *Faulcon*, have leave of absence from the service of this Convention for the remainder of the session.

Ordered, that there be a call of the Convention on *Monday* next.

An ordinance for establishing a general test was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

Resolved, that this Convention will, on *Monday* next, resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

The order of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committeemen in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned, being read,

Resolved, that this Convention will, on *Monday* next, resolve itself into the said committee.

Adjourned till *Monday*, 9 o'clock.

M O N D A Y, *August* 21, 1775.

THE articles for the better government of the forces to be raised and employed in the service of the colony and dominion of Virginia, which had passed through the several stages as part of the ordi-

nance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, were separated therefrom, read a third time, and passed, under the title of *An ordinance for the better government of the forces to be raised and employed in the service of the colony and dominion of Virginia.*

An ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony, having been fairly transcribed, was read a third time, and the blanks therein filled up.

Resolved, that the said ordinance do pass.

Ordered, that mr. Banister, mr. Lawson, mr. Watkins, and mr. Holt, be appointed a committee to draw up and report the forms of proper commissions to be granted to the officers of the regular forces, minute-men, and militia of this colony.

Ordered, that mr. Zane have leave to be absent from the service of this Convention for the remainder of the session.

Ordered, that the clerk do immediately send the ordinance for raising and embodying a sufficient force for the defence and protection of this colony to mr. Alexander Purdie, and the ordinance for the better government of the forces to be raised and employed in the service of the colony and dominion of Virginia to mr. John Pinkney, requesting them to print five hundred copies thereof with all possible expedition.

The orders of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinances For appointing a Committee of Safety, for the more effectual carrying into execution the several rules and regulations established by this Convention for the protection of this colony,---To encourage the making saltpetre, gunpowder, lead, the refining sulphur, and providing arms for the use of this colony,---For the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committee-men in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned,---To establish a general test,---and for a call of the Convention, being read,

Ordered, that the same be put off till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to morrow, 9 o'clock.

T U E S D A Y, AUGUST 22, 1775.

A LETTER from *James Wood*, esq; on the subject of *Indian* affairs, was laid before the Convention, read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Whereas the quiet of this colony will greatly depend upon the county courts attending particularly to the suppression of all irregularities in their respective counties, and whereas the courts held at *Pittsburg* are by writs of adjournment, which renders it impossible to hold courts for suppression of irregularities, or trial of criminals, at *Staunton*, in *East Augusta*, when the adjournment is to *Pittsburg*, and so *vice versa*,

Resolved, that the courts at *Staunton* and *Pittsburg* do proceed in all matters relating to keeping the peace and good behaviour, and in all criminal matters, as if they were distinct counties.

Ordered, that *mr. Richard Lee*, *mr. Peyton*, *mr. Clapham*, *mr. Henry Lee*, and *mr. Blackburn*, have leave to be absent from the service of this Convention for the remainder of the session, they being necessarily called away to settle the accounts of the militia lately drawn out into actual service.

Ordered, that the committee appointed to examine, state, and settle the accounts of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, do make a special report of the expense of building and repairing forts, which is not to be paid without the farther order of the Convention or Assembly; and that the said committee do also make a strict inquiry for all the publick muskets and bayonets lately used in the expedition against the *Indians*, and cause the same to be sent to the commander in chief of the forces to be raised for the defence and protection of this colony.

The Convention, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for appointing a Committee of Safety, for the more effectual carrying into execution the several rules and regulations established by this Convention for the protection of this colony; and after some time spent therein, *mr. President* resumed the chair, and *mr. Harrison* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had the said ordinance under their consideration, and had gone through the same, and made several amendments thereto, which

he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, and on the question severally put thereon, agreed to by the Convention.

Ordered, that the said ordinance, with the several amendments, be fairly transcribed, and read a third time.

The Convention then resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committee-men in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Harrison* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the said ordinance, and had made a considerable progress therein, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

The orders of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinances For establishing a general test, ---To encourage the making saltpetre, gunpowder, lead, the refining sulphur, and providing arms for the use of the colony, ---and the order of the day for a call of the Convention, being read,

Ordered, that the same be put off till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, AUGUST 23, 1775.

A PETITION from the freeholders and inhabitants of the county of *Chesterfield* was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that, agreeable to the eleventh resolution of the Continental Congress, a committee had been chosen in their county, very shortly after the said resolution had been entered into; that not many of the freeholders attended the said election, as few persons had then associated, by which means some persons were chosen of the said committee whom they could by no means think proper; and as the committee is now to transact matters of greater importance than was conceived at the time of their election, they prayed that the said committee might be dissolved, and a new one chosen.

Ordered, that the said petition do lie on the table.

The Convention then, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for regulating the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committee-men in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Harrison* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their farther consideration the said ordinance, and had gone through the same, and made several amendments thereto, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, and on the question severally put thereon, agreed to by the Convention.

Ordered, that the said ordinance, together with the several amendments, be fairly transcribed, and read a third time.

Ordered, that mr. *Lyne* and mr. *Bassett* have leave to be absent from the service of this Convention for the remainder of the session.

An ordinance for appointing commissioners to settle the accounts of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, and for making provision to pay the same, was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

Resolved, that this Convention will immediately resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

The Convention accordingly resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for appointing commissioners to settle the accounts of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, and for making provision to pay the same; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Harrison* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the said ordinance, and had made a considerable progress therein, but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

The orders of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinances For establishing a general test, ---To encour

rage the making saltpetre, gunpowder, lead, the refining sulphur, and providing arms for the use of this colony,---and the order of the day for a call of the Convention, being read.

Ordered, that the same be put off till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

T H U R S D A Y, AUGUST 24, 1775.

THE Convention, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance for appointing commissioners to settle the accounts of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, and for making provision to pay the same; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Harrison* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the said ordinance, and had gone through the same, and made several amendments thereto, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, and on the question severally put thereon, agreed to by the Convention.

Ordered, that the said ordinance, together with the several amendments, be fairly transcribed, and read a third time.

An ordinance, appointing a Committee of Safety, for the more effectual carrying into execution the several rules and regulations established by this Convention for the protection of this colony, having been fairly transcribed, was read the third time, and the blanks therein filled up.

Resolved, that the said ordinance do pass.

The orders of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinances To encourage the making saltpetre, gunpowder, lead, the refining sulphur, and providing arms for the use of this colony,---For establishing a general test---and the order of the day for a call of the Convention, being read,

Ordered, that the same be put off till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

F R I D A Y, AUGUST 25, 1775.

Ordered, **T**HAT leave be given to bring in an ordinance to provide for paying the expenses of the delegates from this colony to the General Congress, and that mr. *Pendleton* and mr. *Mercer* do prepare and bring in the same.

Resolved, that no person whatsoever shall sell to any non-commisioned officer or soldier in the regular service any kind of spirituous liquors within a mile of the head-quarters, under the penalty of subjecting himself to every regulation prescribed for suttlers.

It appearing to the Convention, by a receipt of *Patrick Henry*, esq; and other testimony, that it was referred to them, at this meeting, to determine how much of the three hundred and thirty pounds which had been received of the receiver-general, on the 4th of *May* last, to compensate for the powder taken out of the magazine by the governor's orders, should be restored to the said receiver-general,

Resolved, as the opinion of this Convention, that sufficient proof being had of there being only fifteen half-barrels of powder so taken by lord *Dunmore's* order, that no more money should be retained than one hundred and twelve pounds ten shillings, which we judge fully adequate to the payment of the said powder, and that the residue of the said three hundred and thirty pounds ought to be returned to the said receiver-general, and it is hereby directed to be paid to him by the treasurer of this colony.

Resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this Convention are justly due to the several volunteer companies in this colony for their zeal and attachment to the cause of *American* liberty; manifested by their attention to the resolutions of the last Convention in arming and disciplining themselves, and the readiness they have shewn, upon all occasions, to defend their country against the dangers with which it was threatened, and that they be desired to exert themselves in promoting enlistments into the regular and minute service adopted by this Convention; and it is recommended to the several district committees to pay proper attention to the merit of the said volunteers, in their choice of officers.

Resolved, that the treasurer do, from time to time, advance to the members of the Committee of Safety fifteen shillings per day, to defray their reasonable expenses during their attendance on duty.

Mr. Pendleton, from the persons appointed to prepare and bring in an ordinance to provide for paying the expenses of the delegates from this colony to the General Congress, presented to the Convention, ac-

cording to order, the said ordinance; which was read the first time, and ordered to be read a second time.

An ordinance, for regulating the election of delegates and ascertaining their allowances, and also for regulating the election of committeemen in the several counties and corporations within this colony, and for other purposes therein mentioned, having been fairly transcribed, was read a third time.

Resolved, that the said ordinance do pass.

An ordinance, to provide for paying the expenses of the delegates from this colony to the General Congress, was read a second time, ordered to be fairly transcribed, and read a third time.

An ordinance, for appointing commissioners to settle the accounts of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, and for making provision to pay the same, having been fairly transcribed, was read a third time.

Resolved, that the said ordinance do pass.

Ordered, that the title of the said ordinance be *An ordinance for appointing commissioners to settle the accounts of the militia lately drawn out into actual service, and for making provision to pay the same, as well as the expense of raising and providing for the forces and minute-men directed to be embodied for the defence of this colony.*

An ordinance, to provide for paying the expenses of the delegates from this colony to the General Congress, having been fairly transcribed, was read a third time, and the blanks therein filled up.

Resolved, that the said ordinance do pass.

The order of the day, for the Convention to resolve itself into a committee on the ordinance for establishing a general test, being read,

Ordered, that the same be put off till the first day of the next Convention.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the committees of the several counties and corporations in this colony to call all collectors and receivers of fines heretofore imposed by any court-martial, and all other persons who have any money in their hands arising from such fines, to an immediate account for the same, and, after paying any arrears which may be due for arms or trophies formerly purchased, apply any such money for providing arms and ammunition for the use of their

respective counties and corporations, in such manner as they shall think best.

Mr. *Adams*, from the committee appointed to examine, state, and report the claims of such officers and men as had been appointed and enlisted pursuant to a former resolution, reported, that they had examined the claims of the officers and soldiers in the county of *Chesterfield*, and that it appeared to them that the said officers were chosen by the committee of the said county, and directed to raise the men, in consequence of which they were accordingly enlisted, and are entitled to pay as follows:

To <i>John Markham</i> , captain, four days, at 6s.	£. 1 4 0
To <i>William Black</i> , lieutenant, four days, at 4s.	0 16 0
To <i>George Hancock</i> , ensign, four days, at 3s.	0 12 0
To <i>Thomas Bevinton</i> , and <i>Matthew Fowler</i> , serjeants, } four days each, at 2s.	0 16 0
To thirty three privates, four days each, at 1s. 4d.	8 16 0
To five privates, three days each, at 1s. 4d.	1 0 0
	£. 13 4 0

Resolved, that the treasurer do pay the said 13l. 4s. agreeable to the foregoing report.

Whereas, by a resolution of the Convention held in the month of *March* last, the several courts in this colony were directed to proceed to give judgments against sheriffs and other collectors for money or tobacco received by them, and it is represented to this Convention, that several sheriffs, in order to evade paying the money received on executions levied by them, refuse to return such executions,

Resolved therefore, that it be recommended to the several courts of justice in this colony to put in execution the laws now in force to compel the sheriffs to return executions, and to call all publick creditors to account.

A petition of fundry merchants, and others, natives of *Great Britain*, and resident in this colony, was presented to the Convention, and read; setting forth, that being chiefly agents, factors, and persons who, from their youth, have been bred up to and employed in commerce,

they have at no time interfered with the civil institutions of the country, but have always acted in conformity to the laws, under which they have enjoyed the best security for their persons and property; that with this experience of the protection derived from salutary laws, as well as from the happy intercourse they have enjoyed with the inhabitants, many of them had formed connexions of the most endearing nature, and had invested considerable portions of their property in real estates, with a view of continuing their residence among a people with whom they had hitherto lived in much harmony; that their fears were much awakened from the ill-grounded prejudices which they are informed actuate the minds of some of the people of this colony against them, as a body who are not natives of the land, a circumstance which, being accidental, cannot be imputed to them as a fault, and therefore hoping to stand in the same light with other subjects who conform to the laws; that they are very sensible the unhappy differences subsisting between the parent state and her colonies have given rise to distinctions to their prejudice amongst the natives of the country, and excited jealousies of them which otherwise had never existed; that, discriminated from the rest of the society, and placed in a suspicious point of view, they presume to lay before this Convention the hardships of their situation, and, in the sincerity of their hearts, declare, that they hold the people of this colony in the highest estimation as friends and fellow-subjects; and that, in war or peace, they will cheerfully contribute, with them, to the exigencies of their common state; that in all internal commotions, or insurrections, they pledge their faith, at the risk of their lives and fortunes, jointly with their fellow-subjects of this colony, to defend the country; and that, in case of an attack from the troops of *Great Britain*, they will not aid in any manner, or communicate intelligence to them by letter or otherwise; that they beg leave to assure this Convention they wish not an exemption from the hardships and burthens to which the people of this country are exposed, from the civil contest subsisting with the parent state, but are willing, and ready, to participate in all instances, except taking up arms against the people among whom they were born, and with whom, perhaps, they are connected by the nearest

ties of consanguinity; that they entreat the impartial and favourable attention of the Convention to this circumstance, and beg that a line of conduct might be marked out, by which, in this dangerous crisis, they may move as useful members of the community, without being held to the necessity of shedding the blood of their countrymen, an act at which nature recoils, and which every feeling of humanity forbids; that, allowed this, they repeat their readiness to stand up, with the foremost, in defence of the country against internal insurrections, and in its support, by the most liberal and cheerful contributions; and that the supreme director of the universe might inspire this Convention with wisdom to put a period to this unnatural contest, and restore this once happy land to peace, safety, and union with its parent state, was their most ardent wish.

Resolved unanimously, that the said petition is reasonable; and it is recommended to the committees of the several counties and corporations, and others the good people of this colony, to treat all such natives of *Great Britain* resident here, as do not show themselves enemies to the common cause of *America*, with lenity and friendship; to protect all persons whatsoever in the just enjoyment of their civil rights and liberty, to discountenance all national reflections, to preserve, to the utmost of their power, internal peace and good order; and to promote union, harmony, and mutual good-will, among all ranks of people.

Resolved also, that the said petition, together with this resolve, be forthwith published in the *Virginia* gazettes.

The Convention then, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance to encourage the making salt-petre, gunpowder, lead, the refining sulphur, and providing arms for the use of this colony; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Harrison* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the said ordinance; but not having time to go through the same, had directed him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, that this Convention will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee on the said ordinance.

Resolved, that it be an instruction to the Committee of Safety that they forthwith cause to be erected a magazine, at some fit and convenient place, for the reception of arms and ammunition; and that they appoint a guard, to be drawn out of the minute-men or militia, for the safe keeping and preservation of the same, from time to time, as the exigence of affairs may require.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the committees of the several counties and corporations to appoint proper persons of their body, within such districts as to them shall seem convenient, to take a list of the number of persons therein of all ages and sexes, distinguishing whether they be male or female, white or black, and of the males whether they be above or under sixteen years of age; from which lists the committee shall cause a general county or corporation list to be made and returned to the President of the Convention, without delay, who is desired, from them, to cause a general colony list to be formed, and certify the same to the Continental Congress.

Adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock.

S A T U R D A Y, AUGUST 26, 1775.

THE Convention proceeded, by ballot, to appoint a place for the meeting of the next Convention; and the members having prepared tickets with the name of the place to be appointed for the purpose aforesaid, and put the same into the ballot box, mr. Carrington, mr. Braxton, mr. Stubblefield, and mr. Cary, were appointed a committee to examine the ballot box, and to report on which place the majority falls, who retired, and after some time returned into Convention, and reported, that the numbers on the ballot appeared as follows:

For the town of <i>Richmond</i> ,	-	25
For the city of <i>Williamsburg</i> ,	-	22
For the town of <i>Fredericksburg</i> ,	-	8

And the question being then put, whether the town of *Richmond*, or the city of *Williamsburg*, should be the place for holding the next Convention, a majority appeared in favour of the town of *Richmond*.

Resolved therefore, that the next meeting of this Convention be at the said town of *Richmond*.

Mr. Banister, from the persons appointed to draw up and report the forms of proper commissions to be granted to the officers of the regular forces, minute-men, and militia of this colony, reported the following forms of the said commissions, which were read, and on the question severally put thereon, agreed to by the Convention.

Form of a commission for the **COLONEL** *of the first regiment, and commander in chief of the* **REGULAR FORCES.**

The Committee of Safety for the colony of **VIRGINIA** to **PATRICK HENRY, esq;**

WHEREAS by a resolution of the delegates of this colony, in Convention assembled, it was determined that you the said Patrick Henry, esq; should be colonel of the first regiment of regulars, and commander in chief of all the forces to be raised for the protection and defence of this colony, and, by an ordinance of the said Convention, it is provided, that the Committee of Safety should issue all military commissions: Now, in pursuance of the said power to us granted, and in conformity to the appointment of the Convention, we the said Committee of Safety do constitute and commission you the said Patrick Henry, esq; colonel of the first regiment of regulars, and commander in chief of all such other forces as may, by order of the Convention, or Committee of Safety, be directed to act in conjunction with them; and with the said forces, or any of them, you are hereby empowered to resist and repel all hostile invasions, and quell and suppress any insurrections which may be made or attempted against the peace and safety of this his majesty's colony and dominion. And we do require you to exert your utmost efforts for the promotion of discipline and order among the officers and soldiers under your command, agreeable to such ordinances, rules, and articles, which are now, or hereafter may be, instituted for the government and regulation of the army; and that you pay due obedience to all orders and instructions which from time to time you may receive from the Convention or Committee of Safety; to hold, exercise, and enjoy, the said office of colonel and commander in chief of the forces, and to perform and execute the power and authority aforesaid, and all other things which are truly and of right incidental to your said office, during the pleasure of the Convention, and no longer. And we do hereby require and command all officers and soldiers, and every person whatsoever, in any way

concerned, to be obedient and assisting to you in all things touching the due execution of this commission, according to the purport or intent thereof.

Given under our hands, at _____, this
day of _____, anno dom. 177

COMMISSION to a COLONEL of the MINUTE-MEN.

The Committee of Safety of the colony of Virginia to _____, esquire.

WHEREAS it is provided, by an ordinance of the Convention, that a battalion of minute-men should be enlisted, trained, and disciplined, in each of the districts therein-mentioned, and by the same authority it is ordained that all commissions for officers to command the said minute-men should issue from the Committee of Safety: Now, in pursuance of the said power and authority to us given, we do by these presents constitute and commission you the said _____ colonel of the battalion of minute-men in the district of _____. You are therefore to act as colonel, by duly exercising the officers and soldiers under your command, taking care that they be provided with arms and ammunition, agreeable to the ordinances of the Convention; and you are to pay a ready obedience to all orders and instructions which from time to time you may receive from the Convention, Committee of Safety, or any of your superiour officers, agreeable to the rules and articles ordained by the Convention. And we do require all officers and soldiers under your command to be obedient, and to aid you in the execution of this commission, according to the intent and purport thereof.

Given under our hands, at _____, this
day of _____, anno dom. 177

COMMISSION to a COUNTY-LIEUTENANT.

The Committee of Safety for the colony of Virginia to _____

BY virtue of the power and authority invested in us by the delegates and representatives of the several counties and corporations within this colony, in General Convention assembled, we, reposing especial trust and confidence in your patriotism, fidelity, courage, and good conduct, do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be county-lieutenant of the militia of the county of _____; and you are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the trust reposed in you, by disciplining all officers and soldiers under your command; and we do hereby require them to obey you as their county-lieutenant. And you are to observe and follow all such orders and

directions as you shall from time to time receive from the Convention, the Committee of Safety for the time being, or any superiour officer, according to the rules and regulations established by the Convention.

Given under our hands, at _____, this _____ day of _____, anno dom. 1777

The Convention, according to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee on the ordinance to encourage the making saltpetre, gunpowder, lead, the refining sulphur, and providing arms for the use of this colony; and after some time spent therein, mr. President resumed the chair, and mr. *Harrison* reported, that the committee had, according to order, had under their consideration the said ordinance, and had gone through the same, and made several amendments thereto, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered in at the clerk's table, where the same were again twice read, and on the question severally put thereon, agreed to by the Convention.

Ordered, that the said ordinance, together with the several amendments, be fairly transcribed, and read a third time.

Ordered, that the publick printer do send twenty two copies of the ordinances of this Convention to the committees of the several counties and corporations within this colony.

Resolved, that it be recommended to the committees of the several counties and corporations, where it is not already done, to complete the collection of the money by them judged requisite for the purchase of gunpowder, lead, flints, and cartridge paper, according to the resolution of the Convention in *March* last, in order to place the whole colony on an equal footing in that particular, and return a state of such collection to the next Convention.

Resolved, that in case the *British* ministry shall attempt to enforce the act of parliament for preventing the erection of plating and flitting mills in *America*, this Convention will recompense to the proprietors of the two first of such mills as shall be finished and set to work in this colony all losses they may respectively sustain in consequence of such endeavours of administration.

An ordinance, to encourage the making saltpetre, gunpowder, lead, the refining sulphur, and providing arms for the use of this colony, having been fairly transcribed, was read a third time, and the blanks therein filled up.

Resolved, that the said ordinance do pass.

Ordered, that the title of the said ordinance be *An ordinance for providing arms and ammunition for the use of this colony.*

Resolved, that the several sums following be paid to the several officers of this Convention, for their services during the present session.

To the rev. *Miles Selden*, chaplain to the Convention, £. 40 0 0

To mr. *John Tazewell*, clerk of the Convention, 150 0 0

To mr. *William Dandridge*, junior, 25 0 0

To mr. *Thomas Claiborne*, messenger to the Convention, 50 0 0

To *Robert Hyland, John Creagh, William Drinkard, William Hix, and Richard Williams*, door-keepers to the Convention, 20l. each.

It appearing to the Convention, that *Otway Byrd*, esq; had, on account of his attachment to *American* liberty, resigned his provision and prospects in the *British* navy, and may be destitute of employment,

Resolved, that the said *Otway Byrd*, esq; be strongly recommended to his excellency general *Washington*, and the Conventions of our sister colonies to the eastward, for promotion in the army in that neighbourhood; and that until such promotion shall take place, or it be otherwise ordered by this Convention, that he be allowed ten shillings per day to support him as a cadet in the continental army, to commence the day he joins the said army, and that he be also allowed the sum of 50l. to be paid him immediately.

The foregoing declaration was presented to the Convention, maturely considered, and unanimously agreed to.

A DECLARATION of the DELEGATES deputed by the several counties and corporations in the colony and dominion of Virginia to represent them in General Convention, setting forth the cause of their meeting, and the necessity of immediately putting the country into a posture of defence, for the better protection of their lives, liberties, and properties.

THE advantages resulting from the wisest institutions, and the price of all sublunary enjoyments, are best to be estimated from their loss or diminution. By this accurate scale, we are taught to weigh the many blessings derived to this once happy country from our excellent constitution. So long as this was maintained on its original principles, and remained inviolate, all was well with us; every thing flowed in a proper, peaceful channel; all were quiet, and at ease. But, how great the change! how dreadful the reverse!

The times were, and these not very distant, when the representatives of the people, with much pleasure, met their governours in General Assembly. In these assemblies the greatest harmony prevailed, till a fatal change of ministerial systems took place. A causeless, hasty dissolution, drove the representative body to the unhappy dilemma of either sacrificing the most essential interests of their constituents, or of meeting in General Convention, to assert and preserve them. The unlucky incidents here alluded to are of publick notoriety, and need not a particular enumeration.

Repeated prorogations of our Assembly, when the country was in the greatest distress, rendered a Convention, in the month of March last, absolutely necessary. The delegates of the people then met in full Convention, the most numerous Assembly that had ever been known in this colony, taking a view of our unhappy situation; considering the country exposed to the most eminent dangers, as well from invasions as insurrections; knowing its then defenceless state, and seeing no prospect that opportunity would be given them in General Assembly to provide and guard against such extensive evils, judged it their indispensable duty to put the country into a posture of defence. They recommended a due attention to the militia law; but considering this inadequate to the purpose, they farther advised the raising one or more volunteer companies in each county. In all their transactions, however, a proper regard and respect was paid to government.

In a short time afterwards, a most extraordinary manœuvre was exerted by the governour to render this country still more defenceless, by removing our small stock of gunpowder from the publick magazine, and stripping of their locks a great number of the publick arms. It is very remarkable, that this was done at a time when he acknowledged to have received information that an insurrection was apprehended in a neighbouring county. This, together with his lordship's threats of emancipating our slaves, and reducing to ashes the principal city in this colony, added to the many alarming accounts received from the northern colonies, could not but excite the jealousies, and awaken the fears, of the people.

The country, by these means, being thrown into a ferment, and there being little ground of hope that the Assembly would be called, it was thought advisable that a General Convention should be speedily held, to take under their consideration the state of the colony. The governour, however, on receipt of despatches from England, was pleased to issue his proclamation for convening the General Assembly. The design of calling a Convention was then laid aside, in hopes that matters might, in another place, be settled and adjusted in the usual mode. The proceedings of the House of Burgesses, the governour's

conduct towards them, his withdrawing from the seat of his government, and taking up his residence on board one of his majesty's ships of war, the many obstructions given by his lordship to the business of the Assembly, and his determined resolution to render abortive those very measures he had recommended, are faithfully and impartially submitted to the publick, in a pamphlet published by order of the House of Burgesses.

The two other branches of our legislature, his majesty's Council and the Burgesses, finding that his lordship had resisted their joint and most earnest entreaties, and that he was resolved not to return to the duties of his station, adjourned themselves to the month of October next.

The governour still continuing on board the man of war, if his former conduct, his repeated and horrible threats, his at least connivance at the detention of some of our slaves on board the same ship, and a too well-grounded report of his having solicited troops to be sent amongst us, some of which are now arrived, could have left a doubt of his hostile intentions towards this country, the hurrying his most amiable lady and his children across the Atlantick, under a frivolous and groundless pretence of their being in danger amongst a people by whom they were universally esteemed and respected, holds out to us an irrefragable proof of his fixed determination to do this unhappy country every injury in his power.

Under these embarrassments, seeing an unusual resort of ships of war and other armed vessels in our harbours, knowing the threats of one of their commanders, in short, when exposed to such accumulated dangers, what could be expected of this country? That we should sit supinely down, and suffer the views and machinations of an arbitrary relentless ministry to be carried into execution, without opposition or controul? The justice due to this community, every motive to publick virtue, conspire in forbidding it. We therefore, deputed for this important purpose, have met in General Convention, and taken into our most serious consideration the state of the colony. Since our assembling, we have received authentick intelligence of the remorseless fury with which general Gage and his coadjutors are endeavouring to spread fire, famine, and the most horrid desolation, throughout a sister colony; of their insidious and cruel attempts to stir up the barbarous savages against the inhabitants on the frontiers of the different colonies. We have seen a declaration of the Continental Congress, which proves the necessity of an immediate preparation for our security, by putting this whole country into a full state of defence, both against invasions and insurrections. In the present untoward and distressful situation of our affairs, and the better to preserve the peace and good order of the community, we are farther driven to the very disagreeable necessity of supplying the present want of government, by appointing proper guardians of the rights and liberties of our country. But, lest our views and designs should be misrepresented or mis-

understood, we again, and for all, publickly and solemnly declare, before God and the world, that we do bear faith and true allegiance to his majesty George the third, our only lawful and rightful king; that we will, so long as it may be in our power, defend him and his government, as founded on the laws and well known principles of the constitution; that we will, to the utmost of our power, preserve peace and good order throughout the country, and endeavour, by every honourable means, to promote a restoration of that friendship and amity which so long and happily subsisted between our fellow-subjects in Great Britain and the inhabitants of America; that as, on the one hand, we are determined to defend our lives and properties, and maintain our just rights and privileges, at every, even the extremest hazard, so, on the other, it is our fixed and unalterable resolution to disband such forces as may be raised in this colony whenever our dangers are removed, and America is restored to that former state of tranquillity and happiness, the interruption of which is so much deplored by us and every friend to either country.

It remains a bounden duty on us to commit our cause to the justice of that supreme being who ruleth and ordereth all human events with unerring wisdom, most humbly beseeching him to take this colony, and the whole continent, under his fatherly and divine protection, and that he will be graciously pleased to soften the hearts of all those who meditate evil against our land, and inspire them with the purest sentiments of justice, moderation, and brotherly affection.

R O. C. N I C H O L A S, president *pro tempore*.

(A copy)

JOHN TAZEVELL, clerk of the Convention.

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

Page 4th. After *Henry Field*, read, and *Henry Pendleton*.

Page 24th. line 6th. Instead of *state of the colony*, read, *said ordinance*.

10-10-10

10-10-10



