

At a Convention of the Representatives Com^{tees} of the Several Towns & Districts of the County of Suffolk in the Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, on Tuesday the 6th day of Septem^r 1774, at the House of Richard Woodward in Dedham.

Chairman.

Speech.

1.st After reading several late Acts of the British Parliam^t & other papers relative to this ~~Country~~ ^{Province}, & having ~~considered~~ ^{considered} that in case of any difference in Sentim^t, the Question be decided by the Deputies Voting by Towns ~~of the County~~ ^{of the Province}.

2.nd That there are certain rights to which we are intitled, in common with all mankind, as Men; that there are other rights, to which we are intitled, as Englishmen, in common with other the Kings Subjects residing in England; & that there are also other rights, to which we are, ~~intitled~~ ^{intitled} by Charter intitled, in common with other our fellow Subjects in this Province.

3.rd That all these several rights are arbitrarily & cruelly invaded by several late Acts of the British Parliam^t, & enforced by the Iron-Land of Power.

4.th That notwithstanding this more than inhuman treatment, which would justify a resumption of our first Charter (which was unrighteously taken from us) or any other measures we might presently adopt; yet we are willing to suppose that the thing has been imposed upon, by either weak or wicked Ministers, who have misrepresented the things Subjects in ~~the~~ America, both to him, & to our fellow-Subjects in Britain; & therefore, as interest & inclination dictates, we openly declare to the World, our dearest desire, that our antient harmony with great Britain may be restored, & fixed upon the most solid & lasting Basis, & defined in the most clear & explicit manner, so that each may certainly know what to expect from the other; & that there may not be the least infraction of our mutual rights so long as Sun & Moon endure.

5.th That until such a restoration takes place, & in order to effect the same; we will to the utmost of our power, withhold all commercial intercourse with great Britain, & the consumption of British Merchandize & Manufactures, & especially of East-India Teas & piece Goods; with such additions, alterations & exceptions only, as the grand Congress of the Colonies may agree to.

6.th That in order, not only to effect such a restoration, but also to prevent a civil War, & promote peace, harmony & good order; there ought to be, as formerly, Town & District Meetings throughout this Province, for the transaction of their common & ordinary business; & also in order to form County Meetings, from whence may arise Provincial Conventions, who may by their Com^{tees} correspond with similar Provincial Com^{tees} of the several Colonies of ~~the~~ America, or with the grand Congress of the same, as the pressing circumstances of the times may point out.

7.th That we will pay all due respect & submission to such measures as may be recommended to all the Colonies, by their grand Congress, for the recovery & establishment of our just rights & liberties, civil & religious, & the restoration of that Union & harmony between great Britain & the Colonies, most ardently desired by all good men. [and here we] would pause ~~and~~ ^{venture} to the World our most serious wish, ^(in order to prevent future contentions) that these differences may be so settled & adjusted, that America may never again be ~~intitled~~ ^{intitled} with great Britain may be so settled & adjusted, that America may never again be ~~intitled~~ ^{intitled} with Custom House Officers, Revenue-commissioners, or other unconstitutional Officers, but in lieu of these, & for the express protection of great Britain, that the Colonies may pay into the Treasury of great Britain, certain net annual Sums in times of peace, & other certain net annual Sums in times of war; & that these Sums may be much more advantageous to the Treasury of great Britain, than the present mode of Supplies from America.]

8.th That in order farther to effect such restoration, we will give all possible encouragement to the ~~importation~~ ^{importation} of ~~all~~ ^{all} Manufactures, And will use our utmost endeavors to suppress ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~execution~~ ^{execution} against them, by avoiding all dealings with them, & putting the Laws, if possible, in

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9th That the power assumed by the British Parliament, to make Laws to bind the Colonies in all cases whatsoever, is not only intended to affect our civil rights & liberties, in which case we feel ourselves already under the Iron-Narrow of Oppression; but, by the establishment of Popery in Canada, we have every thing to fear for our religious rights & privileges.

10th That this System of Popish Despotism, cannot be more effectually prevented than by place, both here, & in Britain itself, than by a firm Union of the British Colonies, in defence of their every civil & religious right & liberty; & therefore, for her sake, as well as our own, we will not yield up, even the least of our just claims.

11th That as by virtue of a late Act of the British Parliament, we have Councilors, & other officers (who are Americans!!!) not such as at the beginning) unconstitutionally imposed upon us, we will consider them as ^{Enemies} ~~raiders~~ ^{to their Country} & will not acknow- ledge their official Authority; & boldly say, that they ought to be brought to a trial by their Peers, as soon as the times will permit.

12th That in order to prevent any Persons being intimidated into a compliance with any parts of the unconstitutional Acts of the British Parliament, all persons within this County, who may be fined, or otherwise suffer, by means of a non-compliance with any parts of said Acts, shall be indemnified, & saved harmless, by this County, & be paid out of the Treasury of the same.

13th That tho' we seriously & readily acknowledge our allegiance to King George the Third, in common with our fellow Subjects in Britain; & tho' it is ^{our} wish, inclination & interest, forever to continue ^{constitutionally} ~~subject to~~ ^{subject to} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~great~~ ^{great} Britain; yet, we will use every means which heaven has, or may, put into our power, to prevent our becoming Slaves; & will never submit to it until the last reason of States has been fully tried; which severe trial, may God of his great mercy prevent, for the sake of both great Britain & the Colonies.

14th That
be a Comtee for this County, to act in concert, & correspond, with other County-Comtees of this Province; & also, in any emergency to call a County Convention.

15th That a Comtee
That this Convention be adjourned to Tuesday the day of next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, at the House of

16th That a Copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the Comtee of Correspondence for the Town of Boston, in order to be published to the world.

Then this Convention was declared to be adjourned ^{agreeable} ~~according~~ to the ^{16th} ~~15th~~ Article.

Rough draft for County Resolves 1774

17th # & tho' we disclaim & protest, ^{as we hereby do} against all licentious & riotous proceedings, as being sub- versive of all good Government; yet we will &

18th That a Comtee be a Comtee for this County, for drawing up, & proposing, ^{as soon as may be} the best ways & means, in their opinion, to encourage & improve Agriculture, Manufactures & Commerce; & to point out such particulars as may occur to their minds for to be first acted upon.