6. Advertisements of Committees of Inspection and Observation in New England in Colonial Newspapers

transcribed by Maria Gehrke, Caren Buchmüller and Lasse Hoyer

Maria Gehrke and Hermann Wellenreuther

Introduction

When in the fall of 1774 the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, it agreed to oppose the “Intolerable Acts” and called for sanctions against the British authority unless the acts would be repealed. On October 20, 1774, Congress adopted the Continental Association and decided not to import, export, or consume any British goods. Article 11 of the Association allowed the establishment of extralegal committees for enforcement: Committees of Inspection and Observation were to be elected in each county, city and town to observe the conduct of all colonists. Violators of the Association were to be punished by the committees and public as “enemies of American liberty” and their case was to be published in newspapers.¹

To gain an insight of the various tasks that the Committees of Inspection and Observation executed, the following section presents reports on and advertisements by the Committees of Inspection and Observation in New England which were published in two newspapers between fall 1774 and summer 1776. The papers we have chosen are the *Boston Gazette* and the *Providence Gazette*. The *Boston Gazette* is one of the oldest New England papers with a well established tradition of leaning to and representing the political views of the Whigs. It was founded in 1719 and continued to be published even after the American Revolution. Since 1755 its printers were John Gill and Benjamin Edes, both respectable members of the Boston community with but modest means. They died worth a bit more than \$ 8.000 in 1785 and 1803.² The *Providence Gazette* was much younger. Founded in 1762 it, too, continued to be published until well after the Revolution. Its printer, John Carter, served as postmaster in Providence.³ While the *Boston Gazette* had to contend with a number of rivals, the

¹ JCC Bd. 1, p. 63-73, p. 115-121.

² Carol Sue HUMPHREY, “This popular engine”. *New England Newspapers During the American Revolution, 1775 – 1789*. Newark, DE 1992, p. 60. The author converted the contemporary sums to those of 1990. On Edes see Maurice R. CULLEN, Jr., Benjamin Edes: Scourge of Tories. In: *Journalism Quarterly* 51, 1974, p. 213-218.

³ HUMPHREY, “This popular engine”, 78-79; Marcus A. MCCORISON, The Wages of John Carter’s Journeymen Printers, 1771-1779. In: *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* 81, 1971, p. 273-303.

Providence Gazette had the town and its surrounding countryside as potential market for its own.

The texts we print here do not reflect the newspapers' role as opinion leaders. Instead the texts have nothing to do with editorial policies; they are advertisements both newspapers had to print if they did not want to run into trouble with the Committees of Inspection and Observation of the townships of Massachusetts or Rhode Island. Both papers treated these texts consequently as advertisements and printed them usually, but not always in that section. It will become evident from the texts themselves, that the information these texts offer are much more than advertisements.

Maria Gehrke and Hermann Wellenreuther

Boston Gazette, October 20, 1774 – July 4, 1776

[November 21, 1774]

Tho. Town of Marblehead, at a full Meeting on Monday the 7th Instant, unanimously made Choice of a large Committee for executing the Plans of the Continental and Provincial Congresses. It likewise appointed a Day for choosing Militia Officers, and a Committee for each Company to give [personal] Warning to all on the Alarm List for the Purpose mentioned. Directions were given by the Town to the Clerk, for entering on the Records such Persons as should by the province be considered and published as “*Rebels against the State*”; and to the Constables and Collectors to pay to Henry Gardner, Esq; Monies which they then had, or in future might have in their Hands, belonging to the Province; the Advertisements of the late Treasurer Gray being treated with the Contempt due to one on the *Rebel List*. A Company and Train of Artillery will, by private Subscription, be likewise provided in said Town for Defence of American Freedom. – Sureley the Colonies are in Earnest for preserving their Liberties, and a general Attention to the Art Military will in a short Time render them secure, notwithstanding the Designs of oppressive Tyranny. – May Military Discipline, then immediately take Place throughout America.

BG, no. 1023, fol. 2.

[November 21, 1774]

NEW LONDON, November 11.

The Committee of the Town of New London, hereby notify all concerned, That they think it their Duty to inforce the Observance of the 7th Article of the Association against the Exportation of SHEEP, recommended by the General Congress; until another Committee is appointed for that Purpose: And all Vessels sailing from this Port will be strictly inspected, that a due Observance may be paid to every Article of said Association, in such Manner as by the Congress is directed.

BG, no. 1023, fol. 3.

[November 28, 1774]

AT a Meeting of Committees from the several Towns in the County of BARNSTABLE, met and convened at the Court-House in said County, on Wednesday the 16th Day of November, A. D. 1774.

Hon. JAMES OTIS, Esq; being chosen Moderator, and Col. JOSEPH OTIS, Clerk.

AFTER taking into serious Consideration the distress'd and difficult situation of our public Affairs, arising from the repeated unjust Attempts of an arbitrary Administration, to deprive us of our civil Rights and Liberties, and to subject our Lives and Properties to the Will and Controul of the British Parliament; in direct violation of the most solemn Compact between the King and the Inhabitants of this Province, as well as of the British Constitution itself; which cruel Attempts have appeared in various Instances; but more especially on the several Acts passed in the last Session of the British Parliament, respecting the Massachusetts-Bay and Quebec, which are too well known to need a repetition of their Titles. We do therefore think it a Duty incumbent on us to bear our public Testimony against them, and to join in the general Endeavours of this Country to prevent the total extinction of Civil and Religious Liberty. We do therefore RESOLVE,

1st. That we recognize King GEORGE the Third, of Great-Britain as our rightful Sovereign.

2^d. That we apprehend, the Parliament of Great-Britain have no right to dispose of our Properties, alter our Constitution, or make Laws binding upon us, without our Consent.

3^d. That the Acts of Parliament referred to as above, are, in our apprehension, not only Unconstitutional, but a most unparalleled Instance of Injustice, Cruelty and Oppression, which ought never to be submitted to.

4th. That we do hereby approve of, acquiesce in, and solemnly engage to Conform to the Resolves and Recommendations of the Continental and Provincial Congress, so far as we have been acquainted with their Proceedings; esteeming them the most prudent Method of opposing said Acts, and the most likely Means of obtaining a Redress of our Grievances. And therefore,

5th. We do recommend it to the Inhabitants of this County, to subscribe the Association, agreed upon by the Continental Congress, with the following Addition, viz. "We the Subscribers do solemnly agree and promise, that we will observe and conform to the above Association, and do hereby make it our own particular Act and Covenant, and do further engage, that from and after the Date hereof, we will not Buy, Sell, Transport or Drink or suffer our Families to Buy, Sell, Transport or Drink any kind of India Tea, whether Imported on Account of the East-India Company, or any other, or from any part of the World till we obtain as ample Redress of our Grievances, as is specified in the said Association, as witness our Hands this Seventh Day of November, A.D. 1774," and that each Member of this Congress do immediately Sign said Association with said Addition: And that we Recommend it to every Town in the County, who have not already chosen, to choose Committees, to see that the Inhabitants of their respective Towns Sign as above; and to inspect and inquire if any Person

act contrary to said Association and Addition, and in case they do, or any refuse to Sign said Association, &c. to Publish their Names to the World.

6th. That we will ourselves, and do earnestly Recommend it to the Inhabitants of this County, to use their utmost Endeavours to suppress all Mobs, Riots and Breaches of the Peace.

7th. That in Order to keep Peace and good Regulation in the County, and that the Lives, Liberties and Properties of the People may be safe, we do Recommend it to the several Justices of the Peace in the County, who were in Office before the last Day of June past, to Act in their said Offices, in their single Capacity, except in Judicial Proceedings merely civil: and that they exert themselves, agreeable to the Laws of the Province relative to the suppression of Vice, Immorality, Breaches of the Peace and all high handed Offences; and to use their Endeavours to prevent Mobs, Riots, Routs and unlawful Assemblies; and to preserve the Peace of the County: and we Recommend it to the Sheriffs to retain such Persons as are or shall be Committed, as Criminals, in his Custody, until they have a Trial, any Supersedeas or Proclamation to the contrary notwithstanding; at least, until the Minds of the provincial Congress be expressed, respecting this Matter; and we do hereby recommend it to the Inhabitants of this County, to aid and assist the Justices and Sheriff in the execution of their Offices as above.

8th. That a Committee of this County be chosen by this Congress, to Correspond with the Committees of the other Counties in this Province, as Occasion may require;

Col. *Nathaniel Freeman*, Col. *Joseph Otis*,
Mr. *Thomas Paine*, Daniel *Davis*, Esq; and
Mr. *Job Crocker*, were unanimously chosen.

9th. That it be recommended to every Town in this County who have not chosen Committees of Correspondence, to choose them; and likewise, for every Town in the County to send Members to the Provincial Congress.

10th. That it be recommended to the several Towns in this County to call meetings and vote their Approbation of, and hearty Concurrence with, the Resolves and Recommendations of the Continental, Provincial, and this County Congress.

11th. That it be recommended to the several Towns of this County to raise Subscriptions for the Relief of our suffering Brethren in Boston.

12th. That it be recommended to the Inhabitants of the County to use their Endeavours to suppress common Pedlars of Scotch, English and India Goods; and that the several Inhabitants in the County be desired, in the name of this Congress, to refuse Entertainmant to them; and that the Clerk hereof serve the Innholders with a Copy of tis Resolve.

13th. That it be recommended to the several Military Companies in the East Regiment in this County, who have not yet chosen their Officers, to choose them, assoon as may be, agreeable to the Resolves and Recommendations of the Provincial Congress: And we do Recommend it to the several Military Officers, who are liable by Law of the Province, to attend Military Exercises and Obey their Officers; and that the Officers see that all in both Lists be provided with Arms and Ammunition according to Law: And in case any refuse to Obey their Military Officers, we recommend it to the Inhabitants of the County, to assist them in *enforcing* Obedience to their orders, agreeable to the Law of this Province.

14th. That a Committee be chosen to consider further of our public Greavances, and of the State of this County, and report at the adjournment of this meeting.

The Hon. <i>James Otis</i> , Esq;	Col. <i>Joseph Otis</i> ,
Col. <i>N. Freeman</i> ,	Capt. <i>Joseph Doane</i> ,
Mr <i>Thomas Paine</i> ,	<i>Daniel Davis</i> , Esq; and

Capt. *Jonathan* [Tintenfleck unleserlich] *wes*, were accordingly chosen.

15th. VOTED, that the County's Committee of Correspondence be defined to procure printed Copies of the Proceedings of this Congress, and the above mentioned Association, and that they transmit Two Setts to each Town in the County, to be directed to their respective Committees of Correspondence.

The Congress then, after each Member hat Sign'd the said Association with said Addition, and voted their Thanks to the Moderator, Clerk, and Col. Freeman, for their good Services, adjourn'd to the second Tuesday in January next.

A true Copy,

JOSEPH OTIS, Clerk.

BG, no. 1024, fol. 1.

[December 12, 1774]

THE Committees of Correspondence for the Towns of *New London* and *Groton*, being informed that Mr. *Philip Dumaresq*, Merchant of *Boston*, who was one of the Addressors to Gov. *Hutchinson*, arrived at New London, last Evening, and put up at Mr. Thomas Allen's Innholder: - Thereupon we waited on said Mr. *Dumaresq*, at 9 o'Clock, A.M. and informed him that it would be disagreeable to the Inhabitants of the abovesaid Towns for him to continue long in said New-London: - and entered into a free Conversation with him relative to said Address. He assured us that he was sorry he ever signed it, and gave us the underwritten Declaration which was well approved of by the said Committees.

New London, Nov. 29. 1774

BG, no. 1026, fol. 1.

[December 12, 1774]

New London, November 29, 1774.

WHEREAS I signed an Address to Governor *Hutchinson*, in which I had no other View than the Welfare of Great-Britain and her Colonies, a Reconciliation between which I imagined would be forwarded thereby, - but being now sensible that it was an Error, am sorry that I signed it, and hope this sincere Declaration will reinstate me in the Favor of all true Friends to Constitution of both Countries.

PH. DUMARESQU

BG, no. 1026, fol.1.

[December 12, 1774]

BOSTON, December 12.

At a Meeting of the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Boston, at Faneuil-Hall, on Wednesday the 7th Instant, by adjournment.

THE following Committee of 63 Persons were appointed to carry into Execution in the Town at *Boston*, the *Agreement and Association* of the late respectable CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

Hon. Thomas Cushing, Esq; Hon. John Hanenck, Esq; Mr. Samuel Adams, William Phillips, Esq; Col. Marshall, Mess. John Pitts, Oliver Wendell, and Samuel Austin, Benjamin Austein, Esq; Caleb Davis, Esqrs. Mess. William Davis and William Whitwell, Samuel Barrett and Jonathan Mason, Esqs; Capt. John Bradford, Mr. John Brown, Mr. William Powell, Major Boynton, Ezekiel Cheever, Esq; Captain Edward Proctor, Messes. James Ivers, Ebenezer Hancock, William Greenleaf, Samuel Whitwell, Herman Brimmer, Martin Brimmer, and Peter Boyer, Dr. Benjamin Church, Dr. Joseph Warren, Joseph Greenleaf, Esq; Capt. Benjamin Waldo, Capt. John Pulling, Henry Bromfield, Esq; Mess. Paul Revere, John Winthrop and Samuel Pitts, Capt. Abiel Ruddnek, Dr. Charles Jarvis, Thomas Chase, Major Nathaniel Barber, Capt. Fortsque Vernon, Capt. Job Prince, Capt. Hopkins, Mr. Moses Gill, Mr. Thomas Boylton, Capt. John Marston, Major NewmanGreenough, Mess. Moses Grant, J. Foster Cendy, Cyrus Baldwin, Bosinger Foiler, Isaac Pierce, Enoch Brown, Joseph Eayres and Henry Bass, Capt. Samuel Partridge, Mr. Joshua Bracket, Jonathan Williams, Esq; Mr. Edward Davis, Capt. Eleazer Johnson, Mess. Elias Parkman and John Averey, Dr. Nathaniel Noyes.

Seven of whom are to be a Quorum.

BG, no. 1026, fol. 3.

[December 12, 1774]

It is humbly recommended to the several Towns through this Province, as a Matter well worthy their Attention, that each Town publish and distribute as many of the Association Papers, als will serve every Matter of a Family in each Town, who will then have his Duty plainly before him, and enable him to assist the several Committees that may be appointed for executing the nobel [sic!] Resolutions adopted by the Grand American Congress, for the Salvation of our Country. The Town of Weymouth have ordered a Number of these Papers to be published and every Man to be supplied therewith. This laudable Example it is to [sic!] hoped, will be follow'd by every Town through this Province and Continent.

BG, no. 1026, fol. 3.

[December 19, 1774]

The Committee of Inspection for the Town of PLYMOUTH, hereby give public Notice that there is to be sold at Plymouth, under their direction, (agreeable to the 10th Article of the Association of the American Continental Congress) on Monday the second Day of January next, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon – ONE HUNDRED AND TEN QUARTER CASKS of Malaga WINE, fifty Boxes of LEMMONS, six hundred and ten Casks, and fifty Jarrs of RAISINS, - Imported in the Schooner Dove, Ebenezer Parker, Matter, from Malaga, via Falmouth. Said Sale to be on board said Schooner.

JOHN TORREY, Chairman.

Plymouth, Dec. 12, 1774.

BG, no. 1027, fol. 3.

[December 19, 1774]

The Committee of Inspection for the Town of Plymouth, hereby give Notice, that there are to be Sold at the House of Mr. Howland, Inholder, at said Plymouth, on Tuesday the Third Day of January next, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, under the Direction of said Committee (agreeable to the Tenth Article of the Association of the American Continental Congress) the following Artickels imported in the Brig-Esther, Benjamin Smith. Master, from Liverpool, since the First Day of December Instant, viz.

Two Boxes Linnens, two Cafes Woolens, one Barreel Hard Ware, one Barrel Glass, one Case Ververet and Bindings, one Hogshead Checks and Fustians, one Cask bottles Ale, Twenty Creates Earthen Ware, 160 Tons Salt, 20 Chaldrons Coals. Also a small Quantity of Cheese and unpack'd Beere, and six Boxes of Irish Linnens. The Sale to continue 'till the whole is sold.

JOHN TORREY, Chairman.

Plymouth, December 12, 1774.

BG, no. 1027, fol. 3.

[December 19, 1774]

SALEM, *December 6.*

At a Town Meeting last Friday a Committee of 15 very respectable Inhabitants were chosen for carrying into Execution in this Town the Measures of the Congress.

BG, no. 1027, fol. 4.

[December 26, 1774]

The Committee of Inspection for the Town of PLYMOUTH, hereby give public Notice that there is to be sold at Plymouth, under their direction, (agreeable to the 10th Article of the Association of the American Continental Congress) on Monday the second Day of January next, at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon.—

One Hundred and Ten Quarter Casks of Malaga WINE, fifty Boxes of LEMMONS, six hundred and ten Casks, and fifty Jarrs of RAISINS,—Imported in the Schooner Dove, Ebenezer Parker, Master, from Malaga, via Falmouth. Said Sale to be on board said Schooner.

JOHN TORREY, Chairman.

Plymouth, Dec. 12, 1774.

BG, no. 1028, fol. 4.

[December 26, 1774]

The Committee of Inspection for the Town of Plimouth, hereby give Notice, That there are to be Sold at the House of Mr. Howland, Innholder, at said Plimouth, on Tuesday the Third Day of January next, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, under the Direction of said Committee (agreeable to the Tenth Article of the Association of the American Continental Congress) the following Articles imported in the Brig. Esther, Benjamin Smith. Master, from Liverpool, since the First Day of December Instant, viz.

Two Boxes Linnens, two Cafes Woolens, one Barrel Hard Ware, one Barrel Glass, one Cafe Ververet and Bindings, one Hogshhead Checks and Fustians, one Cask bottled Ale, Twenty Crates Eathern Ware, 160 Tons Salt, 20 Chaldrons Coals. Also s small Quantity of Cheese and unpack'd Beer, and six Boxes of Irish Linnens. The Sale to continue 'till the whole is sold.

JOHN TORREY, Chairman.

Plymouth, December 12, 1774.

BG, no. 1028, fol. 4.

[January 2, 1775]

Wrentham, Dec. 21, 1774.

Report prevailing in this and the neighbouring towns, that Mr. N Alldis, and some of his adherents, had procured inlisting papers (as they are called) to inlist men , to assist government to enforce the new acts of parliament, &c. these reports, together with their other exceptionable conduct to the liberties of the people, it seems induced a number of people from this & the neighbouring towns (to the amount of 4 or 500) to assemble at the house of Mr. Nathan Alldis in Wrenthan, and after some conferences held between the parties, the obnoxious persons signed the following declaration. Mr. Alldis at the same time promising to the company that he wou'd purchase no more Tea untill the present difficulties in the province were over, the company voted it satisfactory and immediately dispersed , Mr. Alldis had collected several other persons to his assistance, most of which were supposed to be his tools and dependants, and not worthy of the company's notice.

BG, no. 1029, fol.1.

[January 2, 1775]

FRIENDS and neighbours , we the subscribers do now in the open air, with our heads uncovered humbly ask the forgiveness of Heaven and of this respectable multitude now assembled and convened on this occasion, therefore we frankly confess that we have often mad use of exasperating speeches which have justly inflamed the minds of all friends to American liberty, in that we have heretofore paid no regard to any convention or congress, but have boldly opposed them, and also have reported that we had inlistment from GovernorGage to inlist men in government behalf, which was a false report of our own, and for which together with the above we ask your forgiveness, and promise never to be guilty of the like again, and that we severally for the future will conform to the resolves of the people on all occasions, and in particular we promise to regulate our conduct and strictly conform to the Association of the Grand American Congress. To conclude, we admit this resignation to be circulated and made publick at discretion of the multitude, and return you our thanks for your civility, good behaviour and kindness in reclaiming and restraining us in our career,&c.

Subscribing ourselves the publick's hum. servants,

) *Sam Goldsburs,*

Test) *Jonathan Stanley,* *Nathan Alldis,*
) *Wiggehworth Messinger.* *Sam Slocomb.*

BG, no. 1029, fol.1.

[January 2, 1775]

The Committee of Inspection for the Town of PLYMOUTH, hereby give public Notice that there is to be sold at Plymouth, under their direction, (agreeable to the 10th Article of the Association of the American Continental Congress) on Monday the second Day of January next, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon.—

One Hundred and Ten Quarter Casks of Malaga WINE, fifty Boxes of LEMMONS, six hundred and ten Casks, and fifty Jarrs of RAISINS,—Imported in the Schooner Dove, Ebenezer Parker, Master, from Malaga, via Falmouth. Said Sale to be on board said Schooner.

JOHN TORREY, Chairman.

Plymouth, Dec. 12, 1774.

BG, no. 1029, fol. 4.

[January 2, 1775]

The Committee of Inspection for the Town of Plimouth, hereby give Notice, That there are to be Sold at the House of Mr. Howland, Innholder, at said Plimouth, on Tuesday the Third Day of January next, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon , under the Direction of said Committee (agreeable to the Tenth Article of the Association of the American Continental Congress) the following Articles imported in the Brig^t. Esther, Benjamin Smith. Master, from Liverpool, since the First Day of December Instant, viz.

Two Boxes Linnens, two Cafes Woolens, one Barrel Hard Ware, one Barrel Glass, one Cafe Volveret and Bindings, one Hogshead Checks and Fustians, one Cask bottled Ale, Twenty Crates Eathern Ware, 160 Tons Salt, 20 Chaldrons Coals. Also s small Quantity of Cheese and unpack'd Beer, and six Boxes of Irish Linnens. The Sale to continue 'till the whole is sold.

JOHN TORREY, Chairman.

Plimouth, December 12, 1774.

BG, no. 1029, fol. 4.

[January 16, 1775]

Petersham, in Town-Meeting, Jan. 2, 1775.

VOTED, That whereas a Number of Persons, Inhabitants of this Town, (viz.)

Joshua Willard, Wm. Barron, Esqrs. Thomas [Beman], Joseph Stevens, Moses McClellan, Luke Lincoln, Joseph Smith, James Jackson, Samuel Frizzel, David Stone, Robert Goddard, Ebenezer Bragg, Seth [Hapgood], and Dr Ephraim Whitney have lately been discovered and some of them have themselves manifested as they have entered into a Combination as follows:

"That we will not acknow-

"ledge or submit to the pretended Authority of any

"Congresses, Committees of Correspondence or other

"unconstitutional Assemblies of Men, but will at the

"Risk of our Lives, and if need be, oppose the force-

"able Exercise of all such Authority."

And that they will stand by each other and repel Force with Force, on Condition that any of their Persons or Property should be invaded or threatned by any Committees, Mobs, or unlawful Assemblies.*

Whereby it appears to Demonstration, compared with their former Conduct and Assertions that they contumaciously compare the Strenght and Wisdom of the grand Council of America to an insignificant Mob and unlawful Assembly. And whereas some of those Persons have heretofore manifested Principles inimical to the Liberties of America, and we have the greatest Reason to believe that such Combination has flow'd rather from a Desire to assist our Enemy, in destroying our Liberties, than from any Fear that they can be under with Respect to their Person or Property.

And whereas the Committee of Correspondence for this Town have given Intelligence to the Town of such unrighteous Combinations, and the Town at a former Meeting Ordered, that each of such Persons should be served with a Copy of such Intelligence and Complaint, that they might have Opportunity at this present Meeting to clear up their Characters, and they have been accordingly served with such Copy ; nevertheless they have Neglected to appear or Endeavour to the same. (Saving only JOSHUA WILLARD, Esq. and EBENEZER BRAGG, who avow'd said Combination.)

Therefore as it appears that those Persons still remain the Incurable Enemies of America, and have a Disposition to cast their Influence into the Scale against us in Order to Inslave their Brethren and Posterity forever. And after all the friendly Expostulations and Intreaties which we have been able to make Use of, We are with great Reluctance constrained to pronounce those, some of which have heretofore been our agreeable Neighbours, traitorous Parricides to the Cause of Freedom in general & the united Provinces of N. America in particular. And it is the Sense of this

Meeting that the aforesaid Persons have forfeited the Confidence of their Brethren as Friends to Liberty, until such Time as they shall manifest to the Satisfaction of their Brethren, the Inhabitants of this Town, that they have repented of their evil Principles and become Friends to the common Rights of Mankind.

And further it is recommended to every Well-Wisher of American Liberty, to break off all commercial Connections with any and every of such Persons, and with all and every Person who shall not so do, until that they Individuals shall make a public Recantation of their doings aforesaid.

JONATHAN GROUT, Moderator.

A Copy from the Minutes,

DAVID SANDERSON, Town-Clerk.

** See the Covenant published by Tim. Ruggles.*

BG, no. 1031, fol. 2.

[January 16, 1775]

The Town of Marblehead were legally convened the 2d and 10th of January Instant, and amongst other Things, Voted Unanimously,

Ist. THAT the Collectors of Taxes for this Town, who have Lists to collect in which are Assessments due to the Province, be engaged to borrow a Sum not exceeding £. 780 L. M. Upon Interest, of such Inhabitants as shall incline to lend the same; and to give their Notes therefor, to be payed out of the first Collections which shall be by them made out of their respective Lists.—And the Town engages to indemnity all *Persons* who shall lend the Sum aforesaid to the said Collectors, namely, Capt. Francis Felson, Capt. John Roads, and Mr. William Haden; and to be Surely to them for the Sums they shall lend respectively. Provided, That such of the Inhabitants as shall lend Monies as aforesaid, do enter their Names with a Committee (to be now appointed for that Purpose) on or before the Ist Day of February next.—And the Collectors aforesaid are desired to charge the Town with the Interest which shall be paid on said Notes by them respectively, and to discharge with the Monies to be borrowed, the Balance due from the Town to the Province, by paying the same to Henry Gardner, Esq: of Stow, or any other Person, who may by Congress or an House of Representatives, be appointed Receiver-General for the Province.—And,

WHEREAS a proportionable Part of the Inhabitants of this Town, may soon be called forth to assist in defending the Charter and Constitution of the Province, as well as the Rights and Liberties of all America ; and in order thereto, it is necessary that they should be properly disciplined and instructed in the Arts of War: And whereas for this Purpose, a greater Proportion of Time must be immediately spent by [t]hose who are first to take the [Field], than by such as shall succeed and join them,

It is both just and reasonable that they should be rewarded for their Services.—
Therefore Voted,

2dly, That in Conformity of the Recommendation of the Provincial Congress, the Sum of EightHundredPounds be, and it hereby is cheerfully granted by this Town, for the necessary Purpose last mentioned ; and the Assessors of the Town are directed to apportion said Sum upon the Inhabitants of the Town as soon as may be, and to issue their Warrants to the Constables, namely, Messieurs Benjamin Ashton, John Grist jun. William Bubier, Nathaniel Lyndsey and John Brown, to the End the same may be forthwith collected ; requiring said Constables to pay said Sum into the Hands of Capt. James Mugford, who is hereby appointed and authorised Receiver and Pay-Master for the detached Militia or Minute-Men, to be provided as aforesaid : and said Pay-Master is hereby directed and impowered, to pay the Monies aforesaid to such Persons of the said detached Militia as shall produce Orders therefor, from a Committee to be now chosen for that Purpose.

Voted, 3dly. That Messieurs Thomas Gerry, Richard Harris and Joshua O]le, be, and they hereby are chosen a Committee for the detached Militia aforesaid, whose Business it shall be to examine the Rolls sent to them by the Captains of the Companies of the said detached Militia or Minute Men, and upon the Captain's certifying in their Rolls as aforesaid, the Number of Days which each Person in their Companies shall have attended Duty in this Town, after having been inlisted. Said Committee is impowered to give Orders on said Paymaster to pay off said Companies as follows, viz. Each Private Two Shillings Lawful per Day, each Serjeant, Clerk, Drummer and Fifer Three Shillings per Day, second Lieutenant Four Shillings per Day, first Lieutenant four Shillings and eight Pence per Day, and Captain Six Shillings per Day, provided, that there be no more Days allowed in the Rolls than three to each Person in a Week for the Time they shall be continued in said Service, and the Captain shall have certified that each Person had attended Discipline four Hours each Day allowed in the Roles aforesaid. And,

Whereas the Foes to American Liberty, by their Minions and Creatures, have been lately exerting themselves in this Province, and endeavoured to amuse the Inhabitants with Forms of Inlistments for establishing in America *Despotism* and *Popery*—to interrupt and oppose them whilst executing the most prudent Plans of the grand Continental and Provincial Congresses—to defer and dissuade them from supporting their Rights and Liberties, by holding up Severities and Cruelties intended against Americans, and by other futile Means have eagerly attempted to ruin and enslave the Country : And whereas in this Town there are a few so lost to Justice, Truth and Humanity as to subserve these iniquitous Designs,

Voted, 4thly. That notwithstanding their [mis] Conduct has been too notorious to admit of their, having much Influence, yet, they ought not to be indulged in their Wickedness, and therefore that a large Committee of Observation be appointed to attend to the Conduct of ministerial *Tools* and *Jacobites* in this Town, and to report their Names to the Town from Time to Time, that it might take effectual Measures for either silencing or *expelling* them from the Community.

After which a Committee of Fifteen respectable Inhabitants were chosen for said [Purpose].

Marblehead, January, 14, 1775.

Capt. [unreadable],[BEN]A BODEN] Town Clerk.

N. B. The Inhabitants are [leaving] the above Sums to the Collectors, one Gentleman having subscribed £ 100 Sterling, and while there was never known [such?] a Meeting in the Place, the Vote for the £. 800 to pay the Minute Men, and all the other Votes passed unanimously.

—It was found on Calculation that the detached Militia can be qualified to take the Field, and the Taxes of the Town not enhanced 50 per Cent. But should they for a Year or two be much more encreased, how trifling is this Difficulty when compared with the Loss of our inestimable Liberties, and so valuable and flourishing a Country?

BG, no. 1031, fol. 2.

[January 23, 1775]

*To the worthy Committee of Correspondence in the
Town of BOSTON.*

GENTLEMAN,

As you have hitherto heard nothing from us in answer to your repeated messages, you may be ready to censure us for want of proper respect to you ; or think we are regardless of our public grievances ; insensible to the sufferings of our neighbors ; and great delinquents in the common glorious cause.

We therefore beg leave to lay before you some general view of our proceedings, and of our excuses for former neglects, as also for not imitating the noble examples of charity in some other towns; and likewise to express the sense we have of our natural and constitutional rights, and our resolutions, under God, to live, or die with them.

We readily own we were not awakened to a sense of the public danger and interest so early as you ; but this serves to impress our minds with a deeper sense of the obligation we are under to you, for your seasonable and vigorous exertions. And it is some comfort to us that the common cause has not suffered by us, and that we have

not one adresser in the town ; hope therefore you have in some degree apply'd that scriptural maxim in our favor, "he that is not against us is on our part."

As the unhappy controversy at first more immediately respected the merchantile part of the community, our ignorance may in part excuse us. As for the late acts of the British parliament, we have done every thing in our power to oppose them : for we were sufficiently alarmed by the Port-Bill of the wicked designs of a despotic ministry, a bill the most cruel and unjust that ever passed the British senate, and has brought the [curses] of millions on the man that framed it.

We have sent members to the country and provincial congresses, and [trust] they have ever acted and voted as steady friends to our injured country. Our jurymen refused taking the oaths under the late oppressive and unconstitutional acts. We cheerfully contributed our mite for our noble patriots on the Grand Congress, where, we hear, they supported the dignity of ancient Roman Senators.

We readily adopt the association of the continental congress, and have appointed a committee to see that the several resolves and directions of the congresses are strictly observed ; and truth that a [sacred] regard will be paid to them by every person and family in town. We have no tea-drinkers among us ; and shall make it our study to observe the rules of prudence and economy, and to promote our own manufactures: Our militia is regulated according to the directions of congress, and from present appearances we promise ourselves great success.

We view the capital of the province as suffering and bleeding in its country's cause ; and feel ourselves oppressed by the same iron hand of tyranny: a sense of our own sufferings is increased from a consideration of our being [disenabled] to contribute towards the relief of our suffering neighbors. Being debared from transporting our hay (one of the chief articles of our subsistence) to the market, by a measure base and insulting ; deprived also of the common and almost only method of procuring our fuel ; together with the great sufferings of Point-Shirley, you are sensible, must bring us present, and threaten us with greater future distress. But supported from a good cause we shall cheerfully persevere ; and with the same ardor that we wish deliverance and prosperity to ourselves, we wish them to you.

We are but few in number, and of small ability ; and as we earn our bread by the sweat of our brow; shall ever hold in utter detestation both men and measures that would rob us of the fruit of our toil.

We most heartily rejoice in the general union, and trust that, that, with the justice of our cause, must procure us the friendship of all the virtuous and wise people in England. But we have no doubt at all of the natural right of colonies to form into a government by themselves whenever they think it expedient ; and therefore, if our grievances should not be redressed, impartial reason must justify British America in

seperating from a state, that after many fruitful attempts to enslave its subjects at home, would fain intail bondage on these colonies.

However, we have strong expectations that our country will yet shake off its burdens, and have its rights, liberties and commers established upon a firmer and broader basis than ever ; and doubt not but under the blessing and protection of Heaven (for which we cease not to pray) America, like the rising sun will shine brighter and brighter, till the steady hand of time shall bring her to that happy period, when she may bid defiance to every oppressor throughout the world.

We shall only further add at present, that a consciousness of your arduous labors for your country's good must ever afford you a pleasing sensation ; and while we unfeignedly thank you for former good services, permit us to hope for the continuance of them. Be assur'd we never will desert the cause, nor submit to oppression.

This with what may be offer'd by the gentlemen that present it, we hope will at last place us in a more favorable light with you, than you may have hitherto viewed us in.

With all gratitude and respect, we subscribe ourselves, Gentlemen, your very humble servants.

Samuel Sargeant,	}	In the name of the Town of Chelsea.
Samuel Sprague,		
Samuel Watts.		

Chelsea, Nov. 30, 1774.

Voted, That the above Gentlemen, viz. Messi`rs Samuel Sargeant, Samuel Sprague and Samuel Watts, our Committee of Correspondence, present this to the Gentlemen Committee of Correspondence in the Town of Boston.

BG, no. 1032, fol. 4.

[February 27, 1775]

At a meeting of the committees of correspondence and inspection in the county of New London, on the 30th ult. among other votes and resolutions, it was unanimously resolved, that any person that shall have any commercial connection whatever with any of the Addressors to Governor Hutchinson, or with any of the Mandamus Men, so called, is a violator of the true spirit and meaning of the Continental Resolves, and ought to be proceeded with as a violator thereof, and inimical to his country.

BG, no. 1037, fol. 6.

[March 20, 1775]

The Committee of Inspection of this Town appointed to execute the Resolution of the Continental Congress, upon information given them, against such Persons as sell, buy, or use any India Teas, contrary to the 3d Article of the Association, hold themselves obliged to conform to the 11th Article of the said Association in publishing the Names of such Persons as shall violate them.

Third. As a non consumption agreement, strictly adhered to, will be an effectual security for the observation of the non importation, we, as above, solemnly agree and associate, that, from this day, we will not purchase or use any tea imported on account of the East-India company, or, any on which a duty hath been or shall be paid ; and from and after the first day of March next, we will not purchase or use any East-India tea whatever, nor will we, nor shall any person for or under us, purchase or use any of those goods, wares, or merchandize, we have agreed not to import, which we shall know, or have cause to suspect, were imported after the first day of December, except such as come under the rules and directions of the tenth article hereafter mentioned.

BG, no. 1040, fol. 3.

[April 3, 1775]

Committee Chamber, Boston, March 31, 1775.

INFORMATION having been given to the Committee of Inspection of this Town, that Mr Simon Tufts of this Town, Merchant, had broke the Continental Association by selling Tea to Thomas Lillie of Marblehead, on the 25th Day of March Current.

The Committee made Enquiry into the Truth of said Report, and after a strict Examination of said Tufts of three credible Persons, could obtain no other Account, but the following, which we have caused to be published under Oath for the Satisfaction of the Publick, agreeable to the Design of our Appointment.

BG, no. 1042, fol. 3.

[April 3, 1775]

WHEREAS an Advertisement appear'd in the Essex Gazette of the 28th Instant, sign'd THOMAS LILLY, informing that he purchas'd a small Quantity of Tea of me the Subscriber.—

For the Justification of my Character and Satisfaction of the Public, I think proper to give the following state of the Affair, and do solemnly declare that the said Lilly had the same without my knowledge or privity of the Person who attends my Store, and which he has since confess'd was no more than a Pound and a Quarter.— I have purchas'd no Tea since the First of March, what I Bought was so immediately connected with an Article absolutely Necessary for the Country to be possess'd of , and

which they are in actual possession of, thought it justifiable to Purchase it with the Incumbrance ; and let my Friends whose Advice I had taken partake with me therein, esteeming the Friendship of my Countrymen of more Consequence than any Benefit that could accrue to me thereby.— I had no Intention from the Beginning of militating with the Association of the Continental Congress, and declare I will not buy or sell any more of said Article till a general Permission therefor takes place : If by the above imprudent Step with Lilly any Offence is given to my Countrymen, am sorry therefor ; and hope for a Restoration to their Favour and Confidence.

Boston, 30th March 1775

SIMON TUFTS.

Suffolk, ff } THEN the above named Mr. *Simon Tufts* made Oath
to the

Boston, April 1, 1775 Truth of the above written Declaration subscribed
by him.

Before me,

BELCHER NOYES, Justice o`Peace.

BG, no. 1042, fol. 3.

[April 17, 1775]

In a Convention held at Sudbury, in the County of Middlesex, January 5, 1775 by a number of Delegates of that and other Counties, the following Resolves (with others) were passed, viz:

WHEREAS a Number of Persons in Weston signed a covenanting Agreement, dated Nov. 14, 1774 to learn the Military Skill to defend his Majesty's Authority, and other Things contained in said Covenant, which has been, and may be construed to be of dangerous Consequences and that they were [engaged] to aid and assist in carrying the late unconstitutional Acts of the British Parliament into Execution, against the British Americans, (and it appearing from [authentic] Evidence, that Col. [..]sha Jones had such a sordid [Desire] having said Persons engage in a Military Company, &c.)and most of that said Persons, viz:

Nathan Hobbs	Joseph Seav[]ns
[...]H[...]	Elisha Sumson
Thadeus Spring	Abraham Je[...]
Daniel Livermore	Ilaiah B[...]rd
Jonas Sanderson,	Lemuel Jones
Isaac Stratton,	Elisha Harrington
Oliver Barber,	Thadeus Fulier
Roger Biglow	Joseph Mastick
Hezekiah Wyman	Isaac Harrington, aged 19
Samuel Underwood	Daniel Livermore, jun. 16
Isaac M[...]	Amos Harrington 20

Phinelias Upham	John Baldwin	17
Ephraim Train	Amos [..]nes	15
Ebenezer Bracket	Daniel Twitchell	18
Joshua Headley	William Cary	19
Samuel Sumson	John Sumson	18
Joshua Pierce	R[ui]ben Hobbs	18
Benjamin Sumson	William Hobbs	15
Nathaniel Wheaton	Lemuel Jones, jun.	15

Being 27 Adult or Persons of Age, and 11 Minors, making 38 Persons in all, who have signed a Declaration dated December 23d, 1774, setting forth, that they themselves had no such Design, and that they hold said Acts to be unconstitutional, and sending to enslave the British Americans ; and that they are fully disbanded from said Covenant and Inlistments ; and they having promised in said Declaration, that they are, and will hold themselves in Readiness, and join with their American Brethren in supporting their Lives and Liberties, both civil and sacred, of this and the other united Sister Colonies in British America—And Stephen Mirick aged 17 Years, and S. Livermore, two more of said Military Company having dashed their Names out of said Covenant, which makes 40 Retractors. —It is therefore *Resolved*, That the said Declaration and Retraction of said Persons, their Practice agreeing therewith, is satisfactory to this Body, and will remain so, untill they or either of them prove the Insincerity and Breach of the same — And if they, or either of them, by their future Conduct, prove inimical to the constitutional Rights, of said united Colonies, then, he or they so doing, may expect to be treated as Enemies to their King and Country. And those, viz.

Samuel Train, jun.	Josiah Lawrence, aged	14
James Stimson	Jonas Jones	18
James Stimson, jun.	Peter Cary	18
Asa Travis	Co. James Taylor	15
Thomas Corey	Thomas Williams	18
Samuel Gray, aged 18	Silas C[.]olidge	19
Lemuel Stimson 16	Daniel Upham	16
Josiah Allen, jun. 18		

Being 15, and 10 of them Minors, who signed said covenanting Agreement, and have not signed [...] and are not to be looked upon as friendly, and not as Enemies to their King and Country, and may [...] upon it, that whenever it shall be necessary to make a Sacrifice to the public Liberty, that the [...] of their injured Country will distinguish them among its first Victims.

Signed by Order of said Convention,

JONATHAN WARD, Clerk.

BG, no. 1044, fol. 4.

[April 17, 1775]

In a Convention held at Sudbury, in the County of Middlesex, by a large Number of Delegates, Co., on January 5, 1775, the following Resolve passed, viz:

WHEREAS Isaac Jones of Weston is deemed an Enemy to his Country, and as its not necessary he should keep a public House of Entertainment, there being two others kept near him on the same Road in Weston, by very worthy Persons, well accommodated therefor, who ought to have the Preference to sordid Enemies:— It is therefore *Resolved*, as the Sense of this Body, That said Jones ought not to keep a public House.—And all Persons who will hereafter hold and carry in Connections with him, ought to be treated as Enemies to the Liberties of those British united Colonies in America.

Signed by Order of said Convention,

Attest. JONATHAN WARD, Clerk.

BG, no. 1044, fol. 4.

[June 5, 1775]

The Committee appointed to examine into the Complaint against Lieut. Col. Brown, beg leave to make the following Report, viz:

THAT after a full hearing of the allegation and proofs for and against said Brown on the complaint of some [un]known person, through the Select Men of Wal[s]ham, to this Hon. Congress, we are of sentiment that an unhappy controversy has existed in said town relating to public affairs, in which said Brown had exerted himself very earnestly in favour of the cause of liberty by which means he had disgusted several persons : who have since endeavoured therefor to censure and stigmatize him as being an officious, busy, designing man : And unhappily it appears that Mr Brown has associated in taverns indiscriminately with many persons, in discourse with whom he at some times had inadvertently expressed himself, which he would not strictly justify himself in ; and that its evident those disaffected antagonists of Mr. Brown's, had taken the advantage of his ha[ar]ing purely from revenge. And the Committee adjudge from the whole of the evidence for and against said Brown, that he is injuriously treated by the severe resentment of designing persons ; and that he ought to be reinstated in the esteem and countenance of every friend to the liberties of this country.

Per Order, RICHARD PERKINS, Chairman.
Accepted,
A true Copy from the Minutes,
SAMUEL FREEMAN, Sec'y.

BG, no. 1045, fol. 2.

[August 7, 1775]

AT a Town Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Rehoboth, on the 10th Day of July 1775.— Said Town hearing divers reports about the unfriendly conduct of sundry of the inhabitants of the town of Swanzey—The town of Rehoboth ordered the committee of Inspection to go to Swanzey, and join their committee, and inquire into the aforesaid reports ; who accordingly went to Swanzey, and a number of the respectable inhabitants of Rehoboth ; and also a number of the respectable inhabitants from sundry of the towns in the colony of Rhode Island and Swanzey met and attended with them : and the committees of Rehoboth & Swanzey joined and caused a number of the inhabitants of Swanzey to be convened before them, whose conduct was inquired of by witness, and a number of said inhabitants that were called, appeared to be innocent, and a number more owned they had violated against the rules of the congresses, and promised reformation, whose names we spare ; but what gives us pain is, that we ourselves cannot [ll]ow the rules of the congresses, without publishing the names of Jerathmeel Bowers Esq; Charles Slaid, and Gideon Shearman, to be Persons that have acted contrary to the rules and directions of the congresses, though not in matter of trade, and make no retraction thereof.

By order of the committee,

JOSEPH, ALLYN, the chairman of said committee.

BG, no. 1054, fol. 2.

[August 14, 1775]

Mr. EDES,

Please to publish the following in your next paper.

A Piece having appeared in the Providence Gazette, and in your's Yesterday, under the Signature of Joseph Allen, 2d, publishing the

"Names of Jerathmeel Bowers, Charles Slade and Gideon Sherman, as Persons that have acted contrary to the Rules and Directions of the Congress, though not in Matters of Trade, and made no Retraction thereof."

I now demand of the Committee, who it is said have ordered the abovementioned Published, or the said Joseph Allen, Chairman, if he did it without Order, to shew forth, in any one Instance, wherein I have counteracted the Directions of the Congress.

To accuse a Man of being guilty of Crimes, and not at the same Time to shew what those Crimes are, is contrary to every Principle of Justice and the express Word of God ;

for who can defend himself against Slander when he knows not the Particulars of his Accusation : If that Committee, or Chairman, or any other Person, Friend or Foe, will undertake to inform the Publick in what Instance I have counteracted the Congress, I shall then know my Accusation and be upon even Ground ; and as I know my Innocency in that Behalf will chearfully explain all my Conduct, if it needs Explanation ; but until that is done, I shall consider all such Insinuations, whether Committees or Chairmen, to be under an evil Influence, and treat them and their Publications with the Contempt they deserve.

Swansey, Aug. 8. 1775.

BG, no. 1055, fol. 3.

[August 14, 1775]

Mr PRINTER, *please to publish the following.*

GIDEON EBSTOE, of Rochester hath been guilty of contrave[ne] the Resolve of the Provincial Congress, by exporting the Necessaries of [L]ife to the Island of Nantucket; and with whom all Persons are desired to withdraw all Sorts of Connections, and have no Dealings with him for the future.

By Order of the Committee of Inspection for said Town,

JOHN DOTY, Chairman

Rochester, August, 7. 1775.

BG, no. 1055, fol. 3.

[August 21, 1775]

Mr. EDES,

Please to publish the following in your next Paper.

A Piece having appeared in the Providence Gazette, and in your's yesterday, under the Signature of Joseph Allen, 2d, publishing the

"Names of Jerathmeel Bowers, Charles Slade and Gideon Sherman, as persons that have acted contrary to the rules and directions of the Congress, though not in matters of Trade, and made no Retraction thereof."

I now demand of the Committee, who it is said have ordered the abovementioned Published, or the said Joseph Allen, Chairman, if he did it without order, to shew forth, in any one instance, wherein I have counteracted the directions of the Congress.

To accuse a man of being guilty of crimes, and not at the same time to shew what those crimes are, is contrary to every principle of justice and the express word of God ;

for who can defend himself against Slander when he knows not the particulars of his accusation : If that committee, or chairman, or any other person, friend or foe, will undertake to inform the Public in what instance I have counteracted the Congress, I shall then know my accusation and be upon even ground ; and as I know my innocence in that behalf will cheerfully explain all my conduct, if it needs explanation ; but until that is done, I shall consider all such insinuations, whether Committees or Chairmen, to be under an evil influence, and treat them and their publications with the contempt they deserve.

JERATHMEEL, BOWERS.

Swanzy, August, 8. 1775.

[The Affidavits respecting Jerathmeel Bowers, Esq`rs Conduct, we are oblig'd to omit this Week for want of Room]

BG, no. 1056, fol. 2.

[September 11, 1775]

Mr. EDES,

Please to publish the following, and you will oblige the Committee of Inspection of Pownalborough East Precinct.

TO deprive a man of the benefits of society by holding him up to the world as an enemy to his country, is a task that must be disagreeable to humanity ; but the duty incumbent on every person who is intrusted with power to prevent the violation of the American Association, makes it necessary to publish the following facts.

At a Meeting of the committee of inspection for the East Precinct of Pownalborough, on the 20th day of May last, they sent for Abier Wood against whom some complaints were made, and the following facts were proved against him, viz.

1. That when the result of the Continental Congress was made public, the said Wood declared his disapprobation of the same, in every respect, and reported that the members of said Congress drank thirty bumpers of wine a piece before they passed their resolves, and added, if said resolves were adhered to, the country would be ruined, and said Wood declared he would not abide by said resolves.

2d. That said Wood did order our cordage, sale cloth and salt, after he had read the continental association.

3d. That the said Wood spoke disrespectfully of the method recommended by the Provincial congress for choosing officers, and said the officers were rebels and traitors and discouraged the men in this parish from exercising under said officers, saying they would be hanged if they should learn to exercise.

4th. That the said Wood brought from Boston certain pamphlets, entitled, an address to all reasonable Americans and spread the same and extol'd the pamphlet, saying it contain'd nothing but the truth and was the best book that was ever wrote ; and the said Wood speaking of the pamphlet wrote in England, entitled, Considerations on measures now carrying on in America, said it began with a lie, and ended with the same.

5th . That the said Wood was a selectman in 1774, and being applied to, to call a town-meeting in order to choose a Committee of Inspection, but he would not grant a warrant for so doing, saying it was against the law, and there was an act of parliament against town-meetings.

6th . That said Wood reported for truth, that the province of New York, and twelve towns in this and Connecticut province, had voted not to abide by the result of the Continental Congress, and thereby endeavoured to discourage the people of this parish from approving of the same.

7th . That the said Wood declared the acts of parliament for raising a revenue in America were not grievances, but ought to be submitted to ; and that the act for blocking up the part of Boston is a just punishment ; and said that John Hancock, Esq; Sam Adams and Josiah Quincy were the cause of all the disturbances and difficulties we are involved in.

8th . And the said Wood declared the provincial congress of this province ought not to be minded ; for the greatest part of said congress, were damn'd villains.and that they destroyed the Tea, and acted only to deceive the people, and stir up rebellion ; and that the resolves recommending the choosing the officers in this province was high treason.

9th. That the said Wood commended the coasters for carrying timber to the troops.

10th. That said Wood being asked why he did not carry timber to the troops? said , because he was afraid of the people ; and added, it was time now to throw off fear, for he had lost thousands by fearing to supply the troops ; and on being informed the provincial congress had forbid supplying the regular troops ; said Wood declar'd most of the congress were damn'd villains , saying there were Hancock, Adams and others, acted out of selfish views in destroying the tea, and being inform'd Mr. Hancock did not destroy the tea, the said Wood offer'd to give his oath before any justice of peace, that Mr. Hancock was the first man that went on board the vessel, to destroy the tea,

and that the devil had made them believe, that one of them should be a king, another a governor, and that they should be in same great places of honor and profit and their views were to stir up the people to sedition, in order to accomplish their designs – this was spoke concerning Mr. Hancock, and the provincial congress in April 1775.

The Committee thereupon voted, that Abiel Wood was an enemy to this country.

On the 24th day of May last, the ship Christian, Christopher Williamson, master, arrived here, having on board 198 coils of cordage, 278 barrs of flat iron, and 6 anchors, which were shipped by John Hartley of Whitehaven, on the 20th day of February last, on account & risque of Abiel Wood, and to be delivered to him at said Pownalboro', the dangers of the seas only excepted – the committee order'd the cordage, anchors and iron should be sent back forthwith.

The ship sailed the 28th following, and Abiel Wood went in said ship to Nova Scotia – a sloop of said Wood, sail'd about the same time and at sea said Wood had part of the cordage taken out of said ship, and put on board his sloop ; said Wood had all the cordage, anchors and iron above mentioned, carried to Nova Scotia & there landed and dispose of the same ; said Wood has also made another trip to Nova Scotia (since he carried the cordage) with salt ; and on the 8th instant arrived here, having clear'd out from Nova Scotia to New York for provisions. The committee therefore think it their duty to, and they hereby publish the said Abiel Wood as a violator of the American Association, and an enemy to this country, and that he ought to be treated as such, notwithstanding a late publication in Mr. Hall's paper by the committee of correspondence, to the contrary. – By order of the Committee of Inspection for the East Parish in Pownalborough,

T[...] LANGDON, Chairman

P.S. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hall are desired to publish the above in their papers.

East Precinct Pownalborough,

Aug. 17, 1775.

BG, no. 1059, fol. 2.

[September 11, 1775]

Mr. EDES, – *Please to give the following a place in your next very valuable paper.*

THE sub-committee of the joint committees of Rehoboth and Swansea, being conscious to ourselves, that we with the utmost decency and moderation have acted on the rules of the Congress in the case of Jerathmeel Bowers, Esq; of Swansea ; being willing at our first publication to publish his name only, as an offender against the rules of the Congress, without publishing his crimes, which appeared to us of a very dangerous nature ; humbly hoping that the great end of discipline would be answered thereby, which is to take away the sin and save the sinner. We have procured some

further Depositions to be published herewith, so that the impartial public may be able to judge for themselves in a case of this importance, to the bleeding cause of America ; the said Bowers being by far the most popular man in the town where he lives, and over which he apparently presides, as appears by the tenor of the depositions.

John Wheeler,	}	A Quorum of the
John Mason,		said town`s
Israel Barney,		sub-committee
Pelatiah Mason		chosen for this purpose.

BG, no. 1059, fol. 4.

[September 11, 1775]

I Patience Law of Swansey, in the county of Bristol. &c being of lawful age, testifieth and saith, that on Wednesday following the battle at Bunker`s hill, Col. Jerathmeel Bowers asked Mary Slead if her husband was gone to the Congress, she answered him yes ; he asked her if Philip Slead had heard any news that made him go ; he said it tis best for the town to lay still, for there was an army there, and let them fight it out ; and I have known him to use tea since the restrictions of the Continental Congress.

PATIENCE LAW.

Bristol, ff. Swansey, Aug. 18, 1775.

Patience Law, above named, personally appeared, and being cautioned to testify the truth made solemn oath to the truth of the above deposition by her subscribed. –

Before me,

EDWARD LUTHER, Town-Clerk of Swansey

BG, no. 1059, fol. 4.

[September 11, 1775]

Swansey, August 18, 1775.

WE the deponents, of Swanzey, in the county of Bristol, &c, being of lawful age, testi-fieth and saith that on Wednesday following the battle at Bunker`s Hill, Col. Jerath-meel Bowers asked Mary Slead, one of the deponents, if her husband was gone to the Congress, who said yes ; he had no need to have gone there, for it is best for us to lye still here, as we can ; she asked him for what reason, he said there was an army there, and let them fight it out ; and we have known him to use tea since the restrinctions of the Continental Congress.

Mary Slead, Martha Chase,

Bristol ff., Swansey, Aug.18, 1775.

Mary Slead, and Martha Chase, above named, personally appeared, and being cautioned to testify the truth, made solemn oath to the truth of the above deposition by them subscribed –

Before me,

EDWARD, LUTHER, Town Clerk of Swanzezy.

BG, no. 1059, fol. 4.

[September 11, 1775]

Swanzezy, Sept. 4th, 1775.

I, SAMUEL, LAW of Swanzezy, in the county of Bristol, being of lawful age, testifieth and saith, that being in Freetown, about the latter part of last March, when I saw several of the inhabitants of said Freetown receiving the king's arms out of Col Thomas Gilbert's house ; said Gilbert said to me that Col. Bowers and about ten more had occasioned all this difficulty and if Bowers had behaved himself always as he had for three months back, it would have been better for him, the said Bowers, and your town, too. I asked him for what reason, he answered me, and said, because he was your representative and your town must answer for his conduct.

SAMUEL, LAW.

Bristol ff. Warren, Sept. 5, 1775.

THE above named Samuel Law, appeared before me, and being cautioned to depose the whole truth, made oath to the truth of the above deposition, before me.

JOHN KINNICUT, Justice of the Peace.

BG, no. 1059, fol. 4.

[September 11, 1775]

I, The deponent of lawful age, do destify and say, that at a town-meeting called in Swanzezy, in order to raise a company of minute men to be ready on the shortest notice to march in defence of our country, soon after the battle at Bunker's Hill Col. Jerathmel Bowers, appeared to be very fierce against raising said company, and said their was no men wanted, for there was more men there than they knew what to do with, and that it was not expected that Swanzezy should send any, and after debate with him, it was voted to raise said company, and it was proposed to allow each man three shillings a day, if they went out of the town on alarm, which thing Col. Bowers fiercely opposed, signifying that if they had three shillings a day, and went out of the town, they would not care when they returned ; and we could not get a vote in the town to allow them any thing : I have also heard said Bowers upbraid the people for meeting

together upon alarm ; I have heard said Bowers say he looked upon it a damage their driving off the people of Freetown.

BENJa. MARTIN.

Bristol, ff. Warren, Sept. 5, 1775.

THE above named Benjamin Martin, appeared before me, and being cautioned to depose the whole truth, made oath to the truth of the above deposition.

Before me,

JOHN, KINNICUT, Justice of the Peace:

BG, no. 1059, fol. 4.

[September 11, 1775]

WE, Benjamin Cole 2d, and James Mason, of Swanzezy, of lawful age, testify and say, that we was at a town meeting in Swanzezy, on Monday following the battle at Bunker`s Hill, where a motion was made and seconded to raise a minute company to be ready on the shortest notice, for the defence of our country, which was oppos`d by Col. Jerathmel Bowers, notwithstanding it was voted ; after which the said Bowers said much about no men being wanted and that many would be sent back that was gone, and then it was moved to reconsider the said vote, and it was done ; after which it was mov`d to inlist as many of the militia of the town of Swanzezy, in order to be ready on the shortest notice, for the defence of the country, and to allow them eighteen pence a piece for every half day that they should exercise, by order of the Selectmen of the town - and the abovesaid Bowers oppos`d it, saying, he would protest against the meeting, for it was illegal ; and that every man should be tax`d by the rate streets, for his estate should not pay any of the cost, and call`d upon the people to take notice that he was against it, and would always be against it ; and it was said by some, if we did not want men nor money, we did not want a committee ; and it was mov`d and seconded to have the Committee dismiss`d, and it was done accordingly.

September 5, 1775.

Benjamin Cole, 2d,

James Mason

Bristol, ff. Warren, Sept 5, 1775.

THE above named Benjamin Cole and James Mason appeared before me, and being duly cautioned to speak the whole Truth, made Oath to the Truth of the above depositions,
before me,

JOHN, KINNICUT, Justice of the Peace.

BG, no. 1059, fol. 4.

[September 11, 1775]

Swansey, Sept. 5, 1775.

I, Simeon Mason, of Swansey, in the county of Bristol, being of lawful age, testifieth and saith, that being at a town-meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Swansey, some time last fall, for the raising of a supply of a stock of powder for said town, that Colonel Jerathmel Bowers being there opposed the stock being raised by them, and prevailed upon the inhabitants of said town not to raise said stock, notwithstanding the agreements of many of the inhabitants of said town to the contrary. Likewise I being at a Meeting of the Inhabitants of said town of Swansey, the Monday after the fight at Bunker's Hill, for raising an alarm company in defence of our lives and liberties, and our country, Colonel Jerathmel Bowers being there, very much opposed it, and said it was contrary to the rules of the Congress to do it ; and likewise said it was contrary to the plan, and very much opposed it, and said there was men enough at our camps at Roxbury, and said it was needless for us to raise any, for many that was there would be sent back again, for they was not wanted.

SIMEON MASON.

Bristol, ff. Warren, Sept. 5, 1775.

THE above named Simeon Mason appeared, and being cautioned to depose the whole truth, made oath to the truth of the above deposition.

Before me,

JOHN, KINNICUT, Justice of the Peace.

BG, no. 1059, fol. 4.

[September 11, 1775]

Swansey, Sept. 5, 1775.

WE the deponents of lawful age do testify and say, that at a town-meeting called in order to raise a company of minute men to be ready on the shortest notice to march in the defence of our country, soon after the battle at Bunker's hill, Col. Jerathmel Bowers appeared to be very fierce against raising said company, and said there was no men wanted, for there was more men there than they know what to do with, and that it was not expected that Swansey should send any ; and after a debate with him, it was voted to raise said company, and it was proposed to allow said company by said town a proper allowance for those learning the military exercise, two half days in a week ; then said Bowers made a speech against the proceedings, telling them how costly it would be, and how hard it would be for the town to pay the cost, and that the learning of the exercise would do them no good ; and also that it would hurt our cause, and earnestly moved to the moderator to call a vote to dismiss said company ; and after a dispute, he prevailed to have a vote called, and the company was dismissed by a majority of one or two ; and said Bowers seemed to be well pleased, and after which, amongst other things, a motion was made, that if there was no need of men, nor of

money for our defence, that there was no need of a committee ; and seconded by Col. Bowers, that the committee be dismiss'd, and they was dismiss'd accordingly : And afterward, when Col. Bowers and his adherents had left the meeting, the town thinking it dangerous to be without a committee, and they chose a new committee, who now say, that we think said Bowers has acted the unfriendly part to his country, in intimidating his townsmen for about a year last past, so that they have done little or nothing for the good of the common cause.

John Mason,

Israel Barney,

Daniel Morton jun`r.

Bristol,ff. *Warren*, Sept. 5, 1775.

THE above named John Mason, Israel Barney, and Daniel Morton, being cautioned to depose the whole truth, made oath to the truth of the above deposition.

Before me,

JOHN, KINNICUT, Justice of the Peace.

BG, no. 1059, fol. 4.

[September 18, 1775]

To the PUBLIC.

HAVING been acquainted by the gentlemen, of the committee of correspondence in Weston, with some uneasiness arising in the minds of people from the conduct of myself and family upon fast day, the 20th of last July ; and having a desire to live in good fellowship with every friend to American liberty, I beg leave publicly to declare, that the part I bore in those transactions that gave offence was dictated solely by the principles of religion and humanity, with no design of displeasing any one and that I am sorry it was in the eyes of *one* of my fellow-countrymen, attended with any disgusting circumstances. As it has been suspected that I despised the day, and the authority that appointed it, I must in justice to myself, and from the love of truth affirm, that I very highly respect and revere that authority, and, were it not for the appearance of boasting, could add, that I believe no person observed it with greater sincerity than
ASA DUNBAR.

Weston, Sept. 8th, 1775.

THE gentlemen, the committee of correspondence of Weston and Sudbury having taken into consideration the above declaration of the Rev`d Asa Dunbar, and questioned him respecting the transaction he refers to, receive it as satisfactory, and think it ought to release him from any unfavourable suspicions that have arisen to his disadvantage.

BENJ. PEIRCE. Moderator.

BG, no. 1061, fol. 3.

[September 18, 1775]

The Committee of Inspection for the Town of Londonderry, have done themselves great Honour by their Assiduity, in collecting a Quantity of Wearing Apparel, and some Household Furniture, which was taken from the unhappy Sufferers on the Day of the Battle at Charlestown. – Said Goods are in the Keeping of Mr. RICHARD DAVENS, at Watertown, an Inventory of them will be published as soon as the General Court shall direct some Person to deliver them.

It is hoped that other Towns will copy after this laudable Example!

BG, no. 1061, fol. 3.

[September 25, 1775]

At a Town-Meeting, legally warned and met at Swanzeey, Sept. 18, 1775.

1st, VOTED and chose Jerathmel Bowers, Esq. Moderator of said Meeting.

2^d, Voted to dismiss the present Committee of Correspondence and Inspection, namely John Mason, Israel Barney, Daniel Brown, Benjamin Martin and Daniel Martin, jun.

3rd, Voted and chose a new Committee of Correspondence and Inspection, viz. Jerathmel Bowers, Esq. William Brown, Capt. Luther Thurber, Charles Slead, and Capt. Levi Wheaton.

WHEREAS the conduct of Col. Bowers respecting the present dispute between Great Britain and America has been of late much call'd in question, and has occasion'd much disturbance amongst us, the town taking the same into consideration think proper to pass the following votes –

Voted, That Col. Bowers has for a number of years back warmly contended for the rights and liberties of America, and has to this day uniformly opposed the measures of a corrupt, wicked and infatuated ministry.

Voted, That Col. Bowers has been always free to give us his advice in what manner to conduct ourselves, and he has invariably urged us to continue our opposition, giving it his opinion that Great Britain was incapable of making any impression upon America by an arm'd force.

Voted, That it is the opinion of this town that those persons (inhabitants of this place) who have endeavour'd to persuade the public that Col. Bowers is unfriendly to

the American cause, were actuated by no other motives but what were suggested by envy, malice and revenge.

Voted, That it is our opinion, that the Committee of *Rehoboth*, by visiting Col. *Bowers*, attended with a number of armed men, and forcing him from his house, and then publishing him as inimical to his country, without hearing what could be said in his behalf, and afterwards refusing to give him an opportunity of producing evidence when they were about taking depositions against him, have shew'd themselves rash, precipitate and not sufficiently tender of mens characters : And we are also of opinion, that the conduct of the committee of inspection for this town, with some other of the inhabitants, in going out of this government in a secret manner, without the knowledge of said *Bowers*, and there making oath to certain matters which materially affected his character, are unprecedented and highly blameable.

The within votes passed *September* 18, 1775 at a town-meeting in *Swansey*.

Attest per me,

EDWARD, LUTHER, Town-Clerk.

BG, no. 1062, fol. 2.

[September 25, 1775]

Abington, September 16, 1775.

Notice is hereby given, That Thomas Mansfield, Capt. William Tirrill, David Porter, Israel Levet and David Ellis, all of Abington, do each of them refuse to comply with the association of the continental congress, and consequently prove themselves inimical to their country, and it is to be hoped every friend to his country will withdraw all trading, dealing and commerce with them. By order of the Selectmen, Committee of Correspondence, &c.

EBENEZER WITHMARSH.

BG, no. 1062, fol. 3.

[October 2, 1775]

Mr Printer,

Sir, please to insert the following Lines in your next Paper.

THIS may serve to certify the Public That Eleazer Bradshaw of Waltham, in the County of Middlesex, Hatter, has for some Time back employed himself going to Albany, under a pretence of bringing furr ; also purchased the pernicious, detestable herb called TEA, which all good Men and Friends to their Country hold in abhorrence. This Bradshaw has taken in Partnership with him one David Townsend, of

Waltham aforesaid, Baker by Trade, to retail said TEA. We think it our duty and desire that those *Tea Merchants* may be treated as their Merits deserve.

BG, no. 1063, fol.1.

[October 16, 1775]

The Committe of Inspection for the Town of Weston, being applied to by complaint sundry times, and by sundry persons, against Eleazer Bradshaw of Waltham, as being inimical to his country, and who has for some time past employed himself in going to Albany, under pretence of purchasing furr, also purchased a quantity of Tea ;

Whereupon the committee of Waltham, with the committees of Newtown, Watertown, Weston and Sudbury, being met on the second Day of October instant, to examine into the matter, and having sent a messenger for said Bradshaw, he appeared and frankly confessed he had purchased and sold a quantity of Tea, and had signified to one of said committee that he would do as he tho't fit in spite of said committee or any person whatever, and would be the death of any person that should molest him.

Therefore determined by this joint committee, that Eleazer Bradshaw, by his conduct and behaviour, has proved himself inimical to his country ; and that all persons be cautioned to with-hold commerce and dealing with said Bradshaw, until there appears a reformation in said Bradshaw.

The above to be published in the Watertown and Cambridge Papers.

By order,

JONATHAN PARMENTER, Chairman.

BG, no. 1065, fol.1.

[October 16, 1775]

I, David Townsend, by the desire of the Wife of Dr. John Clark, of Newton, to buy some Tea for her, and I applied to Eleazer Bradshaw of Waltham, and had six Pound, whichs [sic!] I sold to said Clark's Wife, and others, which I am heartily sorry for that I had any thing to do with said Tea, and I hope the Public will forgive me, for I did it without consideration, and I promise to have no more to do with Tea till allowed on by the Continental Congress.

This is to the acceptance of the Committee.

DAVID TOWNSEND.

BG, no. 1065, fol.1.

[October 16, 1775]

THE Committee of Inspection for the Towns of *Cumberland, Wrentham, Medway, Bellingham, Hopkinton, Holliston, Mendon, Uxbridge and Upton*, convened at said Bellingham the 18th of September 1775. Said Committees being so convened, received an Information against Capt. *Edward Clark* of *Rutland*, for purchasing and selling TEA, contrary to the Association Agreement, in Article Third. This Body of Committees, viewing it their indispensable Duty to keep said Association Agreement inviolate, taking it upon them to enquire into the Facts charged in said Information ; said *Clark* being required to appear before said Committee, accordingly appeared, and confessed that he had, since the first Day of March last, bought 20lb of Tea ; that he had sold to sundry Persons about 5lb, and an half of the same, had used some, and the Residue thereof, he said was lodged with a certain Man, with Intent to dispose of it to two others, whom he had not Opportunity to deliver it to.

Whereupon we unanimously *Resolve*, That the said *Clark*'s Conduct abovementioned, is in direct Violation of said Association Agreement, and that the said *Clark* is an Enemy to American Liberty, and ought to be treated as such. And that it be recommended to all Persons who are Lovers of their Country, and Friends to the common Rights and Liberties of Mankind, to break off all kind of Dealings with him ; and that this be published in the Gazette.

AARON PHIPS, Chairman.

Attest,

NATHAN TYLER, Clerk.

BG, no. 1065, fol. 3.

[October 30, 1775]

To the printer of the Boston Gazette, &c.

Please to insert the following [lines] you'll oblige your humble servant.

AT [said] Abiel Wood of Pownalborough, having laid a plan, with the assistance of Thomas Rise and the rest of the committee of correspondence of that town, to supply the inhabitants of Nova Scotia with provisions, contrary to ; and in direct violation of the Resolves of the Continental Congress, I think it my duty to expose them, and every person who shall endeavour to break through the grand rules by which alone we must expect to effect a defeat of our unnatural enemies.

Wood, after he had been to Nova Scotia with a large Quantity of goods, which he imported, in opposition to the Continental Associations. – after he had committed the numerous outrageous crimes mentioned in a publication of the committee of inspection of Pownalborough in Mr. Edes's paper of the 11th ult. – after, by his finesse and

low-cunning, he had rais'd many and great disturbances in this place, by forging and spreading lies in favour of the British Ministry, and against America ; after, when by his friends he was advis'd to desist from such mal practices, seeing he could not effect his purpose of torifying the whole town, and that his efforts, would only tend to disturb the peace and virtue of the people, (for he had many if not a majority of them dependant upon him) replied, if the town was rul'd by his opinion, that a pepper corn would turn a scale, [and that he was de... unleserlich] the worst the committee could do was to publish him in the papers, which he car'd not for. After all these things, the said committee of correspondence, of which Mr. Rice is the principal, met at Wood's house, notwithstanding they were knowing to the truth of the above : and furthermore, that he had the very goods he imported as mentioned then on sale in Nova Scotia: and having eat dinner with him and drank up all his ale they [compos]'d the piece which appear'd in Mess. Hall's paper, purporting, that he had not violated the association in any respect, &c. and that for the rash words he had spoken, he made an acknowledgement : which acknowledgement has never appear'd to be other than the dinner and ale, And consented that he might go to Nova Scotia with a large quantity of salt, for the support of the British Ministry, in opposition to the Continental resolves to the contrary, which he religiously executed with his sloop ; and on his return he clear'd out for New York ; but he touch'd in here. The committee of inspection alarm'd at so violent an act of opposition, as the supplying our enemies with provisions, or even the violation of the Congress resolves, which is the grand criterion of every friend to his country, in his committee conduct, met and voted, that it was not safe he should proceed, until he had liberty from the General Court of this province. An evidence respecting Wood's design, follows, viz.

I, Siewart Hunt, of lawful age, testify and say, that some time in June or July last, I heard Abiel Wood of Pownalborough say he was determined to carry on Trade to Nova Scotia, and that he could get Corn at the Southward and that he would go a Voyage for Corn and clear it out for Nova Scotia ; and that on his Voyag, he could come into Sheepsent, and leave Part of his Cargo there, and then proceed to Nova Scotia with the Remainder of his Cargo, in order to cancel his Bonds ; and I heard the said Wood say, that he hoped John Hancock and the Adams's would be hanged, for they have made all the Disturbances : and if some of the Leaders was hung, the rest would be easy ; and that there would be no Peace till some was hung ; and at many other Times he seemed disposed to terrify the People, by saying, All that has signed the Covenant would certainly be hang'd &c.

I do now solemnly declare the above to be the Truth.

Pownalboro. Aug. 25, 1775.

SIEWART HUNT.

BG, no. 1067, fol.1.

[October 30, 1775]

The General Court having order'd that the committee of correspondence in the several towns, should be authorized to clear out vessels, the property of well-known friends to this country to go the Southward after provisions : the said *Thomas Rice* with the rest of the committee, clear'd out said *Wood's* sloop, Zebulan Baker, master, altho he has been published an open enemy to this country. It is therefore hop'd in justice to the cause of liberty ; as well as to prevent said *Wood* from supplying the people in Nova Scotia, where he has a store, and carries on trade now with provisions contrary to the resolves of the Continental Congress ; that the committee in what port she now is, or may be at, will detain her so as to prevent such abandon'd designs being executed.

The following is an ADDRESS to the Committee of Correspondence .

Question 1st : Did you clear our *Abiel Wood's* sloop, because he has made it his business for nine months past, to curse both Continental and Provincial Congresses ; and tell the most scandalous lies of them which he could invent?

2. Was it because he endeavoured to discourage the good people of this place, from regarding the Continental Associations?

3. Was it because *he* tried to frighten the people of the town from choosing militia officers, and a person for learning them the exercise ; by telling them it was high treason, and they would all be hang'd for it ; and by such actions has got a party of about 40 men in the town to Join with him : [the following two lines are unreadable] apprentices ; and concluded, by saying if they met to exercise they would be hang'd in the same manner with them?

4. Was it because *he* in a most notorious manner broke the Continental association, and in consequence was published in the papers as an enemy to his country?

5. Was it because *he* traded and now continues to trade to Nova Scotia, so open violation of the Continental resolves, and his determination of carrying the provisions there for which his vessel is gone by your recommendation?

6. Was it because the committee of inspection voted it unsafe to let *his* sloop proceed for her voyage, as she was going with supplies to a place prohibited by the Congress?

7. Was it because he, with *Thom. Rice* Esq; one of our committee, granted a warrant for one annual march meeting agreeable to one of the acts of parliament, against which, the present noble resistance is made?

8. Was it because you are determined to avert the just punishment which *he* is liable to for violating the association by assisting him to carry on a trade with the enemy?

9. Was it because you tho't *him* a friend to this country, by endeavouring to establish the mild acts of parliament, lately exported from England : acts which were granted to take our money without our consent ; block up our ports : alter our ancient, valuable constitution ; stop our fisheries which the God of nature had given us in such plenty, for our easy and cheap maintenance ; seize our vessels, and stop our trade?

Such Gentlemen, are the real facts which you know *Wood* has been guilty of ; and if from them you draw the conclusion that he was a friend to this country ; or if it was from other motives, I should be glad to have them in answer to this, through the channel of the news papers : so that *your* conduct, which appears to be that of the town, may appear to the world in its true, proper, or improper light.

I am, Gentlemen, your humble servant,

TIMOTHY PARSONS.

Pownalboro` October 3 1775.

BG, no. 1067, fol.1.

[November 20, 1775]

Mr. EDES, *Sir*, at there was sometime past some depositions, that was taken and published against the subscriber, in your paper : and as I requested the public to suspend their opinion, as there was to be a hearing, and an inquiry by authority, into the matter, by whom the truth could be better known : and as that has been done, please to publish the report of a committee of the House of Representatives, herewith inclosed, and then the world will be able to judge whether I have acted an unfriendly part to my country :

In doing which you will oblige your`s to serve,

JERATHMEAL BOWERS.

THE committee appointed by the house of representatives to make enquiry of the committees of inspection who stigmatiz'd *Jerathmeal Bowers* esq; in the public papers ; and to examine and hear the evidences which they might produce against him ; and also to give the said Bowers a fair hearing in his defence beg leave to report.

That they have attended that service ; having first duly notified all persons concern'd who were present with their evidences, and had a full and a fair hearing.

The charges exhibited by the committee of inspection against *Jerathmeal Bowers*, esq; were as follow ;

That he opposed the town's paying their outstanding provincial rates to *Henry Gardner*, esq; that he was in favor of dismissing the committee of inspection for the town of *Swanzy* ; that he opposed from time to time, the raising of a minute company ; and, after they were raised, continued [the] opposotion [till] he finally procured their dismission : and afterwards he used his influence to prevent the raising of a min-

ute company, when mov'd for by some of the inhabitants, and the urgency of the times demanded [so] : that he express'd a great dislike to our assuming government : that he was much displeased at the courts being put down : that he spoke with contempt of a paper currency : that his conversation and conduct have had a tendency to dispirit the inhabitants of the town he lives in, and prevent their properly furnishing themselves for defence, against an invading enemy – xx his saying, that it would never do to fight OldEngland ; that five thousand regulars would drive our army ; that the expence of maintaining thirteen thousand men could not be supported, and that they would use the sword put into their hands against us for their pay : that he had advised Capt. Gibbs to lye still and not act in our difficult affairs ; and blamed some of the committee of Swanzey for examining a person whose conduct had been inimical ; and that he was against the town's augmenting their stock of powder, &c, and opposed equipping the militia out of the town's stock.

In support of these charges the committee brought the depositions which have appeared in the public papers most of the deponents being present, who again made oath to the truth of them.

It appears to your committee, that at the first meeting the town had to determine whether their rates should be paid to *Henry Gardner*, esq; col. *Bowers* warmly urged that the taxes should be collected, and be paid into the hands of some suitable person in town ; but as almost all the inhabitants were against paying them to *H. Gardner* esq; he, with the rest, expressed a disinclination to do it. But at the several adjournments he insisted that they should be paid to *H. Gardner*, but could not succeed in obtaining the approbation of the town, till after the Lexington battle ; when he was instrumental in procuring a vote of the town for that purpose. He was even so zealous for collecting the money that it might be ready for *H. Gardner*, when wanted or called for, that he declared in meeting that if any one refused to pay, he himself would aid and assist the constable in compelling him to do it.

It appears to your committee, that the committee of inspection for the town of Swanzey were first chosen in consequence of a motion made by col. *Bowers* for that purpose ; and that their dismission was owing to those persons who were offended at the town's refusing to pay three shillings a day to every minute man for exercising in case a company should be raised. And if col. *Bowers* seconded the motion for their dismission (as is suggested by some of the evidences) it did not arise from any dislike he had to so useful an institution : but it remains very uncertain whether the motioy [i.e. motion] was seconded by him. For *Simeon Mason* whose evidence has appear'd in the papers, observ'd further to us that he himself made the motion for their dismission, and that he was not seconded by col. *Bowers*, but by another person. Others declared that when the motion was made, he shewed a good deal of dislike and said, "if they would run mad he would have no hand in it." And after they were dismissed, he

observ'd to them, "just so you do your business, you dance backwards and forwards, do and undo."

The captain and lieutenant of the minute company which had been in Swanzeey, with others, deposed that col. *Bowers* encouraged them to proceed in raising a minute company ; and that he was so far from opposing, that he always express'd his approbation of the scheme. When an army was established he supposed their usefulness in a great measure ceased ; and as they were entitled to a considerable bounty upon their marching out of town, he thought it best they should be dismiss'd and they were accordingly. And afterwards he opposed the town's agreeing to pay three shillings a day to minute men for exercising, in case a company could be raised.

With respect to the courts, Col. *Bowers* granted, that he had disapproved of the people's conduct, in not permitting them to do business agreeable to the charter of the province.

As to a paper currency, Col. *Bowers* produced evidence, that he had taken it in a considerable quantity, and had given silver in exchange.

In answer to the evidences which were produced, that his conversation and conduct were calculated to dishearten the people, &c, Col. *Bowers* proved, that he used all his influence to induce the town to adopt the Suffolk resolves, but without effect ; that he urged the town to choose a committee for the county convention, and it was accordingly done ; that upon the news of the Lexington battle, he was sent for by a number of the inhabitants to consult what was best to be done, he told them, " he was very much against fighting, but since it was begun, "he was for going a thorough stitch with it," and advised to the calling a town meeting immediately ; that he moved at one of their meetings for doubling the town stock, which would make better than 500 weight of powder above 700 weight of lead &c., and likewise that 40 firearms should be produced, all which were voted ; he also moved that the town of Swanzeey should join with Freetown, and erect a battery on each side of the river, and afterwards said in private conversation, that he himself would be at the expence of the cannon, if he knew where to get them ; that he was for the town's stock being divided, and placed in different parts of the town, for the conveniency of the inhabitants in case of an emergency ; or that every man should fill his powder horn and give it to the serjeants to keep : but objected to their having it in their own possession, as they might waste it in shooting at birds, &c, that he solicited the people to enlist into the army, telling them that they had good encouragement so to do ; that he would by all means have their full quota engage in the service ; that he had been heard to say, that Great Britain could never drive this country by any force they could send ; that at the time of the Weymouth alarm, he declared, "he would go in person as far as any man ; that he had been heard to say within a few month back, that he "would spend as much of his

estate in defence of his country, as any person whatever, that he would spend his life and fortune in the cause.”

Moreover Capt. *Robert Gibbs* deposed that Col. *Bowers* never advised him not to act in our difficult affairs, as mentioned in the testimony of *David Pierce* ; but that he informed said *Pierce* that Col. *Bowers* came to him on account of his keeping a pedlar, and sending a sword to one of Col. *Gilbert*’s company, and told him that he had better turn away the pedlar, recall the sword, lye still and not make the people uneasy ; which story said *Pierce* misapprehended.

Silas Clarke, the person referred to in the depositions of *Philip Slead* and *David Pierce*, as being present at the time when Col. *Bowers* expressed his apprehensions about the army, testified, That *Philip Slead*, expressed some concern about paying the army, but he observed him, that he need not trouble himself about that, for us the army had the sword in their hands, they would pay themselves, which seemed to affect said *Slead*, who said, “I never thought of it before, and am a good deal troubled at it,”and then asked Col. *Bowers* what he thought of *Clarke*’s opinion, who asked what it was, and upon being told, he answered in a careless way, “there’s no knowing which way it would turn.”

As in some of the depositions published to the world, Col. *Bowers* is said to call the meeting illegal, the meaning of which may be mistake [...] we think proper to observe that from the deponents themselves, it appears that Col. *Bowers* mentioned the absence of the town-clerk as the cause of its illegality.

Your committee, after a thorough examining of the several evidences and the most careful enquiry, cannot find that Col. *Bowers* has acted [...] part unfriendly to his country, but quite the reverse ; and are unanimous in the opinion, that he so far from wishing his countrymen to be deprived of their liberty or a single privilege would exert himself to the utmost in support of them.

By order of the committee,

WILLIAM BATLIES, Chairman.

BG, no. 1070, fol.1.

[December 4, 1775]

Mr. EDES,

Be pleased to insert the following in your useful paper.

Observing a very brassy piece in your paper of the 20th of November ; published at the request of Jerathmel Bowers. We the subscribers being concerned as committee men, in gratifying the said Bowers [sanguine] request some time past, by publishing sundry depositions in support of a charge before that time published against the said Bowers, and afterwards being called on by a committee of the honorable house of

representatives : Before whom the committee that had published said Bowers made their defence ; And being informed by the committee of the honorable house : that the matter would have a further hearing before the house : we are chosen by our committees as agents to attend on said affair before the house, we attend accordingly ; and we grant that the committee of the house did report, in manner and form as published by said Bowers ; but now we say to the public (and to the immortal honour of the honorable house of representatives be it spoken) that the house`s committee`s report to them, was by them rejected ; and aforesaid Bower`s complaint against the [said] committees was dismissed, and he allowed to withdraw the same, and thereupon he took his papers back ; and so said Bower`s enterprise against the town`s committee`s proved an abortive ; and in the name of sense can that speak to the public that never had an existence : the report of the committee of the house never had an existence in the honorable house : Good God, how long shall the public be treated in this manner, (to wit) by said Bower`s feebly assaying to inform them by that that never had an existence itself ; but as we would not be too dogmatical, we feel perfectly easy to risk this correction of said Bower`s late publication to the judgement of the impartial public (having only just set the same in its true light) and leave the said Bowers to the correction of that honorable (and impartial) house, whereof he is a member, whose worthy doings he has not published, but endeavoured to [...] present, by asserting in a public paper a report of one of their committees which they themselves in their justice disapproved of and finally rejected.

JOHN WHEELER, ISAAC BARNEY.

BG, no. 1072, fol.1.

[December 4, 1775]

Mr. EDES,

By inserting the following Certificate, you will oblige one of your constant Readers.

These may certify whom to ever it may concern, that we give leave to John Chase to pass to Nantucket, in his small vessel, and to carry with him some apples, & cyder, & cheese and chesnuts. Given under our hands at Swanzey, this 28th day of October, 1775.

By order of the committees of correspondence and inspection of Swanzey.

(Copy), JERATHMEEL BOWERS, Chairman.

BG, no. 1072, fol.1.

[December 4, 1775]

Pownalboro, 6th, 1775.

AS the dismissing a committee of Inspection reflects disgrace on the town that dismisses it, or the committee dismissed, I desire you would publish the following state of facts relative to the dismissing the committee of Inspection for the East-Precinct of Pownalboro`, that the public may judge whether they were dismissed for good reasons or no.

ABIEL Wood of Pownalboro` having been guilty of many misdemeanors, and violated the association the committee thought it their duty to publish him to the world as an enemy to his country. A state of facts, relative to his conduct, was drawn up in May last, and laid on the table of the late Congress. – The committee thought it prudent to suspend the publishing his name in the papers as he had sailed with his family for Nova Scotia.

The town of Pownalboro` having been without a committee of correspondence till the 22d of June last, the inhabitants then assembled, and made choice of Thomas Rice, Esq; Messrs. Michael Sevey, John Decker, jun. Edmond Bridge and Obadiah Call, for that purpose.

Soon after the committee of correspondence was chosen, Mr. Wood returned from Nova Scotia, and made application to the above gentlemen, whereupon they voted him a friend to his country, though they knew that he had violated the association by importing cordage, &c, they also gave him a permit to go to Nova Scotia in direct violation of the resolve of the American congress in May last, they also published a piece in Mess`rs Mall`s paper declaring to the world, that Mr. Wood was a friend to the country.

The committee of inspection thought themselves aggrieved by the publication of the committee of correspondence, and sent a petition to the general court, with a state of facts, they also sent a state of facts relating to Mr. Wood`s conduct, to the press. – The general court took the petition of the committee of inspection into consideration, and passed the following resolve.

In the House of representatives, Watertown, August 3d 1775.

Resolved that the facts alledged in the petition of Timothy Langdon, and others, committee of inspection for the East parish of the town of Pownalboro` against Mr. Abiel Wood, respecting his conduct, were proper to be considered by the committees of inspection and that from their representation, they had sufficient evidence of the facts to deem him an enemy to his country : and that committee of inspection, are the only bodies recommended by the continental congress to judge and determine respecting infringements of the association of the continental congress ; and that committees of correspondence are not authorised for that end ; and, that from the representation made by the committee of inspection, this court approve of their conduct.

Sent up for concurrence,

JAMES WARREN, Speaker.

August 3d 1775. In council, read and concurr'd Attest. P. MORTON, Sec'y pro. temp.

Consented to, by fifteen of the council.

Between the time of sending the petition to court and the return of the general court's doings, Mr. Wood returned from his second trip to Nova Scotia. He drew a petition, which was signed by a number of the inhabitants, and sent it to the selectmen for a town meeting to be called, to dismiss the committee of inspection. One of the selectmen refused to grant a warrant for that purpose ; two selectmen signed it, and as it is in Mr. Wood's hand writing, and he may think me partial unless I publish it, I shall give the articles to the public.

1st To choose a moderator for said meeting .

2^d To see if the town approve of the proceedings of Ebenezer Whittier, Timothy Langdon, Timothy Persons, or any of the committee of inspection on the East side of said town.

3^d To see if the town will dismiss the old and choose a new committee men of inspection on the East side of said town.

The town accordingly met on the 4th of September, but the selectmen, either conscious they had done wrong in granting the warrant, or for some other reason best known to themselves, did not appear at the meeting ; Mr. Wood's party were at first thrown into confusion, and some of them went to the selectmen who would not sign the warrant and ordered him to meeting, but he refused to go – they then returned to the meeting and after consulting with one, who thinks himself a judge of law, they determined they could hold a meeting without. The selectmen, or either of them, being present. They then (to their immortal honour be it spoken) made choice of a man for their moderator, who, at the last march meeting had the audacity to declare, that he hoped, before six months were at an end, he should see half the continent in fetters.

One of the committee desired leave to read the above resolve of the general court, which being granted and the resolve read, Mr. Moderator and Mr. Wood assured the assembly they did not know the men who sign'd the resolve, that they had nothing to do with them, and that the resolve had nothing to do with the town meeting. – They then passed the following voted, viz.

Voted, That they do not approve of the proceedings of the committee of Inspection on the East side of the town.

Voted, To dismiss the old and choose a new committee for the East side of said town.

One of my brethren and myself moved, that the *assembly* would act consistently and record the reason for dismissing the committee, but Mr. Moderator assured us there was no article in the warrant for that purpose.

After the *assembly* had dismissed the committee of inspection, Mr. Wood applied to the before mentioned committee of correspondence, and they gave him liberty to take his sloop, which the committee of inspection had stopped, for trading to Nova Scotia, they also gave to him (or one Baker who has been in the sloop trading to Nova Scotia) a certificate, of his being a friend to the country, agreeable to the resolve of the general court, that he might go to Philadelphia for provisions, although they knew that, at the time of granting the certificate, Mr. Baker had a clearance for that sloop from Nova Scotia for New York. And it does appear, by a deposition which is ready to be published, that Mr. Wood declared he would get a certificate from the committee, and make use of it to get provisions, and trade to Nova Scotia.

The above being facts, it is incumbent upon the town of Pownalboro` to give some reasons for their conduct, and upon the committee of correspondence, to justify their proceedings to the world.

I am sir your humble servant,
TIMOTHY LANGDON.

BG, no. 1072, fol. 4.

[December 4, 1775]

Mr. EDES,

BY an hint in your paper of this week I learn a piece will be published in your next paper relative to me, signed Timothy Langdon. From his known present disposition towards me, expect it will be very unfriendly, therefore hope the public will suspend their opinion, till they hear what answer can be made to it.

THO. RICE.

Nov. 29, 1775.

BG, no. 1072, fol. 4.

[December 18, 1775]

To THOMAS RICE, Esq;

Sir,

IN the Gazettee of the 4th instant, you desired the publick to suspend their opinion upon a piece with my signature, till they heard what answer could be made ; as it is time an answer was published, you are desired to give one as soon as possible, and while you have pen in hand, answer the following Queries.

From what principle did you act, when as assessor for the town of Pownalborough, for 1774, you wrote a letter to Mr. Treasurer, not directing it to *Harrison Gray*, or *Henry Gardner*, Esq; in which letter you mentioned the names of the constables, and what sums were committed to each to collect?

From what principle was it that you, as one of the committee of correspondence, voted Mr. Wood a friend to the country, when you had taken some depositions (and copies of them were before you at the meeting of the committee) which would have condemned a man of a much better character than Mr. Wood [bore]?

What principle actuated you, when you gave your first permit to Mr. Wood when at the time of granting it he told you he purposed to go to Nova Scotia with his sloop.

What spirit possessed you when you gave Mr. Wood a second permit, as a well known friend to this country, when he made two trips to Nova Scotia, contrary to the Continental resolve in May last, and violated the association by importation and thereby giving him an opportunity to make a third trip to Nova Scotia, which he actually did?

What leaseng Demon possessed yout heart, when you dared to insinuate to the world that my well-known disposition towards you was unfriendly?

What one act of ill will towards you have I been guilty of, unless you call it ill will to expose your politicks, which every friend to America must abhor?

I think I have a right to an answer to the two last, and the publick to the other Queries.

TIMOTHY LANGDON.

Watertown, December 16.

BG, no. 1074, fol. 3.

[January 1, 1776]

The Committee of both houses appointed to consider the petition of the former committee of Inspection of the east-part of the Town of Pownalborough, the petition of a number of the inhabitants of said Town, and the petition of Abiel Wood, have attended that service and fully heard the parties, and beg leave to report by way of resolve.

JOHN TAYLOR, per order.

Resolved, That the former committee of inspection, on the east part of the town of Pownalborough, had sufficient evidence to justify them for publishing *Abiel Wood*, as a violator of the *Continental Association* ; and that in many other instances, he, the said *Wood*, appeared by his conduct to be an enemy to the liberties of this country ; and the said committee deserve to be highly commended for so doing ; and the committee of correspondence of said town, who counteracted the doings of said committee of in-

spection, is very unjustifiable, as it encouraged the said *Abiel Wood*, in his principles and practices, so inimical to *the rights and liberties of America*.

Further Resolved, That *Abiel Wood* shall be confined untill he shall give bond, with two good and sufficient sureties to the treasurer of this colony, in the sum of *one thousand pounds*. The condition whereof shall be, that he, the said *Abiel*, will not in any way assist, or correspond with any of the enemies of this country ; and that he will be of good behaviour, and peaceable towards all, and more especially towards the persons of the former committee of inspection for the east part of the town of Pownalborough ; and that he will at any time appear and answer to any complaint, which may hereafter be made against him, when he shall [...] thereinto required, by order of this court, and that he will abide their order thereon.

In Council, Dec. 23. 1775. Read and accepted.

Sent down for concurrence.

Perez Morton, Dep. Secr`y.

In the House of Representatives, Dec. 25, 1775.

Read and concurred,

Sent up,

J. WARREN, Speaker.

Confented to by the major part of the Council.

A true copy,

Attest, *Perez Morton*, Dep. Sec.

BG, no. 1076, fol. 3.

[January 1, 1776]

Watertown, 28th Dec. 1775.

THIS may certify, That Mr. Abiel Wood, of Powanalborough, has complied with the Order of the General Court, upon the Report of the Committee on the Petition of the Committee of Inspection for the East Part of said Town, and others, by giving Bonds agreeable thereto. – He ought therefore to be permitted to pass unmolested through the Province.

(Copy) For HENRY GARDNER, Esq; Treasurer and Receiver General for *Massachusetts-Bay*.

JAMES SWAN, Dep`y.

BG, no. 1076, fol. 3.

[January 22, 1776]

To the Public.

Granby, January 10th, 1776.

WHEREAS many regular complaints have been of late exhibited to us against *William Eastman*, of Granby, for not attending to the recommendations and declarations of the Continental Congress, and also for violating the resolves of the Provincial Congress : and he being duly cited to appear the 31st day of July last before the committee for this town : the evidences adduced were examined by which it was proved to the satisfaction of the committee that said Eastman was inimical to the cause of liberty and the interest of the American colonies.

And after much time hath been spent, by the committee, and others, in labouring to convince him of his error herein ; and much patience and lenity hath been exercised towards him in allowing him proper time of consideration ; yet that he the said Eastman, does wholly refuse to comply with the declarations of the Continental Congress, in taking up arms in the defence of the Colonies, he also refuses to join with the town in transacting any affairs relative to the public cause ; and also that he justified the late tyrannical and oppressive proceedings of the British parliament with the town of Boston : and many other things of like nature, too numerous to be here inserted – All which are aggravated by his holding a Captaincy in the militia, under the power and the authority of administration.

It is therefore the opinion of this committee, that said *William Eastman* is guilty of violating the resolves and declarations of the Congresses, and ought to be held up to public view as an Enemy to his Country. – And as such we do exhibit him, that every person who wishes to support and vindicate the natural and constitutional rights of the American Colonies may treat him accordingly, and withdraw all commercial dealings from him.

Voted, and ordered to be published.

Signed per Order, I [*bin*] *has Smith*. Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence and Inspection.

Test. *Nathan Smith*, Committee Clerk.

BG, no. 1079, fol. 4.

[March 11, 1776]

Mr. EDES, please to give the following a place in your paper.

THE Committee of Correspondence and Inspection for the Town of Eastham think it their duty as Friends to their Country, to inform the Public, that notwithstanding the Resolve of Court,"That no Man shall Fire a Gun at Bird, Beast or Mark," Joshua Higgins of this Town after hearing said Act read, and being requested by this joint Committee to conform thereto, bath in defiance of said Act

fired away his Powder, and refuseth to give the least Satisfaction to this Committee that he intends to reform.

By order of said joint Committee,

THOMAS PAINE, Chairman.

Eastham, Feb. 19, 1776.

BG, no. 1086, fol. 2.

[March 18, 1776]

Mr EDES, you are desired to give the following Lines a Place in your Gazette.

AGREEABLE to the Resolve of Congress, the eleventh of January A.D.1776, Richard Burton, late Schoolmaster of Chatham hath been duly convicted before the Committee of Correspondence and Inspection of Eastham, of obstructing and discouraging the Currency and Circulation of the Bills of Credit emitted by the Authority of Congress. In order therefore, that the said Richard Burton may be treated as the Congress directs, he is thus published by order of the Committees aforesaid.

THO`s PAINE, Chairman.

Eastham, March 8th 1776.

BG, no. 1087, fol. 3.

[April 22, 1776]

AT a Committee of Inspection held at Boston, the 9th Day of April, 1776. *Voted unanimously*, That Nathaniel Barber, Esq. be appointed to sign-Certificates of Goods landed in this Town & to grant Permission to take on board Merchandize, &c, to be exported, he taking proper Assurances of their not being carried to the Enemies of America : and if at any Time, he should suspect any of inimical Intentions, to inform said Committee.

(A true copy),

The foregoing Vote is published, that all concerned may conform themselves thereto.

Boston, 19. April 1776

NAT. BARBER.

BG, no. 1092, fol. 2.

[April 29, 1776]

At a Committee of Inspection held at Boston the 9th Day of April 1776.

Voted unanimously, That *Nathaniel Barber* Esq; be appointed to sign Certificates of Goods landed in this Town and to grant Permissions to take on board Merchandize, &c, to be exported, he taking proper Assurances of their not being carried to the Enemies of America : And if at any Time, he should suspect any of inimical Intentions, to inform said Committee.

(A true copy)

The foregoing Vote was published, that all concerned may conform themselves thereto.

Boston, 19. April 1776.

NAT BARBER.
BG, no. 1093, fol. 4.

[May 6, 1776]

At a Committee of Inspection held at Boston, the 9th Day of April 1776.

Voted unanimously, That *Nathaniel Barber* Esq; be appointed to sign Certificates of Goods landed in this Town and to grant Permissions to take on board Merchandize, &c, to be exported, he taking proper Assurances of their not being carried to the Enemies of America : And if at any Time, he should suspect any of inimical Intentions, to inform said Committee.

(A true copy)

The foregoing Vote was published, that all concerned may conform themselves thereto.

Boston, 19. April 1776.

NAT BARBER.
BG, no. 1094, fol. 4.

Providence Gazette, October 20, 1774 – July 4, 1776

[November 12, 1774]

On Friday evening last, in pursuing a person who had been guilty of breaking the peace in Charlestown, a barrel and bag of tea were stumbled on, which were immediately carried to the training-field, and committed to the flames; after they were consumed, it was suggested there was more in the same place; upon which a search was made, and enough found to fill a large hogshead, which was conveyed to a place called

the green, before Cape-Breton tavern, and a quantity of faggots laid round it, which were set on fire, and the whole consumed: Every thing was conducted with such stillness and order, that many people there knew nothing of it until the next morning. It is supposed the quantity destroyed was between 3 and 400 weight.

PG, no. 566, fol. 3.

[November 26, 1774]

Beverly, November 1, 1774

At a meeting of the Committee of Correspondence.

WHEREAS many of the good people of this town have signified their dislike that any person or persons, who are supposed to be enemies to the liberties of this country, should be countenanced, by laying his or their vessel to any of the wharves, or storing any of their goods in any of the warehouses in this town:

It is strongly recommended to all wharfingers and owners of wharves and warehouses in this town, that for the future they suffer no vessel to come and lay at any of their wharves, nor receive any goods into their warehouses, which belong to any person who bears the character of an enemy to the liberties of this country. By order of the Committee of Correspondence,
SAMUEL GOODRIDGE, Clerk.

PG, no. 568, fols. 2-3.

[November 26, 1774]

Providence, November 24, 1774.

THE Committee of Correspondence for the Town of Providence, having met together this Day, and taking under Consideration an Article in the Association, made at the late American Continental Congress, relative to improving the Breed of Sheep, encreasing their Number, killing them as sparingly as may be, especially those of the most profitable Kind, and not exporting them to the West-Indies, Do earnestly entreat and exhort all Persons within this Town to conform themselves exactly to this good and wise Regulation, as it will have a manifest Tendency to bring about and secure that Freedom and Happiness which we so greatly contend for. We would observe in particular, that those who shall so far act in Opposition to the united Sentiments of all America, collected in General Congress, as to kill any Lambs or young Sheep, without the most evident Necessity, or export any Sheep at all to the West-Indies, ought to be discountenanced, as Persons who counteract the general Welfare.

Signed by Order, and in Behalf of the Committee,

JAMES ANGELL, Clerk.

PG, no. 568, fol. 3.

[November 26, 1774]

The Committee of Correspondence having Yesterday been advised, that some Merchants of this Town were about to ship a Number of Sheep for the West-Indies, on a Supposition that they might be exported till the first of December, waited on the Gentlemen who being informed that it was contrary to the 7th Article of the Association agreed on in the late Continental Congress, they very readily declared nothing was farther from their Intention than to violate the said Association, and immediately gave Orders that the Sheep should not be shipped, although they were purchased for that Purpose about the first of September last.

PG, no. 568, fol. 3.

[November 26, 1774]

A Merchant at Newport having this Week shipped 50 Sheep on board a Vessel bound for St. Augustine, it was determined, at a Meeting of the Inhabitants, that they should be re-landed, which was accordingly done.

PG, no. 568, fol. 3.

[November 26, 1774]

Rehoboth, November 22, 1774.

THE Town of Rehoboth being legally warned and assembled on the 21st Inst. made Choice of

Mr. Ephraim Starkweather, Mr. Samuel Peck, Capt. Ebenezer Peck, Capt. Philip Wheeler, and

Capt. Thomas Carpenter, a Committee for executing the Plans of the Continental and Provincial Congresses; and also gave Orders to the Constables and Collectors to pay Henry Gardner, of Stow, Esq; Monies which they then had, or in future might have, in their Hands, belonging to the Province, agreeable to a Resolve of the Provincial Congress; who have considered the late Treasurer Gray unworthy of any further Confidence, and an avowed Enemy to the Rights of America.

PG, no. 568, fol. 3.

[December 3, 1774]

We the subscribers hereby certify that we have conversed freely and fully with the aforesaid Gentlemen upon the subject to which their publication above written refers; And have received full satisfaction from them, that they are in no measure combined with, or aiding the Rev Samuel Peters, in any measure or plan he may have concerted, or is pursuing injurious to this colony; But on the contrary we have received strong assurance of their friendly disposition towards the government and people of this colony; Which we persuade ourselves, and believe to be serious and candid; and that they are entitled to every degree not only of personal security and liberty; but of respect and esteem which every colony good subject, and friend to his country has a right to expect and receive.

Erastus Wolcott, Daniel Sherman, Nathaniel Wales jun, William Wolcott,
Thomas Mumford, Benj Huntington, Thomas Seymour, Titus Hosmer, J Chandler,
Thomas Belding, Jedidiah Elderkin, Jonathan Trumbull jun

PG, no. 569, fol.1.

[December 3, 1774]

At a Meeting from the several Towns in the county of Barnstable, met and convened at the Court-House in said county, 16. Nov 1774

Hon James Otis being chosen Moderator, and Col Joseph Otis, Clerk....

We do therefore *resolve*, [...]

5. we recommend it to the inhabitants of this county, to subscribe the Association ... with the following addition:

"We the subscribers do solemnly agree and promise, that we will observe and conform to the above Association, and do hereby make it our own particular act and covenant, and do further engage, that from and after the date hereof, we will not buy, sell, transport or drink, or suffer our families to buy, sell, transport or drink any kind of India tea, wheter imported on account of the East-India company, or any other, or from any part of the world, till we obtain as ample redress of our grievances, as is specified in said Assoc. as witness our hands the 7th day of Nov 1774."

And that each member of this Congress do immediately sign said Association with said addition: and that we recommend it to every town in the county, who have not already chosen, to chuse committees, to see that the inhabitants of their respective towns sign as above. And to inspect and enquire if any person act contrary to said Assoc and addition, and in case they do, or any refuse to sign said Assoc, to publish their names to the world.

[...]

15. *Voted*, that the county's Committee of Correspondence be desired to procure printed copies of the proceedings of this Congress, and the above mentioned Assoc.

and that they transmit two setts to each town in the county, to be directed to the respective Committee of Correspondence.

The Congress then, after each member had signed the said Association with said Addition, and voted their thanks to the moderator, clerk and Col Freeman, for their good services, adjourned to the second Tuesday in January next.

A true copy, James Otis, Clerk

PG, no. 569, fols. 2-3.

[December 24, 1774]

PROVIDENCE, December 24.

At a Town-Meeting held here on Saturday last, the following Gentlemen were appointed a Committee, to see that the Association Agreement, entered into at the late Continental Congress, be faithfully and inviolably adhered to in this Town, viz. William Ea*1 [Earl], Nicholas Co*k* [Cooke], Be*jamin [Benjamin]Ma* [Man], Zephaniah Andrews, Arthur Fenner, jun. Ambrose P**e [Page], Nicholas P**er [Power], George Corli* [Corlis], Paul Alle* [Allen], David Lawrence, Joseph Russell, Job Sweeting, Joseph Buckli* [Bucklin], Jonathan Arnold, Bernard Eddi (?), Aaron Mas*n [Mason], Joseph Brown, and Nathaniel Wheaton. The Committee is to meet on the third Wednesday in every Month, at the Council-Chamber.

A Committee was last Week appointed at Newport for the same Purpose.

PG, no. 572, fol. 3.

[December 24, 1774]

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection for the Town of Providence, appointed to observe the Conduct of all Persons, touching the Association entered into by the American Continental Congress, held at Philadelphia, the 5th Day of September, 1774.

WE the Committee of Inspection for the Town of Providence, with a View of preventing, as much as we can, any Violation or Departure from the Agreement and Association of the Continental Congress aforesaid, have agreed to represent to the Inhabitants of this Town in brief such Particulars contained in the said Association as will be incumbent on them all to observe.

1. That they do not import any Goods from Great-Britain or Ireland, or from any other Place, any such Goods a* [as] shall have been exported from Great-Britain or Ireland, nor any India Tea from any Part of the World, nor any Melasse* [Melasses], Syrups, Paneles, Coffee or Pimento, from the British Plantations, or from Dominica; nor W*nes [Wines] from Madeira, or the Western Island* [Islands], nor foreign Indigo.

2. That they do not import or purchase any Slave imported since the 1st of December inst. and that they wholly discontinue the Slave Trade.

3. That they do not purchase or use any Tea, imported on Account of the East India Company, or any on which a Duty has been paid; and that from and after the first Day of March next, they do not purchase or use any East-India Tea whatever.

4. That on the tenth Day of September next they suspend all Exportation to Great-Britain, Ireland, and the West-Indies, except Rice to Europe.

5. That such Merchants as have sent Orders to Great-Britain or Ireland, for Goods, do immediately countermand the same, according to the 5th Article of the Association Agreement.

6. That Owners of Vessels give Orders to their Captains or Masters not to receive on board any Goods prohibited by the Non-Importation Agreement.

7. That they use their utmost Endeavours to improve the Breed of Sheep, and increase their Number to the greatest Extent; that to that End they kill them as sparingly as may be, especially those of the most profitable Kind; that they do not export any to the West-Indies or elsewhere; and that those who are or may be overstocked with, or can conveniently [conveniently] spare any Sheep, do dispose of them to their Neighbours, especially the poorer Sort, on moderate* [moderate] Terms.

8. That they encourage Frugality, Economy, and Industry, and promote Agriculture, Arts, and the Manufactures of this Country, especially that of Wool; discountenance and discourage Horse-racing, Gaming, Cock-fighting, expensive Shews, Plays, and Diversions: That on the Death of a Friend, they do not go into any further Mourning than a black Crape, or Ribbon, on the Arm or Hat, for Gentlemen; and a black Ribbon and Necklace for Ladies, and discontinue the giving of Gloves and Scarfs at Funerals.

9. That such as are Venders of Goods or Merchandize will not take any Advantage of the Scarcity of Goods that may be occasioned by the Association, but that they sell the same at the Rates they have been respectively accustomed to do for twelve Months past; And if any Vender of Goods or Merchandize shall sell any such Goods on higher Terms, or shal in any Manner, or by any Device whatsoever, violate or depart from this Agreement, no Person ought, nor will any of us deal with such Person, or his or her Factor or Agent, at any Time thereafter, for any Commodity whatever.

10. That any Goods or Merchandize, imported af^{*er} [after] the first Day of December, and before the first Day of February, be, at the Election of the Owner, either reshipped, or delivered to the Committee to be stored and sold, agreeable to the 10th Article of the Association.

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

In all and every of which Matters we request all Persons in this Town to yield the strictest Conformity, and in general a full Observance of every thing at large in the Proceedings of the Congress; as they would avoid such Contempt and Inconvenience, as otherwise they would incur, recommending a frequent Perusal of the said Proceedings, to the End that they may fully know their Duty with respect to said Agreement entered into, as a great Means for ex*tricating [extricating] this Country from impending Ruin and Slavery.-

And we earnestly request all Persons, both in Town and Country, who deal or trade in this Place, and all others, to give us Information of the Names of such as shall violate any Parts of the Association, that they may meet with such Discouragement as the Congress have directed.

Voted, That all Persons who shall in future bring Goods into this Town, either by Land or Water, shall produce a Certificate from the Committee of Inspection, for the Place from whence the Goods may be brought, of their being imported before the first Day of December; or that they were bought at Vendue, according to the Regulation of the American Congress, as contained in the 10th Article.

Voted, That the Chairman of this Committee, or any three of the Members, be empowered to give Certificates to any Person, who shall apply, for Goods imported into this Town, agreeable to the Regulations of the Congress.

NICHOLAS COOKE, *Chairman*.

PG, no. 572, fol. 3.

[December 31, 1774]

PROVIDENCE December 31.

The following is a Copy of the Association which was lately *smuggled* into some Towns in the Province of Massachusetts-Bay, and signed by a few Persons, who have since chiefly fled to the City of Refuge.

We the Subscribers being fully sensible of the Blessings of good Government on the one Hand, and convinced on the other Hand of the Evils and Calamities attending on Tyranny in all Shapes, whether exercised by one or many, and having of late seen, with great Grief and Concern, the distressing Efforts of a dissolution of all Government, whereby our Lives, Liberties and Properties, are rendered precarious, and no longer under the Protection of the Law; and apprehending it to be our indispensable Duty, to use all lawful means in our Power for the Defence of our Persons and Property, against all riotous and lawless Violence, and to recover and secure the Advantages which we are intitled to, from the good and wholesome Laws of the Government; do hereby associate, and mutually covenant and engage to and with each other as follows: Namely,

1. That we will, upon all Occasions, with our Lives and Fortunes, stand by and assist each other, in the Defence of his Life, Liberty and Property, whenever the same shall be attacked, or endangered, by any Bodies of Men, riotously assembled, upon any Pretence, or under any Authority, not warranted by the Laws of the Land.

2. That we will, upon all occasion, mutually support each other in the free Exercise and Enjoyment of our undoubted Right to Liberty, in eating, drinking, buying, selling, communing, and acting, what with whom, and as we please, consistent with the Laws of God and the King.

3. That we will not acknowledge, or submit to, the pretended Authority of any Congresses, Committees of Correspondence, or other unconstitutional Assemblies of Men; but will, at the Risk of our Lives if Need be, oppose the forcible Exercise of all such Authority.

4. That we will, to the utmost of our Power, promote, encourage, and when called to it, enforce Obedience to the rightful Authority of our most gracious Sovereign King George the Third, and to his Laws.

5. That when the Person or Property of any one of us shall be invaded or threatened by any Committee Mobs or unlawful Assemblies, the others of us will, upon Notice received, forthwith repair, properly armed, to the Person on whom, or Place where such Invasion or Threatning shall be, and will, to the utmost of our Power, defend such Person and his Property and, if Need be, will oppose and repel Force with Force.

[...]

8. That if any one of us shall unjustly and unlawfully be injured in his Person or Property, by any such Assemblies as before mentioned, the others of us will unitedly demand, and, if in our Power expel the Offenders, if known, to make full Reparation and Satisfaction for such Injury; and if all other Means of Security fail, we will have Recourse of the natural Law of Retaliation.

In Witness of all which we hereto subscribe our Names:, this ... Day of ...

PG, no. 573, fol. 3.

[January 7, 1775]

Reboboib, January 6, 1775.

William Bullock, Esq; Colonel of the First Regiment of Militia in the County of Bristol, was la*ely [lately]re-chosen, by the new-elected Officers, to serve as Colonel in said Regiment, and at the Time of his being chosen professed a strict Adherence to the Doings both of the Continental and Provincial Congresses; notwithstanding which Professions, on the 15th of December, the Day recommended by the Provincial Con-

gress to be set apart as a Day of public Thanksgiving throughout the Province, instead of complying with the Advice of the Congress, in observing said Day, by abstaining from servile Labour, and attending on the public Worship of God, he and his Family employed themselves in tending his Grist-Mill and Saw-Mill; which Conduct of his gave such general Uneasiness to the Inhabitants, that he has since been obliged to resign his Command of the Regiment. - Who but an Enemy to his Country would have done this?

PG, no. 574, fol. 3.

[January 7, 1775]

Wrentham, December 21, 1774.

A report prevailing in this and the neighbouring towns, that Mr. Nathan Alldis, and some of his adherents, had procured inlisting-papers (as they are called) to enlist men to assist government in enforcing the new acts of Parliament, &c. - this report, together with their exceptionable conduct, induced a number of people from this and the neighbouring towns (to the amount of four or five hundred) to assemble at the house of said Alldis, and after a conference held between the parties, the obnoxious persons signed the following declaration: Mr. Alldis at the same time promising to the company, that he would purchase no more tea, until the present difficulties were over. - The company voted it satisfactory, and immediately dispersed.

PG, no. 574, fol. 3.

[January 7, 1775]

WE do now, in the open air, with our heads uncovered, humbly ask the forgiveness of heaven, and this respectable assembly, for our misdoings: - We frankly confess that we have often made use of exasperating speeches, which have justly inflamed the minds of all friends to American liberty, and that we have heretofore paid no regard to any Convention or Congress, but have boldly opposed them, and also have reported that we had inlisting-papers from Governor Gage, to enlist men on government's behalf, which was a false report of our own, and for which, together with the above, we ask your forgiveness, and promise never to be guilty of the like again. We severally for the future will conform to the resolves of the people on all occasions, and in particular we promise to regulate our conduct, and strictly conform to the Association of the Grand American Congress; we also admit this resignation to be made public at the discretion of this assembly, and return them our thanks for their civility. SAMUEL GOLDSBURY, NATHAN ALLDIS, SAMUEL SLOCOM.

PG, no. 574, fol. 3.

[January 21, 1775]

TO be Sold; by Order of the Committee of Inspection, at public Vendue, on Monday next, at 2 o'clock P.M. at Mr. John Jenckes's Store, on the Long-Wharff, agreeable to the Association of the Continental Congress, sundry Merchandize, imported from Great-Britain, via New-York; viz. 6 Tierces, 3 Barrels, 5 Bales, Boxes, 1 Hamper, 24 Crates; 1 Bundle, containing 2 Dozen of Frying Pans; 6 Bundles, containing 5 C. Steel; 8 Bundles, containing 4 Dozen of Iron Shovels; which Goods were shipped at Liverpool on board the ship Daniel, Capt. Casey, the 15th of September, and arrived at New-York since the first Day of December last.

Signed by Order,

JAMES ANGELL, *Clerk of the Committee.*

Providence, January 21, 1775.

PG, no. 576, fol. 3.

[January 28, 1775]

WHEREAS at a late Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of Scituate, in the Colony of Rhode-Island, we the Subscribers were chosen a Committee of Inspection for said Town, agreeable to the eleventh Article of the Agreement and Association of the American Continental Congress, held at Philadelphia on the fifth Day of September, A. D. 1774: Being now in Convention, and taking into Consideration the End and Purpose of our Appointment, viz. to prevent, as much as in us lies, any Violation of, or Departure from, the Association aforesaid, think it expedient briefly to represent to the Inhabitants of this Town such Particulars therein contained as they ought inviolably to observe,

1. That they do not, directly nor indirectly, purchase or use any Tea imported on Account of the East-India Company, or any on which a Duty hath been or shall be paid: That from and after the first Day of March next they do not purchase or use any East-India tea whatever, and that they do not purchase or use any Goods, Wares, or Merchandize, the Importation of which is prohibited by the Association aforesaid, which they know or have Cause to suspect were imported after the first Day of December, A. D. 1774, except such as come under the Rules and Directions of the tenth Article of the said Association.

2. That from and after the tenth Day of September next, they exert themselves in suspending every Species of Exports to Great-Britain, Ireland and the West-Indies, except Rice to Europe – to that End, that from and after the said tenth Day of September they do not furnish any Person with the Articles usually exported, either ani-

mate or inanimate, such as Cattle, Sheep, &c; or Hoops, Staves, &c. who they know or have Cause to suspect would export the same.

3. That they use their utmost Endeavours to improve the Breed of Sheep, and encrease their Number to the greatest Extent; that to the End they kill them as sparingly as may be, especially those of the most profitable Kind; and that those who are or may become overstocked with, or can conveniently spare any Sheep, do dispose of them to their Neighbours, especially the poorer Sort, on moderate Terms.

4. That they encourage Frugality, Economy and Industry, and promote Agriculture, Arts, and the Manufactures of this country, especially that of Wool, and that they discountenance and discourage Horse-racing, Gaming, Cock-fighting, expensive Shews, Plays and Divertions. 5. That such as are Venders of Goods or Merchandize do not take Advantage of the Scarcity of Goods, that may be occasioned by the Association; but that they sell the same at the Rates they have been respectively accustomed to do for twelve Months past.

6. That they be not hereafter instrumental in the Importation of Slaves, or purchase any Slave imported since the first Day of December last – and that they exert themselves to a final Discontinuation of the Slave-Trade.

7. That they sell all Manufactures of this Country at reasonable Rates, so that no undue Advantage be taken of a future Scarcity of Goods.

To each and every Article aforesaid all Persons in this Town are hereby requested to yield the strictest Conformity, and a full and general Observance of every thing at large contained in the Proceedings of the Congress, frequently perusing the same, to the End that the Knowledge of their Duty being ascertained; they may regulate their Conduct thereby, and avoid such Inconvenience and Contempt as they would otherwise incur.

As our Endeavours to carry into Execution the said Association will be strengthened by an Union of all Ranks of Men; we do therefore most earnestly recommend to the Inhabitants of this Town, that they henceforth lay aside all former Animositities and Quarrels, whether public or private, and cordially unite in a cheerful Observance of the Proceedings of the Congress, as a great and important Bulwark against that Tyranny and Despotism, which threatens Ruin to British America:

And we earnestly solicit all Persons to give us Information of the Names of all such as violate any Part of said Association, that they may reap the Reward of their Demerit, in such Manner as the Congress have directed.

Voted, That every Retailer, who shall hereafter bring any Goods, of British Manufacture, into this Town, shall produce a Certificate from the Committee of Inspection for the Place from whence the Goods may be brought, of their being legally obtained according to the Rules and Directions of the Congress.

Voted, That the Chairman, or any two Members of this Committee, be empowered to give Certificates to any Person who shall apply, for any Goods that may be brought into this Town agreeable to the Regulations of the Congress.

Jeremiah Angell, Chairman,

Charles Harris, James Brown, Philip Mathewson, Christoph Rolph, Thomas Brown, Peleg Fisk, John Colwell, jun., Samuel Derrance: Commit.

PG, no. 577, fol. 3.

[January 28, 1775]

Attleborough, January 23, 1775:

MR. Thomas Sabin hath this Day made full and ample Satisfaction for his Conduct, in taking a Chest of Tea from Capt. Stephen Richardson's, in said Attleborough.

ELISHA MAY,

JONATHAN STANLEY,

STEPHEN RICHARDSON,

(Select Men.)

PG, no. 577, fol. 3.

[January 28, 1775]

Cumberland, January 13, 1775.

WHEREAS we the Subscribers, at Wrentham, on the 21st Day of December last, did make a humble Concession and Engagement to a Number of People then assembled, concerning our Misdoings, wicked Expressions, and evil Conduct, and did ask their Forgiveness, which gave Satisfaction to the said Assembly: But having very wickedly violated our said Engagement, and thereby given just Cause of Resentment to the Friends of Liberty, which has caused them again to assemble, to enquire into the same;

we do therefore acknowledge our wicked Proceedings, and now sincerely beg the public Forgiveness, hereby ratifying and confirming our former Concession, and promising so to amend our Conduct, as in future to behave ourselves unexceptionably. We do likewise acknowledge the Propriety and Necesssity of the Proceedings of our Friends and Neighbours, and heartily return them our Thanks for the Lenity shewn us on this Occasion.

NATHAN ALLDIS,

SAMUEL GOLDSBURY,

SAMUEL SLOCOMB.

PG, no. 577, fol. 3.

[February 4, 1775]

Rehoboth, February 3, 1775.

A Number of the Inhabitants of this Town assembled on Monday last, to enquire into the Conduct of Mr. Caleb Wheaton, who lately came here from the Eastward, and who had rendered himself obnoxious, by openly espousing and vindicating the Plan of Depotism now carrying on against the Colonies. A Committee was appointed to wait on him, and after making an acknowledgment of his Villainy, asking Forgiveness, and promising Amendment, he was ordered to depart the Town in twelve Hours.

PG, no. 578, fol. 3.

[February 11, 1775]

Attleborough, January 23, 1775.

On the 3^d Day of December last Mr. Thomas Sabin, of Providence, sent by a Carter a Chest of Tea, containing about 400 lb. through this Town, destined for Boston.

As soon as the Friends of Liberty here were made acquainted that a Quantity of that obnoxious Herb, which has been so detrimental to the Interest of this Country, was in Town, they assembled together, and took the said Chest of Tea into their Custody;

but in order that no Man's Property might be inconsiderately destroyed, they chose a Committee to determine what was proper to be done, who, upon mature Deliberation, thought it best to store said Tea, until further Advice should be received relative thereto.

On the 6th of December, at a Town-Meeting, it was determined to leave the affair with the Select-Men, who, willing to condescend to any Terms that might not contradict the Sense either of the Continental or Provincial Congress, sent Word to the said Sabin, that if he could make it appear that the Tea was such as had not been subject to any Duty, they would deliver it up to him.

He did not appear, but sent a Letter signed by two Gentlemen in Providence (both of whom were unknown to the Select Men) certifying that the Tea was not dutiable, which was not satisfactory.

On the 6th Day of January the said Sabin, with three Men, went to the House of Capt. Stephen Richardson, where the Tea was deposited, and carried off the same, Captain Richardson being from home. This Conduct gave almost universal Dissatisfaction to the Inhabitants; but on the 23rd of January the said Sabin came in Person, and offered to make Satisfaction, producing two Affidavits, taken before a Justice of

the Peace in Providence, and made further Satisfaction, by signing a Paper to the following Effect:

I THOMAS SABIN, of Providence, acknowledge that I sent a Chest of Tea to Attleborough, which was not subject to a Duty.

I likewise acknowledge that the People of said Town have treated me in a very friendly and decent Manner respecting said Tea, although I gave them great Reason to complain of my Conduct in carrying off the same, without the Consent of the Select Men.

I heartily ask the Forgiveness of the said Select Men, and of all others whom I have offended. I promise for the future to conform to the Association of the Continental Congress, and, so far as I am concerned in the Province of Massachusetts-Bay, I will conform to the Resolves of the Provincial Congress. I also consent that this Confession be made public, for the Satisfaction of all whom I have offended. In Witness whereof I have hereunto voluntarily set my Hand, in Presence of a Number of respectable Gentlemen.

Thomas Sabin.

Attleborough, January 23, 1775.

The above was voted to be satisfactory to the People assembled.

PG, no. 579, fol. 3.

[February 25, 1775]

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 25.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Providence.

WE the Committee of Inspection for the Town of Providence, besides the Notice we have already given for your exact Conformity to the Association Agreement of the General Congress, think it our Duty at this Time, when the first Day of March is at Hand, to remind you in special, that in the third Article it is solemnly agreed and associated, not to purchase or use any East-India TEA whatever, from and after the first Day of March next.

This Measure, among others, was thought necessary to gain Redress of those Grievances, which threaten Destruction to the Lives, Liberty and Property, of his Majesty's Subjects in North-America. We hope that there will not be found in this Town any Violation of this solemn Agreement, respecting the Purchase and Use of a needless Article, which hath proved so ruinous to the Liberty, Interest, and Health of the People.

The united Sense of the Colonies in this Matter, manifested in a General Congress, approved and ratified by the several Governments, and this in particular, we look

upon to be equally obligatory with any other Regulation entered into for a common Good;

and that no Person can be countenanced in a Departure therefrom, or in acting such Parts in Society, under the Pretence of Liberty, as must by the most evident Consequences be followed with the greatest Mischiefs.

We therefore most earnestly desire of all Persons in this town a most strict Adherence to this important Regulation; that they do not purchase, use, or suffer to be purchased or used, by any Person for or under them, any India Tea after the first of March next; and that they would give Information to us of the Names of all such who shall sell, buy or use, or suffer to be sold, bought or used, any India Tea after the said Time, that they may be published in the Gazette, so as that they may be known, and universally contemned as the Enemies of American Liberty; and that all Dealings with them be broken off.

Signed by Order of the Committee,
James Angell, Clerk.

PG, no. 581, fol. 3.

[February 25, 1775]

At a Town-Meeting, held at Cumberland, in the Colony of Rhode-Island, specially called, and legally assembled, February 13, 1775.

Mr. JAMES DEXTER, MODERATOR.

WE the Freemen of the Town of Cumberland, in said Colony, being well apprized of the illegal, violent and hostile Intentions of the British Parliament, for enslaving America, cannot be silent on such an interesting Occasion.

We have always hitherto, both as Individuals and as a collective Body, acknowledged George the Third to be our rightful Lord and Sovereign, as well as King of Great-Britain, &c. according to the royal Proclamation, transmitted to this Colony for Signature and Solemnization, at his Accession to the Throne, notwithstanding any thing contained in his Messages to the two Houses of Parliament last Session, for securing our Dependence upon them; and we do yet declare him to be King of Great-Britain, &c. agreeable to the Proclamation aforesaid, and that we are his loyal and dutiful Subjects.

When our Ancestors were forced, by Abridgments of that Liberty which none had a Right to invade, to depart and flee without the Realm of England, for a quiet Enjoyment thereof (which they did with the Consent of the King, although he could not have prevented them legally.) they by special Compact and Agreement, after their Arrival in America, put themselves under his Protection and Sovereignty, according to certain Institutions of Government entered into, excluding every Idea of a British

parliamentary Intervention, as utterly inconsistent with, and repugnant to, that Form of Government which the contracting Parties had contrived and agreed upon, and those Rights which were to be enjoyed here.

Since the first Emigration the People of England have gradually encroached upon us, and exercised such pretended Powers, as have greatly diminished our just Freedom; at length, in a most daring Manner, they have declared a Right to bind us by Laws in all Cases, or a Right to take from us our Property at Pleasure, as well as to subject us to their Will in every other Matter, civil and religious; and have actually proceeded to the Exercise of such assumed Power, by framing Revenue Laws, and other Regulations concerning us, and endeavouring to enforce them with the Sword, contrary to the Laws of God, Nature, and our Constitution.

Awakened by these Huntings of Liberty even to the Ends of the Earth, we sought Redress by Petitions, Remonstrances, and humble Supplications; but were answered not only by full Discharges of Threats and Menaces, but by the most vindictive Executions.

A General Congress of the Colonies, by their Delegates, was then proposed, which accordingly was held at Philadelphia on the fifth Day of September last; their Proceedings, declaratory of our Rights, stating our Grievances, and pointing out the Modes of Redress, have been made public, and highly approved by the colonies.

We therefore, as a Part of the said Colony of Rhode-Island, besides the general Approbation given and made by the Governor, Council, and House of Deputies, of this Colony, of the Doings of the Congress, hereby testify to the World our hearty Concurrence therewith.

Voted therefore; That in Compliance with the eleventh Article of the Association, entered into by the Congress, in Behalf of themselves and their Constituents,

JOHN DEXTER, Esq; Mr. EZEKIEL BALLOU, Capt. NEHEMIAH ALLEN, Mr. DANIEL WILCOX, and Mr. ROGER SHELDON, or any three of them, be a Committee for the said Town of Cumberland, attentively to observe the Conduct of all Persons touching the said Association, and to act to every Matter and Thing appertaining to them as a Committee of Inspection, according to the Directions of said Congress.

And we earnestly desire all Persons to conform themselves strictly to the aforesaid Association, both according to the Letter and Spirit thereof, exhorting them to peruse frequently the Votes and Proceedings of the Congress, to the End that, knowing their Duty, they may more certainly and readily discharge it.

Voted, That JEREMIAH WHIPPLE, Esq; and Mr. RUFUS BARTLET, be a Committee to receive and send Donations from this Town to the Sufferers at Boston by the inhuman and cruel Edict, called the Boston Port-Bill; and all Persons are most

earnestly entreated to act such Part herein, as they would wish others to do unto them in like Circumstances.

Witness, JOHN DEXTER, Town-Clerk.

PG, no. 581, fol. 3.

[March 4, 1775]

At a Town-Meeting held at the House of Mr. Caleb Arnold, in Warwick, in the County of Kent, on the 4th Monday of February, 1775.

VOTED, That there be a Committee appointed to carry into Execution the 11th Article of the Association Agreement of the Grand Continental Congress, lately held at Philadelphia.

The following Gentlemen were accordingly chosen,

viz. Col. John Waterman, Mr. Amos Lockwood, Col. James Arnold, Capt. James Aborn, William Greene, Esq; Capt. Thomas Remington, Mr. Charles Holden, jun. Mr. Gideon Arnold, Mr. Christopher Greene, Thomas Rice, Esq; and Mr. Jacob Greene.

A true copy of Record, Attest.

JEREMIAH LIPPITT, *Town-Clerk.*

PG, no. 582, fol. 3.

[March 4, 1775]

Mr. Carter,

The following is sent you for Publication, being an exact Relation of the Proceedings on Thursday last, relative to the Destruction of a Quantity of T E A in this Town:

On Thursday last, about Twelve o'Clock at Noon, the Town-Cryer gave the following Notice through the Town:

At five of the Clock, this Afternoon, a Quantity of India Tea will be burnt in the Market-Place. All true Friends of their Country, Lovers of Freedom, and Haters of Shackles and Hand-Cuffs, are hereby invited to testify their good Disposition, by bringing in, and casting into the Fire, a needless Herb, which for a long Time hath been highly detrimental to our Liberty, Interest, and Health.

About Five in the Afternoon a great Number of Inhabitants assembled at the Place, when there was brought in about Three Hundred Pounds Weight of Tea, by the firm Contenders for the true Interest of America. – A large Fire was kindled, and the Tea cast into it. – A Tar-Barrel, Lord North's Speech, Rivington's and Mills and Hicks's News-Papers, and divers other Ingredients, entered into the Composition.

There appeared great Chearfulness in committing to Destruction so pernicious an Article. Many worthy Women, from a Conviction of the evil Tendency of continuing the Habit of Tea-drinking, made freewill Offerings of their respective Stocks of the hurtful Trash. On this Occasion the Bells were tolled; but it is referred to the Learned whether tolling or ringing would have been most proper. – Whilst the Tea was burning, a spirited Son of Liberty went along the Streets with his Brush and Lampblack, and obliterated or *unpainted* the Word T E A on the Shop Signs.

Thus the Funeral of Madam SOUCHONG was observed. – She was a Native of China, and after travelling into several Parts of Europe, where she found great Notice among the Great and Luxurious, she took a Trip to America. She came into this Colony about forty Years ago, and hath been greatly caressed by all Ranks. She lived in Reputation for several Years, but at length became a common Prostitute among the lowest Class of People. She became very poor, and her Price was so lowered that any One might have her Company for almost nothing. The Quality deserted her, and by hard Living in Log-Houses and Wigwams her Health was impaired. – Broken Spirits and Hysterics seized her, and she died on the first Day of March, 1775, at Midnight.

PG, no. 582, fol. 3.

[March 11, 1775]

WETHERSFIELD (*Connecticut*) Feb. 14.

This evening, two of the inhabitants of a place, *lately known, and called by the name of Ridgfield*, put up at a public house in this town, and entering into conversation, boldly justified the vote of the *late town of Ridgfield*, in disapproving of the doings of the Continental Congress; and proceeded in supporting court doctrines of passive obedience to Parliament, &c. which being taken notice of, by a number of gentlemen present, they considered it in effect as a direct breach of the association of said Congress, and thereupon voted, that in their opinion it was proper that these persons should be returned, the way from whence they came, under safe conduct, from town to town, *to the said place lately known by the said name of Ridgfield*; and that all honest and true men to this country might know and avoid them, proper persons were appointed by the meeting, instantly to attend them as far as Farmington, on their returns; and there to acquaint the inhabitants of their behaviour, and leave them to their further transportation, as is usual, and as by law is provided, in cases of strolling idiots, lunatics &c - a letter was accordingly wrote to the gentlemen at Farmington, representing their unhappy and desperate situation, which was signed by the principal gentlemen present, - and the unhappy men, properly escorted, set off, at nine o'clock, amid the hisses, groans, &c. of a respectable concourse of people, - the populace following them out of town, beating a dead march, &c. Not the least violence was offered, but the whole

was conducted with the utmost regularity - and the company dispersed fully resolved, that as no one, of those principles, is supposed now to be an inhabitant of this town, it shall be their care and attention, that no such shall be hereafter tolerated within it, no not for a night.

PG, no. 584, fol. 2.

[March 11, 1775]

Providence, March 10.

Last Saturday died at Attleborough Mr. William Atwell, a Member of the Committee of Correspondence and Inspection for that Town.

He was a true Friend to the Liberties of America, and in him the Public have lost a valuable Member of Society.

PG, no. 584, fol. 3.

[April 8, 1775]

I Thomas Clarke, jun. of Freetown, in the province of Massachusetts-Bay, boatman, hereby acknowledge, that I have been so far deluded by Thomas Gilbert, of said Freetown, as to join his party and exercise under him, on Monday the 20th of March, 1775, for which I am very sorry, and am determined not to join said Gilbert any more; and do most heartily despise the tory principles;

and further I declare that I will stand by this country, and do all in my power to carry into execution the advice and directions of the Continental and Massachusetts Congresses. I never took any one of the guns lately sent to Thomas Gilbert by General Gage, and never will take one of them; nor did I ever sign any articles under said Gilbert.

Thomas Clark, jun.

PG, no. 588, fol. 3.

[April 15, 1775]

Smithfield, March 20, 1775.

WE the Subscribers being appointed, by the Freeholders of the Town of Smithfield, a Committee of Inspection for said Town, agreeable to, and in Compliance with, the eleventh Article of the Association of the Continental Congress, held at Philadelphia, September 5, 1774, do earnestly request all Persons in said Town strictly to adhere to every Article of said Association, as they would avoid incurring the Displeasure of their fellow Subjects, by departing therefrom.

Stephen Arnold, jun.

Andrew Waterman,

Elisha Mo.ry jun.

Thomas Aldrich,

Uriah Alverson.

PG, no. 589, fol. 3.

[April 15, 1775]

Taunton, April 8, 1775.

THE Inhabitants of the several Towns in the County of Bristol are informed that it is the earnest Desire of the Provincial Congress, as also of the Committees of Inspection of the several Towns in the said County, assembled at Taunton the 7th of April, 1775, that they withhold all Dealings and Commerce, of what Nature soever, from Col. Thomas Gilbert, of Freetown, and his Adherents, as recommended by the Continental Congress, and from all such Enemies to the Rights of British America.

By Order of the Committee of Inspection for the County of Bristol,

GEORGE GODFREY, Chairman.

PG, no. 589, fol. 3.

[May 20, 1775]

At a Town-Meeting held at Providence, on the last Tuesday of August, 1774

It is *resolved* by this meeting, that this town ought not to be made the Asylum of any person or persons of whatever town, place or city, within the British Dominions, whose principles and practices being inimical to the Liberties of our Country, and its happy constitution, have rendered, or shall render, them obnoxious to the Inhabitants of such place or places from which they may emigrate;

And that such ought to be discouraged, by every prudent and legal measure: and the Honorable Town-Council are hereby requested to exert themselves for the removal and ejection of all such persons, so far as by law they may be warranted; as

their being admitted amongst us may tend greatly to endanger the Peace, Order, and Tranquility of the town, which has been manifested by recent instances.

Voted, that the above resolve be inserted in the Providence Gazette.

A true copy,

James Angell, Town-Clerk

At a Town-Meeting held at Providence,

15. Mai 1775,

Voted, that the foregoing Resolve be again printed in the Providence Gazette.

James Angell, Town-Clerk

PG, no. 594, fol. 3.

[May 27, 1775]

Last week a person brought Mutton to this town for Sale, which being deemed an Infraction of the Continental Association, he was obliged to give a Part of it to the Poor.

PG, no. 595, fol. 3.

[May 27, 1775]

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection, held at Providence, on the 24th of May, 1775.

WHEREAS the Honorable the Continental Congress, in the 7th Article of their Association, did agree, as a most essential Matter to promote the Well-being of the British Colonies in America, that

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

This Committee do therefore most earnestly recommend the strictest Adherence to, and Compliance with the aforesaid Article to all the Inhabitants of this Colony; and they do also recommend to the several Committees of Inspection in each Town to see that the same is complied with.

And whereas the General Assembly of this Colony, at their last Session, did pass an Act, laying an Embargo upon all Provisions from this Colony by Water; this Committee do therefore recommend to the several Merchants, &c. of this Colony, not to

ship, or cause or permit to be shipped, for Exportation, any Provisions, of what Kind soever, more than sufficient for the Use of each Vessel, under any Pretence whatsoever; this Committee being in Duty bound to take Notice of all such who shall attempt to break through or elude any Act or Order made for the public Safety, in this difficult Situation of public Affairs.

Signed by Order and in Behalf of the Committee,
James Angell, Clerk.

PG, no. 595, fol. 3.

[June 3, 1775]

NEWPORT, May 29.

Last Wednesday night the sloop Collector, Capt. Nicholas Webster, sailed from this port for Boston, with a quantity of salt provisions, for the use of the standing army there; and a number of sheep; but for whose use those were is as yet uncertain.

It is reported, that said sloop and salt provisions were taken into the custody of one of the ships of war here, and sent by her to Boston; but how that matter is, by whom these sheep were shipped, and for whose use, *all-discovering TIME* may unfold.

The Committee of Inspection, we hear, have taken the affair of the Sheep into their consideration.

PG, no. 596, fol. 3.

[June 10, 1775]

NEWPORT, June 5.

At a meeting of the Committee of Inspection for the town of Newport, held in the Council-Chamber, June 1, 1775.

THE Committee of Inspection having been informed that a parcel of sheep had been shipped to Boston in the sloop Collector, Nicholas Webster master, appointed a Sub-Committee to enquire into the matter.

They accordingly made due enquiry, and reported, that four persons, of this town, had sent to Boston, in said sloop, some more and some less sheep (the whole number amounting to twelve) to their suffering relations and friends there.

This appearing to be the fact, and that it was not done to contravene the seventh article of the association of the Continental Congress (upon which article the Committee some time since published their sentiments in the Newport Mercury) the Committee, from equal principles of tenderness and humanity, think proper to forbear giving their names to the public.

But, at the same time, they would caution these men, and all others, to avoid, for the future, shipping sheep to any of the colonies; and farmers, butchers and others, not to sell any sheep for exportation, as such conduct will not only be considered as an Infraction of said article, and be treated accordingly, but may involve this town in calamities which every friend to its felicity ought to endeavour to the utmost of his power to prevent.

The Committee, pursuant to the article of the association referred to, do also caution butchers and others to kill sheep as sparingly as may be; especially those of the most profitable kind, and, for the future, not to kill any lambs.

Whereas the intercourse between the colonies hath for some time been, and is now, interrupted by the rides being dismissed by the post-master general; and, as there is no person who acts as post-master in this town:

There are Voted,

That Mr. Nathaniel Otis be appointed to receive and deliver the letters brought to, and to be sent from, this town, under the direction of this Committee, until the General Assembly of this colony, or this Committee, shall order otherwise; and that he shall receive for each letter agreeable to the schedule delivered him by the Committee.

A true copy:

Witness, Thomas Rumriell, Clerk.

PG, no. 597, fol. 3.

[June 12, 1775]

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection for the Town of Providence, on the 12th Day of June, 1775.

IT is Voted,

That all Persons, Venders of Goods and Merchandize in this Town, sell the same at the Rates they have been respectively accustomed to do. And if any Vender of Goods or Merchandize shall sell any such Goods or Merchandize on higher Terms than usual, or shall in any Manner, or by any Device whatsoever, depart from the Ninth Resolve of the Continental Congress, relative to Venders of Goods, that then, and in such Case, the Public ought to neglect dealing with such Persons, or his or her Factor or Agent, at any Time thereafter, for any Commodity whatsoever.

And it is further Voted, That if any Person shall sell any Goods or Merchandize at a higher Rate than they were heretofore accustomed to do, the Purchaser is hereby directed to give Notice thereof to this Committee, and to produce the Goods or Merchandize so purchased, in order that such Person's name may be published in the Providence Gazette.

And it is further Voted, That Messieurs JOHN UPDIKE, SAMUEL NIGHTINGALE, jun. PAUL ALLEN, and JAMES BLACK, Merchants, be and are hereby appointed a Committee, to visit the several Shopkeepers in this Town, to examine the several Prices of their Goods, and recommend to them that they sell the same at the usual Prices; and if they find any Goods marked at a higher Rate than usual, they are to make Report thereof to this Committee.

J. ANGELL, *Clerk of the Committee.*

PG, no. 598, fol. 3.

[July 22, 1775]

PROVIDENCE, July 22.

At a Meeting of the COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION, on Monday, July 17, 1775.

The Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq; Chairman.

WHEREAS, under divers specious Pretences, and contrary to the evident and well-known Resolutions of the Continental Congress, ratified by this Colony, Sheep and Lambs have been frequently killed, and brought to this Market (although there is a great Surplus of other Provisions) which Practice tends to lessen the Quantity of Wool, a Material, under the present Difficulties, absolutely necessary, and which might otherwise be raised.

Therefore, it is Voted by this Committee, That no Mutton or Lamb be killed, and brought to Market in this Town, after the 22d Day of July inst, until the 1st Day of September next; and that if any Person shall, after this public Notice, bring to Market, or expose to Sale, any Mutton or Lamb, within the said limited Time, the same will be seized, and given to the Poor.

By Order of the Committee,

David Lawrence, Clerk, pro Temp.

PG, no. 603, fol. 2.

[July 22, 1775]

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Rehoboth, on the 10th Day of July, 1775.

THE Town being informed of divers Reports concerning the unfriendly Conduct of sundry Persons, Inhabitants of the Town of Swansey, ordered their Committee of Inspection to repair thither, and join the Committee of that Town, to enquire into the aforesaid Reports, who accordingly proceeded to Swansey, where a Number of the respectable Inhabitants of Rehoboth, Swansey, and of several Towns in the Colony of Rhode-Island, also met the Committees aforesaid, and caused a Number of the Inhabitants of Swansey to be brought before them, and examined, several of whom

appeared to be innocent of the Charges alledged against them, and some others acknowledged they had acted against the Rules of the Congress, whose Names, as they promised Reformation, the Committee forbear to publish.

But they cannot comply with the Rules of the Congress, without publishing the Names of JERATHMEEL BOWERSM, Esq; CHARLES SLADE, and GIDEON SHERMAN, as Persons that have acted contrary to the Rules and Directions of the Congress, though act in Matters of Trade, and make no Retraction thereof.

July 12, 1775. *By order of the Committee,*

JOSEPH ALLEN, 2d Chairman

PG, no. 603, fol. 2.

[August 19, 1775]

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection for this Town, on Monday, August 14, 1775.

The Honorable Nicholas Cooke, Esq; Chairman.

Whereas there are Complaints from the Country of sundry Shopkeepers in this Town, that sell their Goods at higher Rates than usual, contrary to the Resolves of the Continental Congress:

This is therefore to request all Persons aggrieved to apply to this Committee, and produce the Goods, together with their Complaints, and the Committee will see them redressed to the utmost of their Power.

N. B. The Committee meet every Monday, at Five o'Clock in the Afternoon, at the Court-House.

By Order of the Congress,

David Lawrence, Clerk.

PG, no. 607, fol. 3.

[September 2, 1775]

At a Meeting of the Committees of Inspection for the Towns of Rehoboth and Swansea, on the 15th of August, 1775.

It is considered, that the exporting of Flaxseed to Ireland may be of evil Consequence: It is therefore earnestly recommended to the Inhabitants of said Towns, that they do not dispose of any Flaxseed to any Persons whom they may suspect are disposed to export the same; as whosoever shall offend herein will be considered as unfriendly to his Country.

By Order of the Committees,

JOSEPH ALLYN, *the 2d, Chairman.*

PG, no. 609, fol. 3.

[September 16, 1775]

Mr. CARTER,

Please to insert the following in your Gazette, and you will oblige a Number of your Customers.

WHEREAS the joint Committees of the towns of Rehoboth and Swansea, on the 11th day of July last, at Swansea, did then carefully examine into the conduct of Col. Jerathmeel Bowers, &c. and caused the said Bowers, &c. to be advertised in the public papers, as being unfriendly to the country; since which it appears by a Cambridge paper of August the 10th, that said Bowers has called upon said Committee to shew why or in what particulars he hath shewn himself unfriendly to his country.

Not having the least inclination to exaggerate the charges against Col. Bowers, we have collected facts well attested, and leave the impartial public to judge whether Col. Bowers has acted as a friend to his country.

By Order of the Committees,

JOSEPH ALLYN, Chairman of the Committees.

PG, no. 611, fol.1.

[September 16, 1775]

Swansey, August 18, 1775.

I Philip Slead, of Swansea, in the county of Bristol, &c. being of lawful age, testify and say, that Col. Jerathmeel Bowers hath publicly and repeatedly opposed our out-standing province taxes to be paid to Henry Gardner, Esq; of Stow, and opposed our militia to be equipt out of our town stock;

and he has appeared against said town's raising of minute-men from time to time, till he with others had accomplished their designs; and he has practised drinking of tea

since the restriction of the Continental Congress; and about the first of June he told me that our men were very fond of offices, and would go to set up governments soon; but that he would have no hand in it.

I asked him who he thought they would set up for Governor; he answered General Ward, but he could not see what should make them so fond of offices, for it was his opinion that 5000 of the regulars would drive our whole army, and the necks of our officers would be subject to the halter; but he did not design his neck should be subject to the halter by his conduct; and they had been making of money, but he would never have any thing to do with it, for it was good for nothing.

I also heard said Bowers say, when enumerating the vast charge that would accrue for the maintaining and support of 13,000 men raised for the defence of our colony, we should not be able to pay the cost, and he believed that his cousin Clark's opinion, who was present, was right; he being asked what it was, he said we should not be able to pay such an army, and that they would make use of the sword put into their hands against us for their pay.

I do not remember I ever knew the said Bowers did any thing to encourage the regulation of our militia in said town, since the unhappy dispute with our mother country; but his conduct ever since has intimidated our inhabitants in general. I also heard said Bowers say it will never do for us to fight against Old-England.

Moreover, at a town-meeting on Monday following the battle at Bunker's Hill, in order to raise a number of minute-men, to be ready for the defence of our country on the shortest notice, which was voted, notwithstanding the violent opposition said Bowers made, he and his adherents were uneasy at the great charge that would accrue for their pay; and said Bowers declared that none of his estate should go to pay them, for the meeting was illegal, for every man should vote according to his interest, and be tried by the rate-streak, whereupon, by his influence, the said minute-men were dismissed;

then a motion being made if there was no need of men nor money for our defence, or of a Committee, it was moved and seconded by Col. Bowers, that the Committee be dismissed, and they were dismissed accordingly.

After Col. Bowers withdrew from the meeting, the town thinking it dangerous, chose another Committee.

And I have often heard said Bowers say, it was a devilish affair, the putting down the courts, for it would be hard to get them set up again.

Philip Slead.

PG, no. 611, fol.1.

[September 16, 1775]

Bristol, ff. Warren, Aug. 18, 1775.

PHILIP SLEAD, the within named, personally appeared, and being cautioned to testify the truth, made solemn oath to the truth of the within and above deposition by him subscribed, - Before me,

JOHN KINNICUT, Just. Peace.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[September 16, 1775]

Swansey, August 18 1775.

I DAVID PEIRCE, of Swansey, in the county of Bristol, &c. being of lawful age, testify and say, that I heard Colonel Jerathmeel Bowers publicly oppose the militia of said town to be equipt out of the townstock; and that he has opposed the raising of minute-men in said town.

And I also heard him say, when enumerating the vast charge that would accrue for the support and maintenance of 13,000 men, raised for the defence of our colony, we should not be able to pay the cost, and he believed that his cousin Clark's opinion, who was present, was right;

he being asked what it was, he said, that we should not be able to pay such an army, and that they would make use of the swords put into their hands against us for their pay.

And some time last May I was on the road with said Bowers, and I told him the trouble and disappointments I had met with in settling and regulating the militia of our town; that Capt. Luther Thurber had promised me, that if I could get the soldiers to sign and to choose him, he would serve as Captain, and he has now told me he is not inclined to serve; Bowers answered me, Thurber was not a man fit for Captain; I said to him what shall we do? The greater part of the company had chosen him for their leader, we border on a navigable river, and in danger of the enemy making depredations on us, and if they should, in that case, we should be like a stock of sheep without a shepherd.

He said it was no matter; when that time comes, you and I will choose our officers, and settle the company.

And I have heard said Bowers blame some of the Committee of said town for examining a person, whose conduct had been inimical to the constitution and interest of our country; and Capt. Robert Gibbs told me that said Bowers advised him to lye still, and not to act in our difficult affairs.

Furthermore I don't remember I ever knew the said Bowers did any thing to encourage the regulating the militia in said town, since the unhappy dispute with our

parent country, and it is my candid opinion, that his conduct has intimidated many of our inhabitants.

David Peirce.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[September 16, 1775]

Bristol, ff. Warren, Aug. 18, 1775.

DAVID PEIRCE, the above named, personally appeared, and being cautioned to testify the truth, made solemn oath to the truth of the above deposition, - Before me, JOHN KINNICUT, Just. Peace.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[September 16, 1775]

Swansey, August 18, 1775.

WE the deponents, of lawful age, do testify and say, that at a town-meeting, called in order to raise a company of minute-men, to be ready to march on any emergency, soon after the battle at Bunker's Hill,

Jerathmeel Bowers, Esq; appeared very fierce against raising said company, and said that there were no men wanted, for there were more men there than they knew what to do with, and that it was not expected that Swansey should raise any;

and after a long debate with him, it was voted to raise said company.

Afterwards said Bowers made a speech to the people against their proceedings, telling them how costly it would be, and how hard it would be on the town to pay the cost; that the learning the exercise would do them no good;

and also that it hurt our cause, and earnestly moved to the Moderator to call a vote to dismiss said Committee, and after a dispute a vote was called, and the Committee was dismissed by one or two majority.

Then a motion being made and seconded to settle the military in said town, and for more cash to be paid for learning the exercise, said Bowers appeared to be very much against doing any thing about it, saying they had better be easy; that money was the sinews of war, and if they voted for money to be paid so, it should be by the rate streak, for his estate should not pay one penny of the cost;

then a motion being made if there was no need of men or money for our defence, or no need of a Committee, it was then moved and seconded by said Bowers, that the Committee be dismissed, and they were accordingly.

The above is according to our best remembrances.
Zephaniah Cole,
Upham Luther.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[September 16, 1775]

Bristol, ff. Warren, August 18, 1775.

ZEPHANIAH COLE, and Upham Luther, the within named persons, personally appeared, and being duly cautioned to testify the truth, made solemn oath to the truth of the within deposition, subscribed by them before me,
JOHN KINNICUT, Justice Peace.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[September 16, 1775]

Swansey, August 18, 1775.

I JEREMIAH BROWN, of Swansey, in the county of Bristol, &c. being of lawful age, testify and say, that I heard Col. Jerathmeel Bowers publicly oppose the minute-men to be raised, and also opposed the militia of said town to be equipt out of the town stock; and at a town-meeting on Monday following the battle of Bunker's Hill, in order to raise a number of minute-men, to be ready for the defence of our country on the shorted notice, which was voted, notwithstanding the violent opposition of said Bowers made, he and his adherents were uneasy at the great charge that would accrue for their pay; and said Bowers declared none of his estate should go to pay them, for the meeting was illegal, as every man should vote according to his interest, or be tried by the rate streak; whereupon, his influence, the said minute-men were dismissed; and then a motion being made if there was no need of men or money for our defence, or of a Committee, it was moved and seconded by said Bowers, that the Committee be dismissed, which was accordingly done; and I have heard said Bowers opposed several times publicly the paying in our standing province taxes to Henry Gardner, Esq; of Stow.
JERAMIAH BROWN.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[September 16, 1775]

Bristol, ff. Warren, August 18, 1775.

JEREMIAH BROWN, the within named, personally appeared, and being duly cautioned to testify to the truth, made solemn oath to the truth of the within deposition, by him subscribed, - Before me,
JOHN KINNICUT, Justice Peace.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[September 16, 1775]

Swansey, August 18, 1775.

I DANIEL BROWN, being of lawful age, do testify and say, that Jerathmeel Bowers send me on two notes of hand, at Taunton, last September court, and the courts sell (?), and he indorsed his notes to the Sherburn's at Boston, and sued me to January court last, at Boston:

Further saith, that the said Bowers has always appeared against the country's monies being paid to the Congress Treasurer, and raising men or money to pay them to fight for their liberty.

DANIEL BROWN.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[September 16, 1775]

Bristol, ff. Warren, August 18, 1775.

DANIEL BROWN, the above named, personally appeared, and being duly cautioned to testify the truth, made solemn oath to the truth of the above deposition, by him subscribed, - Before me,
JOHN KINNICUT, Just. Peace.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[September 16, 1775]

Rehoboth, September 14, 1775.

WHEREAS Jerathmeel Bowers, Esq; of Swansey, in his attempt to invalidate the depositions taken against him by the joint Committee of Rehoboth and Swansey, hath ventured to say, that the above depositions were taken ex parte:

It is necessary to inform the public how the Committee proceeded in that affair.

The Committee being met together on Tuesday, the 15th of August, 1775, upon other business, they then saw his reply to their publication, and some other persons that had violated the orders of the Congress, in which he challenged them to shew any one particular wherein he had counteracted the orders of the Congress.

They knowing that they had many substantial evidences to prove their charges against him, adjourned to Friday the 18th of August, in order to take depositions, and immediately sent a letter to him, informing him of the time and place to which they had adjourned, desiring his attendance; accordingly he came to the place.

The Committee met, and proceeded to take depositions, desiring him to be present, which he refused, and withdraw himself.

Joseph Allyn, Chairman.

PG, no. 611, fol. 2.

[October 7, 1775]

PROVIDENCE, October 7.

At a Meeting of the Committees of Inspection of the several Towns in the County of Providence, on Friday, the 6th of October, 1775.

WHEREAS there has been great Suspicion among the Inhabitants in this County, as well as in the Towns of the Colony of Massachusetts-Bay, that our cruel and unnatural Enemies from Time to Time receive Supplies of Butter, Cheese, and other Provisions, by Reason of the large Quantities carried to the Town of Newport, &c. under Pretence of supplying that Place, Nantucket, &c.

And whereas whilst it is our duty to have our Friends, wherever they may be, reasonably supplied, it is equally our Duty to prevent our Enemies from removing Succours of any Kind:

It is, therefore the Opinion of this Committee that no Butter, Cheese, or any other Articles of Provisions, be hereafter transported, either by Land or Water, to Rhode-Island, except under the following Regulations, viz.

those Persons who may have the before mentioned Articles to dispose of shall, before they proceed to Market, procure a Certificate or Certificates, from the Committees of the respective Places where such Articles are laden, of the Quantities of each Article that they may carry, and that they are Persons friendly to the Cause of American Freedom, which shall serve as a Pass through the respective Towns to the Market:

And provided the said Provisions are destined for Rhode-Island, that they carry the same, together with the Certificate, to John Collins, Esq; Chairman of the Committee of Inspection in the Town of Newport, or to some Person by him to be appointed, whereupon they may dispose of their Butter, or other Articles, to such Persons as the said John Collins, or his substitute, may recommend to be Friends to their Country, and to none other.

And upon their Return from the Market, they shall deliver Certificates, signed by the said John Collins, Esq; or his Substitute, as aforesaid, of the Quantity disposed of, and to whom, unto such Persons from whom they received their Certificates, and the

same shall discharge them from all Cause of Suspicion with their Town and Country-men.

And all Persons travelling with Butter, Cheese, &c. in any considerable Quantities, without such Certificate or Certificates, shall be liable to be detained, and their Goods, &c. kept, until at their Expencc such Certificates are procured, or until the Order of the Committee of Inspection of such District where the same may be stopt be taken thereupon.

And whereas the Hon. General Assembly of the Massachusetts-Bay have taken particular Order with Respect to the Transportation of Provisions to Nantucket, and it is altogether unnecessary, and may be very prejudicial, to attempt to supply that Island from any Part of this Colony by Water, therefore it is Resolved,

That no Provision of any Kind be suffered to pass through any Seaport Town in this Colony, under Pretence of sending them to Nantucket; but all such Provisions shall be stopt, until the Matter may be enquired into by the Committee of Inspection of the District where they may be stopt, and such Order taken thereon as they shall see fit.

Resolved,

That all Persons who shall endeavour to elude these Resolutions, or in any wise counteract them, shall, upon Conviction, have their Names published in the News-Papers, in order that they may be avoided as Enemies to their Country.

Voted,

That the above and foregoing Resolutions be immediately published in the Providence Gazette.

Test.

Caleb Harris, Clerk.

PG, no. 614, fol. 3.

[October 7, 1775]

Voted, That Capt. Solomon Owen, Messieurs John Brown, Joseph Russell, Job Manchester, and Noah Mathewson, be a Committee to receive any Complaints that may be exhibited to them, and lay the same before this Committee, at their next Meeting, which stands adjourned to the House of the Widow Waterman, in Smithfield, on the second Tuesday in November next, at Ten o'Clock, A.M.

Test.

CALEB HARRIS, Clerk of the County Committee.

PG, no. 614, fol. 3.

[October 7, 1775]

Whereas there have been many Complaints of such as are Vendors of Goods and Merchandise in this Country, for selling them at a higher price than settled by the Association Agreement of the Continental Congress, under Pretence of buying them at a higher Rate, which we dem a Breach and Violation of said Association:

We do hereby forewarn all Persons from selling any Goods at a higher Price than they were usually sold at before said Association took Place, on any Pretence whatever, as they will thereby incur the just Censure of this Committee, and their Names will be published to the World accordingly.

Published by Order,
CALEB HARRIS, Clerk.

PG, no. 614, fol. 3.

[October 7, 1775]

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection on Thursday, October 5, 1775.

WHEREAS we have Reason to suspect, by frequent complaints from the Country, that some Persons in this Town do still continue the detestable Practice of selling India Tea:

The Committee do earnestly request of all persons who are possessed of that Article, that they would deliver the same into their Hands, to be by them stored, until the United Colonies do allow of its being sold.

And all Persons having India Tea in their Possession, and do not deliver it up, agreeable to this Request of the Committee, will be deemed Enemies to their Country, and as such be treated.

By Order of the Committee,
DAVID LAWRENCE, Clerk.

PG, no. 614, fol. 3.

[October 7, 1775]

WHEREAS Complaint has been made to the Committee of Inspection against me and my family, for selling India Tea, contrary to the Association of the Continental Congress, which conduct is very disagreeable to the Public:

I do therefore solemnly engage, that, forbearing to give any further Offence to the Friends of the American Cause, I will forthwith deliver up to the Committee of Inspection all the India Tea I or my Family now have in Possession;

and that for the future I will not, directly or indirectly, violate any part of the Association aforesaid; and as I wish to live in Unity with my Neighbours, I earnestly ask the Forgiveness of the Community.

NATHAN ANOELL.

PG, no. 614, fol. 3.

[October 7, 1775]

THE Committee of Inspection for the Town of Rehoboth being informed that Provisions have been carried through said Town to Newport, and to other towns at the Southward, whereby the ministerial Army has been supplied; the Committee met on the 2nd Instant, and Resolved,

That no Provisions of any Kind shall pass through said Town to Newport, or any Town southward of Rehoboth, without a Certificate from the Chairman of the Committee of Inspection for the Town where the Provisions are conveying, by which it shall appear that the said Provisions are for the Use of the Inhabitants, and not for supplying the Enemies of America.

They therefore made Choice of

Capt. Daniel Hunt, Mr. Nathan Monro, Mr. James Dagget, and Mr. William Cole, to inspect and stop such Provisions.

By Order of the Committee,

JOSEPH BRIDEMAN, Clerk pro temp.

Rehoboth, October 5, 1775.

PG, no. 614, fol. 3.

[October 7, 1775]

THE Public are hereby notified, that the General Committee of Inspection for the County of Providence will meet at the Court-House in said Providence, on Friday the 6th Day of October next, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon.

If any Persons have Complaints to make against any of the Inhabitants of said County, for their not keeping up to the Continental Association, they are desired to attend.

By Order,

CALEB HARRIS, *Clerk.*

Providence, Sept. 26, 1775.

N.B. The several Committees of Inspection for each Town in the County of Kent, are desired to form themselves into a General Committee as soon as may be, as many Advantages to the Public will result from such a Meeting.

PG, no. 614, fol. 4.

[October 21, 1775]

THE Committee of Inspection and Correspondence for the Town of North-Kingston, being convened in said Town on the 7th Day of October, 1775, came into the following Resolves, viz.

Whereas Stephen Boyer, of said Town, being accused of carrying a Quantity of Cheese to some of the declared Enemies to America;

and he being present before this Committee, hath daringly endeavoured to justify himself in so doing, and saith that he further intends to send a Quantity of Barley and Corn to George Rome, one of our said Enemies:

Resolved therefore,

That the said Stephen Boyer is an Enemy to American Liberty, and ought to be hereafter treated as such; and it is recommended to the Public in general, and strictly required of every Person in this Town, that they forthwith break off all Dealings with him, and that a Copy of this Resolve be inserted in the Providence Gazette, and Newport Mercury.

A true Copy.

Witness, GEORGE THOMAS, *Clerk*.

PG, no. 616, fol. 3.

[October 21, 1775]

Whereas in the present Alarms People frequently move from the Town of Newport, and other Places, into this Town, amongst whom are many of the Foes to America; and it is the Opinion of this Committee, that no Person who is an Enemy to his Country, or holding Tory Principles, ought to be suffered to move into this Town;

Resolved therefore, That no Boatman, Ferryman, or other Person whatever, bring any such Persons, their Families or Effects, into this Town, upon any Pretence whatever, as in so doing they will incur the Displeasure of this Committee, and must abide the Consequences.

Resolved, That no Boatman, Ferryman, or other person, do take in any Provisions or Freight to carry to Newport, without the Consent and Approbation of one or more of this Committee, who shall certify the same under his or their Hands;

and any such Provisions so freighted shall be disposed of in the Market of the Town of Newport, for the Use of the Inhabitants of said Town, and a Certificate produced from under the Hand of one of the Committee of Inspection for the Town of Newport, that the same was disposed in the Manner above expressed, and return the same to this Committee;

and that a Copy of the above Resolves be published in the Providence Gazette, and Newport Mercury.

The above Extracts were taken from the Minutes of the Committee of Inspection and Correspondence for the Town of North-Kingston, and published by Order of said Committee.

Per GEORGE THOMAS, *Clerk*.

PG, no. 616, fol. 3.

[November 25, 1775]

PROVIDENCE, November 25.

At a Meeting of the General Committee of Inspection for the County of Providence, especially called this 22nd of November, 1775.

JOB RANDALL, Esq; Chairman.

WHEREAS it is of the utmost Consequence, at this Time of general Danger, to have every Measure calculated to preserve Peace and Unanimity, on which every Thing valuable in Life depends; and whereas uneasiness hath arisen on Account of the Article of Salt, which by the Cruelty and Tyranny of our common Enemies is very likely to become scarce, and without some Inducement to import that real Necessity of Life, the Country must greatly suffer for the Want thereof; and as it is necessary, in order to preserve a mutual Harmony between Town and Country at this Time, that some Price should be affixed to that Article, the most likely to give mutual Satisfaction to both Buyers and Sellers:

Therefore it is VOTED,

That it be most seriously recommended to those Persons now possessed of Salt, more than for their own necessary Uses, that they sell the same, in any Quantities not exceeding five Bushels, to each householder, at a Price not exceeding Three Shillings Lawful Money per Bushel.

And in order to ascertain the Quantity of Salt now in the Town of Providence, which may disposed of, it is further VOTED,

That the following Gentlemen, namely, Jabez Bower, Esq; Mr. Stephen Arnold, Col. Chad Brown, Col. William West, John Dexter, Esq; Col. Christopher Lippitt, Noah Mathewson, Esq; and Capt. Stephen Jenckes, be and they are hereby appointed a Committee to repair to the Town of Providence, and call upon all Persons possessed of Salt, to exhibit under Oath to them all they have, without Reservation, and also what they may respectively want for their own Uses; and that said Committee proceed thereupon to estimate or measure the same,

and take Account of the Quantities that may be for Sale in the Hands of each Person, and recommend to them the Resolutions of this Committee, contained in the foregoing Vote, and make Report to this Committee, at their next Meeting.

And whereas it is essentially necessary to the Inhabitants of the Town of Providence, that they be supplied with Wood, and it is highly injurious to attempt at this Time to raise the Price of that Article, for the most obvious Reasons:

Therefore it is considered by this Committee as a Duty, and strongly recommended to every Friend to his Country, to sell the same at the accustomed Price it hath been sold for the Year past, and thereby prevent that Uneasiness that must ensue from a contrary Conduct.

Voted,

That Mr. Carter be requested to publish the foregoing in his next Gazette.

Test.

ZEBEDER HOPKINS, jun. Clerk pro temp.

N.B. The Meeting of said Committee stands adjourned to the second Tuesday in December next, at the Court-House in Providence.

PG, no. 621, fol. 3.

[December 9, 1775]

Mr. Carter,

Be pleased to insert the following in your useful paper.

OBSERVING a very brassy piece in your paper of the 25th of November published at the request of Jerathmael Bowers;

we the subscribers being concerned as Committee-men, in gratifying the said Bowers's sanguine request some time past, by publishing sundry depositions in support of a charge before that time published against the said Bowers, and afterwards being called on by a Committee of the Honorable House of Representatives, before whom the Committee that had published said Bowers made their defence:

And being informed by the Committee of the Honorable House, that the matter would have a further hearing before the House; we were chosen by our Committee as agents to attend on said affair before the House; we attended accordingly, and we grant that the Committee of the House did report in manner and form as published by said Bowers; but we now declare to the public (and to the immortal honor of the House of Representatives be it spoken) that the Committee's report was by them rejected;

and the said Bowers's complaint against the town's Committees was dismissed; and he allowed to withdraw the same, and thereupon he took his papers back; so that said Bowers's enterprize against the town's Committees proved abortive; and in the name of sense can that speak to the public that never had an existence?

The report of the Committee of the House never had an existence in the Honorable House:

Good God, how long shall the public be treated in this manner (to wit) by said Bowers's feebly essaying to inform them by that which never had an existence itself!

But as we would not be too dogmatical, we feel perfectly easy to risk this correction of said Bowers's late publication to the judgment of the impartial public (having only just set the same in its true light) and leave said Bowers to the correction of that Honorable (and impartial) House, whereof he is a member, whose worthy doings he has not published, but endeavoured to misrepresent, by asserting in a public paper a report of one of their Committees which they themselves in their justice disapproved of, and finally rejected.

John Wheeler,
Israel Barney,
Swansey, Dec. 1, 1775.

PG, no. 623, fol. 2.

[December 16, 1775]

PROVIDENCE, December 16.

At a Meeting of the General Committee of Inspection for the County of Providence, held at the Court-House in Providence, by Adjournment, on Tuesday, the 12th of December, 1775.

JOB RANDALL, Esq; in the Chair.

WHEREAS it appears, from an Inspection lately made, that there is not more tanned and curried Leather in this County, than a Sufficiency to supply, for the ensuing Winter, the inland Consumption of the Inhabitants of this and the adjacent Colonies, with their usual necessary Quantities:

It is therefore VOTED,

That no tanned or curried Leather, more than for the Family-Use of each Purchaser, be bought up, with Intent to carry out of any Town in this County, unless Permission be first obtained from the Committee of Inspection of such Town where the same shall be to be sold;

and that the Exportation of Leather by Water from this County be and the same is hereby prohibited.

Voted, That this Meeting of the General Committee be and the same is hereby adjourned to the 3^d Monday in January next, at Ten o'Clock in the Forenoon, at the Court-House in Providence, when the punctual Attendance of the Members will be necessary.

Voted, That Mr. Carter be requested to publish the forgoing in his next Gazette.
Signed per Order,
JONATHAN ARNOLD, Clerk pro temp.

PG, no. 624, fol. 3.

[December 16, 1775]

THE General Committee of Inspection for the County of Kent stands adjourned to Wednesday the 27th of December inst. at Twelve o'Clock at Noon, then to meet at the Dwelling-House of Gideon Tripp, Esq; in West-Greenwich; where all Persons, in said County, aggrieved by any Violation of the Association entered into by the Hon. Continental Congress, are requested to apply; and the Committee will see them redressed to the utmost of their Power.

By Order of the Committee,
ADAM COMSTOCK, Clerk.
Warwick, Dec. 11, 1775.

PG, no. 624, fol. 3.

[December 23, 1775]

Rehoboth, December 18, 1775.

On Saturday the 16th Instant Mr. Shubael Burr, of Warren, having loaded a Quantity of Tea into his Waggon, in order to carry it into the Province of Massachusetts-Bay, to vend the same, in passing through Rehoboth it was seized and detained by the Committee of Inspection for said Town; and on examining into the Circumstances, the said Burr owned the Fact, and made an Acknowledgement in the following Words, viz.

"I the Subscriber having, contrary to the Rules of the Honorable Continental Congress, sent a Quantity of Tea into the Province of Massachusetts-Bay, with Intent to vend the same;

I do hereby acknowledge that I am heartily sorry for my Conduct, and humbly ask the Forgiveness of all Persons whom I have offended in so doing; I hereby also promise, upon my Faith and Honor, never to offend in the like Manner for the future.

Witness my Hand this 18th Day of December, 1775.

Shubael Burr."

And after having taken the Tea into Possession, and stored the same (the Quantity being two Barrels), the Committee dismissed the said Burr for the present.

Signed by Order and in Behalf of the Committee of Inspection,
Sylvanus Martin, *Chairman*.

PG, no. 625, fol. 3.

[December 23, 1775]

THE General Committee of Inspection for the County of Kent stands adjourned to Wednesday the 27th of December inst. at Twelve o'Clock at Noon, then to meet at the Dwelling-House of Gideon Tripp, Esq; in West-Greenwich; where all Persons, in said County, aggrieved by any Violation of the Association entered into by the Hon. Continental Congress, are requested to apply; and the Committee will see them redressed to the utmost of their Power.

By Order of the Committee,
By Order of the Committee,
ADAM COMSTOCK, Clerk.
Warwick, Dec. 11, 1775.

PG, no. 625, fol. 4.

[January 6, 1776]

THE General Committee of Inspection for the County of Kent stands adjourned to Wednesday the 15th of January inst. at Twelve o'Clock at Noon, then to meet at the Court-House in East-Greenwich; where all Persons, in said County, aggrieved by any Violation of the Association entered into by the Hon. Continental Congress, are requested to apply; and the Committee will see them redressed to the utmost of their Power.

By Order of the Committee,
By Order of the Committee,
ADAM COMSTOCK, Clerk.
Warwick, Jan. 2, 1776.

PG, no. 627, fol. 3.

[January 13, 1776]

THE General Committee of Inspection for the County of Kent stands adjourned to Wednesday the 15th of January inst. at Twelve o'Clock at Noon, then to meet at the Court-House in East-Greenwich; where all Persons, in said County, aggrieved by any Violation of the Association entered into by the Hon. Continental Congress, are requested to apply; and the Committee will see them redressed to the utmost of their Power.

By Order of the Committee,

ADAM COMSTOCK, Clerk.
Warwick, Jan. 2, 1776.

PG, no. 628, fol. 4.

[February 3, 1776]

AT a Meeting of the Committee of Correspondence at Dighton, on Monday the 22^d of January, 1776,

RESOLVED,

That HEBER CHASE, of Swansey, has proved himself inimical to his Country, by refusing to take the Paper Currency of the Colonies; and to the End that such pernicious Persons may be publicly known, and universally detested, as Foes to the Rights and Liberties of America,

VOTED,

That his Name be published in the Providence Gazette; and from henceforth we will break off all Dealing and Connexion with him.

Attest.

ABIEZER PHILLIPS, *Clerk of the Committee.*

PG, no. 631, fol. 3.

[February 17, 1776]

Mr. Carter,

Please to insert the following in your next, and you will greatly oblige a Number of your Customers.

JERATHMAEL BOWERS, Esq; of Swansey, in order to retrieve his character, having picked up a report of a Committee of the House of Representatives for the colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, under the signature of William Baylter, Chairman, which he published in the Boston Gazette of Nov. 20, as the mind and voice of that honorable House; and Capt. John Wheeler, and Mr. Israel Barney, having judiciously informed the public that the above named report was rejected by the honorable House, and he left under the censure of the Committee of Inspection; it will be needless to say any thing more of that transaction; but it is necessary to consider the report itself, as being justly exceptionable, and calculated to convey an idea foreign to the true spirit of the affair; I shall therefore, in order to set things in their true light, make some remarks on this report; and leave the impartial public to judge for themselves.

The first thing in the report is, that they (the Committee) were sent by the House of Representatives to enquire of the Committee of Inspection why they stigmatized Col. Bowers in the public papers, as they were pleased to call it.

Secondly, they proceed to set forth the charges exhibited against him by the Committee of Inspection, which were as follow, that he opposed the town's paying their outstanding provincial rates to Henry Gardner, Esq; that he was in favour of dismissing the Committee of Inspection; that he opposed the settling the militia, learning the military exercise, and raising a company for the defence of the country, to be ready upon the shortest notice; that he discouraged and disheartened his own town's people, if not others, from a vigorous exertion in defence of their rights, by advising them to lay still, and not act in our difficult affairs, saying, „they have an army, let them fight it out;“ that it would never do for us to fight with Old-England; and that 5000 regulars would drive our whole army. These and many other things were charged against him, as are set forth in the report; all which they proved by the depositions published against him in the Boston Gazette of August 28, and September 11, together with the depositions hereunto annexed; which were made oath to before these reporters. And now perhaps it will be asked, what evidence did Col. Bowers produce, with which they invalidated the positive evidence of so many credible persons? In answer to this question, I reply, he produced a number large enough, such as they were; but what were they? Why, to give their political characters (for their private characters I care not to meddle with) most of them hold that the King hath an unlimited power, that he hath a right to make and vacate charters at will, that what he hath done of that nature in America he hath a good right to do, that the Parliament has a right to tax us without our consent, that the taking up arms in the defence of our just rights they call a rebellion; they refuse to take up arms in the defence of their country, are so dependent upon Col. Bowers, that they are entirely under his influence, and have been his assistants in preventing the resolves of the Congress being put into execution in the town. And what can be expected from persons tainted with tory tenets, and who are so unfriendly as to refuse to assist their country in defence of their rights, but that they will as much as possible favour their landlord? But what do they witness for him? it will be asked; why they tell of good words which he spoke from time to time, without correspondent actions; for the truth is, he is not a man for acting in the case, but when such of the inhabitants of the town as were friends to the cause, endeavoured to execute any of the resolves of the Congress, this unfriendly gentleman strenuously opposed them, and when he had so done, he would speak some good words to appease the people, lest they should be too much exasperated against him, and these, good words his deponents have picked up to prove him a friend to his country, as appears by the face of the report and depositions. But some perhaps may say, that there was something more than words; for he moved to have the town stock ammunition doubled. I answer, it doth not appear that he ever intended to use it for any better purpose than Gilbert did the great stock which he had collected. But it will be said, he was for having two batteries built one at Freetown, the other at Swansey;

and that he would be at the cost of the cannon, if he knew where to get them; but the unlucky *if* spoilt his good intentions. It will likewise be said, he strove hard from time to time to have the outstanding provincial taxes collected, and paid to Henry Gardner, Esq; but could not effect it; this is very surprizing, that he could have all the votes in the town except about fifteen, as he boasted before the Court's Committee, and yet was not able to get one resolve of the Congress put into execution in the town! It appears by this that his deponents, as well as himself, are very unfriendly, and proves the truth of the above description given of them. But it is contended, that they proved, after much pains taken by him, that he put the outstanding money raised and granted to Henry Gardner, Esq; I answer, this is in part true; but what do the records of the town say in the case? Why from them it appears it is not done to this day. Thus it is shew, that his deponents, though biassed in his favour, have proved nothing for him but good words, and fair speeches, with which they have deceived the simple. But how the gentlemen of the Committee could be so far imposed on, as to invalidate so many positive and responsible evidences, with such weak and contemptible negatives, is very unaccountable. The mighty cloud of witnesses in Col. Bowers's favour, his extensive influence and majority of votes in the town, and he town's recommendation of him, of which he boasts in such vaunting and supercilious expressions, while the resolves of the Congress were not put into execution in the town, is the strongest evidence against him, and serve to prove that he and his deponents are wholly unfriendly to American liberty; and yet they are so basely hypocritical, as not to be willing to acknowledge the appellation; but what do all their pretences signify, more than it did for Saul to tell Samuel, "*yea, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and utterly destroyed Amalek,*" while the sheep were bleating and the oxen lowing about the camp, and Agag delicately walking the parade?

PG, no. 633, fol.1.

[February 17, 1776]

WE the deponents, of Swansey, in the county of Bristol, yeomen, being of lawful age, testify and say, that on the day aforesaid, being in company with Capt. Robert Gibbs, David Peirce, and several others, the said Peirce read a paragraph in the Boston Gazette of Nov 20, 1775, inserted by the request of Col. Jerathmael Bowers, under the signature of William Baylies, Chairman, as follows,

"moreover Capt. Robert Gibbs deposed, that Col. Bowers never advised him not to act in our difficult affairs, as mentioned in the testimony of David Peirce; but that he informed said Peirce, that Col. Bowers came to him on account of his keeping a pedler, and lending a sword to one of Col. Gilbert's company, and he had better turn

away the pedler, recal the sword, lie still, and not make the people uneasy; which story said Peirce misapprehended;"

which being read as aforesaid, the said Peirce said to Capt. Gibbs, I am surprized it should be thus inserted; for you told me at my house, when I was not able to go abroad, some time before you lent your sword to one of Col. Gilbert's company, that you was easy now;

for Col. Bowers had advised you to lie still, and not to act in our difficult affairs; and the said Peirce told Capt. Gibbs, that he could prove that he told him so, what he had sworn to.

Capt. Gibbs said it was true, and said he told Col. Bowers, that what David Peirce had sworn was truth, and said, I wish I had wrote down my own evidence myself, as then it would have been right; for they have put it down wrong; then he being asked again by some if what David Peirce had sworn to was true, he answered yes, and his evidence was put down or entered wrong.

Clother Peirce,
Ebenezer Peirce,
Philip Slead.

Warren, in the county of Bristol, in the colony of Rhode-Island, December 20, 1775.

Then the above named Clother Peirce, Ebenezer Peirce, and Philip Slead, made their personal appearance, and each of them made oath to the truth of the above written evidence,

before me,

JOHN KENNICUT, *Justice of Peace.*

PG, no. 633, fol.1.

[February 17, 1776]

I, THE subscriber, of lawful age, do testify and say, that I was at a town-meeting in Swansey, on the 18th of September, A. D.1775, the request being read for said meeting, and the names thereto subscribed:

It was moved that John Chace, one of the subscribers, had said that if General Gage and his army should come here, he would join him against us.

It was answered by Col. Bowers, that John Chace had a right to join General Gage, or any body else that he had a mind to, if it was Old France, and further saith not.

John Round

Warren, in the county of Bristol, in the Colony of Rhode-Island, December 20, 1775.

Then the above named John Round made his personal appearance, and made oath to the truth of the above written evidence, before me,

JOHN KENNICUT, Justice of Peace

Those who are desirous of further satisfaction may examine the depositions published in the papers above referred to.

Filius Libertatis

PG, no. 633, fol.1.

[February 24, 1776]

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection and Safety for the Town of Rehoboth,
Feb. 15, 1776.

WHEREAS it has been represented to this Committee, that it is suspected some Persons in this Town are buying up the Articles of Corn, Rye and Flax, in order to enhance the Price, or send the same out of the Town:

And whereas it is probable that there will be a Necessary for posting a standing Army on our Shores the ensuing Summer, and in that case those Articles will be much wanted;

it is therefore recommended to the Inhabitants of this Town, that they do not carry the above Articles out of the same into any other Towns for Sale, in large Quantities.

And we further recommend to such Persons as have any of these Articles to share, that they do not refuse selling them to the necessitous Neighbours, at reasonable Prices.

We also recommend to such Persons as may have more Cloth than they want for their own Use, that they dispose of the same to their poor Neighbours at a moderate Price.

And whereas it is probable that the Article of Wool will be scarce the ensuing Season, we recommend that the Inhabitants do not raise the Price thereof exorbitantly, but sell the same on reasonable Terms, to the End that we may not oppress one another, but on the contrary hold forth the Spirit of perfect Union and Concord, and thereby join Hand in Hand the common Cause of America.

Voted, That the foregoing be published in the Providence Gazette.

Signed by Order and in Behalf said Committee,

William Winsor, Clerk.

PG, no. 634, fol. 3.

[March 2, 1776]

THE General Committee of Inspection for the County of Providence stands adjourned to the second Monday in March inst. at Twelve o’Clock at Noon, then to meet at the Court-House in Providence, where it is hoped a general and punctual Attendance will be given.

By Order of the Committee,

CALEB HARRIS, Clerk.

Providence, March 1, 1776.

PG, no. 635, fol. 3.

[March 9, 1776]

THE General Committee of Inspection for the County of Providence stands adjourned to the second Monday in March inst. at Twelve o’Clock at Noon, then to meet at the Court-House in Providence, where it is hoped a general and punctual Attendance will be given.

By Order of the Committee,

CALEB HARRIS, Clerk.

Providence, March 1, 1776.

PG, no. 636, fol. 4.

[March 23, 1776]

In COMMITTEE, Taunton, March 8, 1776.

Nathaniel Bird, a Shopkeeper in this Town, being convicted this day of refusing Paper Currency in Payment, the Committee resolved to publish him to the World, agreeable to the Order of the Continental Congress; but said Bird soon after applied to the Committee, desiring their Pardon for his Crime, and promising Reformation: They therefore have stopped all Proceedings against him, and recommend him to the future good Opinion of the Continent, on his signing the following Paper.

By Order of the Committee,

James Williams, jun. Clerk.

Whereas I the Subscriber, a Shopkeeper in this Town, have been repeatedly guilty of refusing Paper Currency in Pay for my Goods; and as I find that my Conduct in so doing has essentially interfered with the Resolutions of the Continent, and of the General Court of this Province, I therefore in this humble and public Manner ask the Forgiveness of my Country, and promise for the future to abide by and personally support the Resolutions of the Congress, and General Court of this Province, as far as lies in my Power.

N. Bird.

Taunton, March 18, 1776.

A true Copy.

Attest.

Samuel Williams, jun. Clerk.

PG, no. 638, fol. 3.

[March 30, 1776]

THE General Committee of Inspection for the County of Providence stands adjourned to the second Monday in April next, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon, then to meet at the Court-House in Providence, where it is hoped the Members in general will give their Attendance, as there are Matters of Consequence to be laid before them.

By Order of the Committee,

CALEB HARRIS, Clerk.

Providence, March 29, 1776.

PG, no. 639, fol. 3.

[April 6, 1776]

THE General Committee of Inspection for the County of Providence stands adjourned to the second Monday in April next, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon, then to meet at the Court-House in Providence, where it is hoped the Members in general will give their Attendance, as there are Matters of Consequence to be laid before them.

By Order of the Committee,

CALEB HARRIS, Clerk.

Providence, March 29, 1776.

PG, no. 640, fol. 4.

[May 4, 1776]

At a Meeting of the Committee of Inspection and Correspondence for the Town of North-Kingstown, on the 27th Day of April, 1776.

BERIAH BROWN, Esq; in the Chair.

THIS day Stephen Boyer, of this town, personally came before this Committee, and made his acknowledgement and recantation of his unfriendly principles, in the following words, viz.

North-Kingstown, April 27, 1776.

WHEREAS I the subscriber stand published and enemy to this country, by the Committee of this town, for having sold to my landlord, Mr. George Rome, some cheese, which cheese I suppose was carried to Boston.

Be it known, that I with submission desire and pray that the circumstances of my connexion with my said landlord, at that time, may be taken into consideration, and at the same time I do solemnly declare, that I did not design any injury or prejudice to this country, or the liberties thereof, in what I did, and am really sorry from my heart, that I gave occasion to said Committee to suspect or adjudge me to be an enemy to this country;

and I do solemnly promise, that in my future conduct I will endeavour to prove it is not my inclination so to do, but that it is my disposition and desire to serve and help defend this country against all the enemies to the liberties of America, and am really willing to comply and confirm to all the regulations of the Continental Congress, and heartily desire to be restored to, and live in the same harmony and friendship with my neighbours, and the inhabitants of this country, as I formerly have done.

Voluntarily signed by

Stephen Boyer.

Resolved, That the recantation of the said Boyer is satisfactory to this Committee; that he be restored to his former privileges; and that a copy of this resolve be published in the Providence Gazette, and Newport Mercury.

A true copy,

Attest.

George Thomas, *Clerk*.

PG, no. 644, fol. 3.

[June 15, 1776]

WHEREAS Col. William Bullock, Dracon Stephen Moulton, Major Isaiah Hunt, Lieut. Job Pearce, Kent Bullock, Levi Hunt, and Calven Bullock, have heretofore been considered by the Committee of Inspection and Safety for the Town of Rehoboth as unfriendly to the Constitution of America, and were disarmed and confined to the Limits of the Town:

But on this 3rd Day of June, 1776, they all appeared before the said Committee, and made such Concessions as were satisfactory to said Committee; and thereupon they dismissed them, and set them at their former Liberty.

Signed by Order and in Behalf of said Committee,

EDWARD MARTIN, jun. Clerk.

Rehoboth, June 3, 1776.

PG, no. 650, fol. 3.