

Gentlemen, Philadelphia October 26. 1774



We give you the strongest proof of our reliance on your zeal and attachment to the happiness of America and the cause of Liberty, when we commit the enclosed papers to your care.

We desire you will deliver the Petition into the hands of his Majesty, and if it has been presented, we wish it may be made public thro' the press, together with the list of Grievances. And as we hope for great assistance from the spirit, wisdom and justice of the nation; it is our earnest desire that the most effectual care be taken, as early as possible to furnish the trading cities, and manufacturing towns throughout the united Kingdom, with our memorial to the people of Great Britain.

We doubt not but that your good sense and discernment, will lead you to avail yourselves of every assistance that may be derived from the advice and friendship of all great and good men, who may incline to aid the cause of Liberty and mankind.

Note The gratitude of America expressed in the enclosed note of thanks, we desire may be conveyed to the deserving objects of it, in the manner that you think will be most acceptable to them.

It is proposed that another Congress be held on the 10th May next at this place, but in the mean time we beg the favour of you Gentlemen to transmit to the Speakers of the several Assemblies the earliest information of the most authentic accounts you can collect, of all such conduct and designs of ministry or Parliament, as it may concern America to know.

We are with unfeigned esteem and regard

Gentlemen

By order of the Congress

Henry Middleton President

Note X See Army & Navy

- To,
- Paul Wentworth Esq.
- Doct. Benjamin Franklin
- William Bollen Esq.
- Doct. Arthur Lee
- Thomas Life Esq.
- Edmund Burke Esq.
- Charles Gortch Esq.

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To the Kings most excellent majesty
Most gracious sovereign

We your majestys faithful subjects of the colonies of New-hampshire, Massachusetts-bay, Rhode-island and Providence plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, The counties of New-castle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland Virginia, North-Carolina and South-Carolina in behalf of ourselves and the inhabitants of those colonies who have deputed us to represent them in General Congress, by this our humble petition, beg leave to lay our grievances before the throne.

A standing army has been kept in these colonies, ever since the conclusion of the late war, without the consent of our assemblies; and this army with a considerable naval armament has been employed to enforce the collection of taxes.

The authority of the commander in chief, and under him, of the brigadiers general has in time of peace, been rendered supreme in all the civil governments in America.

The commander in chief of all your majestys forces in North-America has, in time of peace been appointed governor of a colony.

The charges of usual offices have been greatly increased; and new, expensive and oppressive offices have been multiplied.

The judges of admiralty and vice admiralty courts are impowered to receive their salaries and fees from the effects condemned by themselves. The officers of the customs are impowered to break open and enter houses without the authority of any civil magistrate founded on legal information.

The judges of courts of common law have been made entirely dependant on one part of the legislature for their salaries, as well as for the duration of their commissions.

Cancellors

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Councillors holding their commissions, during pleasure, exercise legislative authority.

Humble and reasonable petitions from the representatives of the people have been fruitless. The agents of the people have been discourtenanced and governors have been instructed to prevent the payment of their salaries.

Assemblies have been repeatedly and injuriously dissolved.

Commerce has been burthened with many useless and oppressive restrictions.

By several acts of parliament made in the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth years of your Majesty's reign, duties are imposed on us, for the purpose of raising a revenue, and the powers of admiralty and vice admiralty Courts are extended beyond their ancient limits, whereby our property is taken from us without our consent, the trial by jury in many civil cases is abolished, enormous forfeitures are incurred for slight offences, vexatious informers are exempted from paying damages, to which they are justly liable, and oppressive security is required from owners before they are allowed to defend their right.

Both houses of parliament have resolved, that colonists may be tried in England for offences alledged to have been committed in America, by virtue of a statute passed in the thirty fifth year of Henry the eighth; and in consequence thereof, attempts have been made to enforce that statute. A statute was passed in the twelfth year of your Majesty's reign, directing, that persons charged with committing any offence therein described, in any place out of the realm, may be indicted and tried for the same, in any shire or county within the realm, whereby inhabitants of these colonies may, in sundry cases by that statute made capital, be deprived of a trial by their peers of the vicinage.

In the last sessions of parliament, an act was passed for blocking up the harbour of Boston; another empowering the governors of the Massachusetts-bay to send persons indicted for murder in that province to another colony or even to Great Britain for trial whereby such
offenders