

7.

Congress met agreeably to adjournment.

Wednesday October 12<sup>th</sup> 1774. —

Upon a motion, Ordered, that Major Fuller, Col<sup>o</sup> *Division of the House*  
Prescot, Doct<sup>r</sup> Warren and Doct<sup>r</sup> Holton, be appointed to *and Monitors chosen*  
return the Congress, when necessary, in Order the more easily  
to ascertain a Vote, and that they observe the following division,  
viz<sup>t</sup> The wall pews on the right of the Desk for one Division,  
those on the left for another, the Mens Seats and the Pews adjoin-  
ing them, a third; the Womens seats & the pews adjoining them,  
the fourth. —

Upon a motion the Question was put whether the several Resolutions of Counties  
Resolutions entered into by the Counties respectively, be now read *read.*  
and passed in the affirmative, they were read accordingly.

Resolved, That a Door-keeper be appointed. *Door-keeper appointed*

Resolved, That Capt<sup>t</sup> Baniel be desired to appoint  
some suitable person for a Door-keeper, he appointed accord-  
ingly, M<sup>r</sup> Jeremiah Hunt for that purpose. —

Ordered, That the Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Hancock, Esquire, *Committee on the State*  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> Joseph Hawley, Esq<sup>r</sup>, Doct<sup>r</sup> Warren, Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Dexter, *of the Province*  
Esq<sup>r</sup>, Hon<sup>ble</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Ward, Hon<sup>ble</sup> Col<sup>o</sup> Warren, Cap<sup>t</sup> Heath, Col<sup>o</sup> Lee,  
Doct<sup>r</sup> Church, Doct<sup>r</sup> Holton, M<sup>r</sup> Gerry, Col<sup>o</sup> Tynng, Cap<sup>t</sup> Rob-  
son, Major Foster and M<sup>r</sup> Dotham be a Committee to take  
into Consideration the State of the Province and report as soon as  
may be. —

Adjourned to 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon. — Adjourned to 9 o'clock to morrow morn.

Congress met agreeably to adjournment.

Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> 1774. —

Adjourned to 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon. — The Committee on the State of the *Message to the Gov*  
Province, Reported the following. Message to his Excellency. *accepted*  
The same was considered and accepted by the Congress, with one  
dissenting voice only, and the President requested to attest  
the same. —

May it please your Excellency?  
The Delegates from the several Towns in the Province  
of

of the Massachusetts Bay, having convened in general Congress, beg leave to address your Excellency:— The distressed and miserable State of the Province, occasioned by the intolerable grievances and oppressions to which the people are subjected, and the danger & destruction to which they are exposed, of which your Excellency must be sensible, and the want of a General Assembly have rendered it indispensably necessary to collect the wisdom of the province by their Delegates in this Congress, to concert some adequate remedy for preventing impending ruin, and providing for the public safety. —

It is with the utmost concern we see your Hostile Preparations which have spread such Alarm throughout this Province & the whole Continent, as threatens to involve us in all the Confusion and horrors of a Civil War; and while we contemplate an event so deeply to be regretted by every good man, it must occasion the surprise and astonishment of all mankind, that such measures are pursued against a People whose love of Order, attachment to Britain, and Loyalty to their Prince, have ever been truly exemplary. Your Excellency must be sensible that the sole end of Government, is the protection and security of the People; whenever therefore that Power, which was originally instituted to effect these important & valuable purposes, is employed to harass, oppress or enslave the People, in this case it becomes a Curse rather than a Blessing. —

The most painful apprehensions are excited in our minds by the measures now pursuing, the rigorous execution of the Port Bill with improved severity, must eventually reduce the Capital and its numerous dependencies to a state of poverty and ruin:— The Acts, <sup>for</sup> altering the Charter and the administration of justice in the Colony, are manifestly designed to abridge this People of their rights, and to licence Murders; and if carried into execution, will reduce them to a state of Slavery: The number of Troops in the Capital, increased by daily accessions drawn from the whole Continent, together with the formidable and hostile preparations which you are now making on Boston Neck, in our opinion greatly endanger the lives, liberties & properties, not only of our brethren in the Town of Boston, but of this Province in general. — Permit us to ask your Excellency whether an inattentive and unconcerned acquiescence to such alarming, such menacing measures, would not evidence a state of Insanity, or whether the delaying to take every possible precaution for the security of this Province, would not be the most criminal neglect in a people hitherto rigidly and justly tenacious of their constituted rights? —

Penetrated with the most poignant concern, and ardently solicitous to preserve union and harmony between Great Britain & the Colonies, so indispensably necessary to the well being of both, we intreat your Excellency to remove that Brand of contention, the Fortress at the entrance of Boston; we are much concerned that you should have been induced to construct it,

and thereby causefully excite such a spirit of resentment & indignation as now generally prevails. —

We assure you Sir, that the good people of this Colony never have had the least intention to do any injury to his Majesty's Troops; but on the contrary most earnestly desire that every obstacle to treating them as fellow Subjects may be immediately removed; but are constrained to tell your Excellency, that the minds of the people will never be relieved till those hostile works are demolished: and we request you, as you regard his Majesty's Honour & Interest, the dignity and happiness of the Empire, and the peace & welfare of this Province, that you immediately desist from the Fortrefs now constructing at the south entrance into the Town of Boston, & restore the pass to its natural state. —

Upon a Motion, Ordered, That a fair Copy of the foregoing Report be taken and presented to His Excellency Thomas Gage, Esquire; and that a Committee be appointed to wait upon him early to morrow Morning with the same; accordingly, Col: Lee, Hon: Col: Ward, Col: Orne, Capt: Gardner, Henry Gardner Esquire, M: Devens, M: Gorham, Capt: Browne, Col: Comero, Hon: Col: Prescott, Col: Thayer, M: Williams, Capt: Heath, Capt: Upham, M: Barnes, Capt: Doolittle, M: Lothrop, Major Thompson, M: Palmer, M: Pickering and Capt: Thompson were appointed.

Committee to present the Message to his Ex: Thomas Gage.

Resolved, That when this Congress shall adjourn over the Sabbath, that it be adjourned to the Court House in Cambridge.

Then the Congress adjourned till to morrow morning 9 o'clock. —

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 1774.

Resolved, that the Message to his Excellency be printed in the Boston News-papers. —

The foregoing Message to be printed in Boston News-papers

Adjourned to 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon. — The Committee on the State of the Province reported the following Resolve, which was read considered & accepted, and Ordered that it be printed in the Boston News-papers, and attested by the Secretary. —

Resolved, That the several Constables & Collectors of Taxes throughout the Province, who have or shall have any Monies in their hands collected on Province Assessments, be advised not to pay the same or any part thereof to the Hon: Harrison Gray Esq:; but that such Constables and Collectors, as also such Constables and Collectors, as have or shall have any County Monies in their hands, take and observe such Orders and directions touching the same, as shall be given them by the several Towns and Districts by whom they were chosen. —

Collectors of Taxes desired not to pay their collections to hon: Harrison Gray

And