

1st voted That Capt. J^{no}. Bodwell be Chairman of this Convention

2^d voted Le Chase Nathl. Rabady Clerk of this Convention

3^d being duly formed into a Convention and the order of day being call^d for, a motion was made & seconded that the proceedings of the late Convention in this place be read, which being done - & properly understood - thereupon ^{3^d} voted, that it is the opinion of this Convention, that the unhappy difficulties arising on account of the exorbitant prices that are demanded and taken for many of the Necessaries of Life as mentioned in their 3^d resolve, is a matter worthy our consideration & that it be a ~~subject~~ subject of enquiry at this time voted - N. C.

4th upon a fair enquiry into the subject matter of the premises it ~~has been made to appear to~~ ^{has been made to appear to} this Convention that such is the advantage, taken by the Merchant Trader & farmer, ^{doth} of those who are obliged to purchase the Necessaries of Life from them, that unless some speedy & effectual remedy take place it is the opinion of this Convention, that the ~~unrighteous~~ ^{unrighteous} practices will prove the inevitable ruin of these states - Therefore resolved that

This Convention will petition the Legislature authority of the States of the Mass^{ts} Bay & New Hampshire requesting that they ~~will~~ ^{would} be pleased to take the premises under consideration, & so to regulate the purchases & sales of the Necessaries of Life as to obviate the evil we imagine will otherwise ensue -
voted N. C.

voted that there be two Committees consisting of three men each to prepare separate Draughts to present to the States for their consideration & exhibit the same to this Convention as soon as may be in order for approbation & choice

voted that N. Rabady, M^r. Abbot & Dr. Chamberlain be 1st Committee. & that Capt. Blanchard, Esq. Barron, & Capt. Bowers be 2^d Committee to make Draughts as about

Then a motion was made & 2^d that M^r. Jewell bear like by to relate certain Grievances that many of the back settlements in the State of N. Hampshire are labouring under which was voted & then chose M^r. Hancock Dr. Tupper Capt. Louell M^r. Ayer Dr. Gibson M^r. Jones Foster & Capt. Stearns as a Committee to hear M^r. Jewell upon the matter & make report tomorrow morning at 9th - Then voted this Convention adjourned till tomorrow morning at 9th.

At a Convention of the Committee
of the Mass. Bay } Agents of sundry Towns & Districts belonging
to said State, & of State of New Hampshire

held at the house of Major Joseph Varnum in
Dorchester in the State of Mass. Bay on ^{on Tuesday} 26th day of
Nov^r. 1776. present for Londonderry J^r. Sand Fisher

For Billerica Capt. Josiah Bowers -
Dear - Davis
Mr. Isaac Foster

Hampstead } Sand Little
Benj Little Esq

Playston } M^r. Peter Clark

Atkinson } L^t. Enock Hays
N. Peabody -

Pelham } Dⁿ. Horn - Gibson
D^r. J. Masey
M^r. J. Royce

Dunstable } Capt. Toom^a. French
Capt. Noah Lowell
J^r. Joseph Ayers

Merrim^{sb} } Capt. Th^o. Barnes

Bedford } M^r. J^r. Goff

Dorchester } Sand Bay

Gofftown } L^t. Enock Sawyer

Hollis } Insign Ste^{ph}. Lane

Mason } J^r. Sam^l. Brown

Maby } J^r. Alex^r. McIntosh

N. Ypswich } Josiah Walton

Peterborough } Capt. J^r. Thomas Blum

Wilton } J^r. Martin

Lyndeborough } Capt. J^r. Stephenson

Mindze } W^r. Edward Sweet

Merrintown }
Bath
Londoff
Haverhill
Rennmant
Hanover
Lebanon
Plainfield
Joffery
Cordogan
Conant
Enfield
Cohasset
Lyme

W^r. Edward Sweet
M^r. J^r. Goff

Chelmsford } Oliver Baron Esq
Dⁿ. Chamberlain
M^r. Samuel Howard
Capt. Stevens
M^r. W^m. Pierce

Andover } Capt. Henry Ingalls
Capt. N. Abbot

Tracut } M^r. W^m. Hildrahe
M^r. Colburn
Ephraim Colburn
Abraham Colburn
Parker Varnum

Dunstable } Ebenezer Hancock Esq
Capt. Meriden Butterfield
M^r. J^r. Kendall

Fitchburg } M^r. Nath^l. Clarke
John Fitch

Westford } Capt. Amos Fletcher
Capt. Patrick Fletcher
M^r. Nath^l. Boynton
M^r. Rogers King

Ham Hill } M^r. Th^o. West
Dⁿ. J^r. Shepard

Methuen } Capt. John Rodwell
M^r. John Hays

1st voted & Choose Capt. In^o. Bodwell Chairman of this Convention
2^d voted that Nath^l. Peabody be Cl^{erk} of this Convention

3^d Whereas it hath been represented to this Convention that such is the Alarming Situation of our Public Affairs at this Time on account of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Exorbitant~~ ^{Exorbitant} prices, that are demanded & taken in Compensation for many of the Necessaries of Life, by which means our paper Currency is daily depreciating, in its Value, and the Honest Mechanic, & Labourer, very much distressed, by the Distortion of the Trade, & Farmers, ~~and~~ ^{Whereby many} good & valuable men ^{are} much discouraged from engaging in the Service of these States, to the Great Damage of ~~the~~ ^{the} Continental Army, upon which, ~~and~~ ^{under God, the future Safety, & well being, of these States very much depends} Therefore resolved That it is the opinion of this Convention that it is necessary ~~that~~ ^{there be} a Convention of the Committees, or agents, of all such Towns, & Districts, as shall upon having Notice thereof, see cause to attend, ~~be~~ ^{to be} held at this place on Tuesday ~~the~~ ^{the} 26th day of Nov^r. Current at Ten of ~~the~~ ^{the} Clock A.M. in order to take up business on any other matters under Consideration that may then be adjudged expedient

4th resolved that M^r. Fiddorke be desired, to give Notice to the Towns, or Committees, of Salisbury, Billerica, Bedford, Concord - Acton, Chelmsford, Woburn, Groton, & Dunstable - ~~and~~ ^{that} ~~that~~ ^{that} Dr. Sheppard be desired to Notify the Towns or Committees of Woburn, & Woodford - Lt. Moulton, Newbury, Newburyport, Almsbury & Salisbury - Capt. Warr, Dunstable, Hallis, Amherst, Wiltton, - Major, & Lyndeborough - ~~that~~ ^{that} Maj^r. Goff, Litchfield, Derryfield, & Wembles - Eps. Little - Chester, Sandown, Hawke, Kingstons, & Exeter - Capt. Bodwell - Andover - & Salem N. H. - ~~that~~ ^{that} Do^r. Mufsey Wingham & Nottingham - N. Peabody Newbury, Hensington, & South Hampton, - and ~~that~~ ^{that} M^r. Moore, Dunbarton, Weay, & New Wotton - that they may have opportunity to send agents to meet at the Time, place & for the purposes mentioned in resolve ~~of~~ ^{of} 3^d - resolved also that it be recommended to each member of this Convention to give Notice ^{of some proposed Conventions} ~~that~~ ^{to} all such other Towns & Districts as they may have opportunity therefor -

Ordered John Bodwell Chairman

voted that this Convention be adjourned to Tuesday ~~the~~ ^{the} 26th inst^{ant} at ten of ~~the~~ ^{the} Clock A.M. Then ~~met~~ ^{met} at this place - & adjourned accordingly - meet at the Time & place afo^r. & adjourned without day - ~~for~~ ^{for} order

Behn. Bodwell, Secy

Proceedings of the Convention at Dracut, in November, 1776.

At a Convention of the Committee
& agents of Sundry Towns & Districts
of the State of New Hampshire
held at the House of Maj. Jo: Varney in Dracut in
the State of N. Mass. Bay aforesaid. Tuesday the 5th day
Nov^r 1776. present

- 6 { W. William Hildesheim
Capt. Jm. Colburn
Mr. Saml. Colburn
Lt. Eph^m. Colburn
Mr. Joshua Varney
Mr. Abraham Colburn
- 1 { For Methuen —
Capt. Jm. Badwell
- 2 { For Haverhill —
Capt. Rich^d. Ayer
Lt. Jm. Sheppard
- 1 { For Londonderry
Dr. Saml. Fisher
- 3 { For Pelham
Dr. Wm. Gibson
Dr. Jm. Mufsey
Mr. Aron Wyman
- 2 { For Hampstead —
Saml. Little Esq
Lt. W^m. Moulton
- 1 { For Plaistow —
Mr. Peter Clement
- 2 { For Atkinson —
Capt. Tho^s. Rogers
Mr. Nathl. Seabury Esq
- 1 { For Bedford —
Majr. J. Goff
- 1 { For Goffstown —
Mr. James Moore
- 1 { For Merrimack
Capt. Tho^s. Barnes

Dies Mercurii Nov. 27th AD 1776 — The members met & the Convention
being open according to adjournment — it was moved that the list
of members be call'd of which being done — ^{a member or members from} and found every
Town & District present — —

A motion was made ^{& voted} that the proceedings of yesterday be read which being done —

~~It~~ it was moved that the two Committees Chosen yesterday to prepare draughts of a Petition be desired to make report upon which each Committee reported accordingly — and the said draughts ^{after} having been several Times respectfully read it was ~~so~~ ^{that} motioned that the draught ~~as~~ reported by ^{if} first Committee be again read in order for approbation — which being agreed & debated by paragraphs, it was approved, & is as follows

State of the Mass^a. Bay } To the Hon^{ble} Council & House of Representatives of
the State of the Mass^a. Bay s^{rs} in General Court
Assembled & held at Boston within & for said State.

The Petition of a Convention, of y^e Committee or Agents
of the several Towns, of Willerica, Chelmsford, Andover, Dunstable, Dracut,
Leedsbury, Weymouth, Haverhill, & Methuen in y^e State of y^e Mass^a bays
afors^d. Also of y^e Committee or Agents of y^e several Towns or districts of
Londonderry, Hampstead, Plaistow, Atkinson, Pelham, Dunstable, Melrose,
Woburn, Derryfield, Goffstown, Wallis, & Major, & New Ipswich,
Peterborough, Witley, Lyndeborough, & Nottingham Wests in the State of
New Hampshire, and also of M^r Edward J. Agent in behalf of a
Convention of y^e Committee of y^e several Towns of Windge, Morrilton,
Bath, Landaff, Haverhill, Piermont, Hanover, Lebanon, & Springfield,
Saffrey, Cardigan, Canaan, ^{in the State of New Hampshire at said} Exeter, & Lyme,
Held at the House of Maj^r Joseph Varnum in Dracut afors on Tuesday
November y^e 26th A.D. 1776

November 4. 1765. N. B. 1765

Humbly Sheweth, That Notwithstanding y^e Association and
Sundry Other resolves & recommendations of the ^{1st} Continental
American Congress, by the letter & spirit of which & their proceeding
in general we apprehend they intended that no unreasonable exor-
tage should be taken in y^e Purchase or sale, either of Foreign Commodities, the
produce of our Farms, or own manufactures, but that all should be sold
upon reasonable terms, and by their said Association did
agree, & expressly determine, that such as are vendors of Goods and
Merchandise should sell at the same rates they had been
respectively accustomed to do for Twelve months then last past,
many Affairs in y^e States of y^e A. together disregarding y^e A. S. proceedings
of Congress & the Deal of these United States from Mercenary or
wrong views have augmented the price of by far the greater
part of the Necessaries of Life to an enormous degree many
articles of which are more than double the usual price they
were respectively sold for before the Commencement of the

Reluct

Present unhappy War. That some persons have been so lost to all virtue & the love of their Country as to Engross the most necessary & saleable Articles, purchasing them at retail Price, & immediately by advancing upon that retail Price at least 60% Cent. thereby endeavouring to depreciate the value of our paper Currency — That the Soldier & other Not Concerned in this unrighteous Commerce are groaning under their burthens, & we fear cannot endure them much longer — That Great discontent & uneasiness, is already prevailing in many parts of these States on account of these detestable Practices — That we are greatly Alarmed lest Tumults disorders & even a disunion & backwardness, in, or defection from the common Cause of America, will appear in many places & difficulties arise in recruiting & supporting the American Army (upon the success of which under God we look for political salvation) unless some Method can be found out & speedily applied to relieve the oppressed & remedy those Evils — The State Consequences of which are too numerous to be inserted, & too obvious to need mentioning. — But not to trouble ^{this} Hon^{ble} Court with a long detail of our Grievances, & of probable Consequences of their continuance — which must be found facts so Notorious that the observation & experience of each day would make it needless to mention — Wherefore your Petitioners humbly Pray this Hon^{ble} Court to take the premises under Consideration and to enact such Laws & make such Provision & regulations, as in their sapientiation may speedily & effectually remedy the Evils of which we so justly complain, or otherwise relieve y^e Petitioners & others as in your wisdom & Prudence it shall seem good & the Petitioners as in duty bound shall ever

Pray & Sign by order & in behalf of
 of the Convention
 Jⁿ John Bowditch Chairman

upon a motion made & resolved That there be Two petitions made out agreeable to y^e above draught (reproving only for the necessary variations) the one directed to the General Court in the State of the Mass^{ch} Bay, & y^e other to The General Court of the State of New Hampshire — and that the Chairman sign the same in the name & behalf of this Convention — and that y^e Clerk of this Convention attend the same — in order that said petitions may be preferred to y^e Courts —

voted That Obed^t Baron, & Nath^l Peabody Esq^s be a Committee in behalf of this Convention to prefer the before mentioned Petition to the Hon^{ble} Gen^l Court of the State of the Mass^{ch} Bay & that they pursue the same so far as shall be reasonable in order to have the same Prayers thereof granted —

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voted That Deane and Fisher & W. Thos. West be a Committee in behalf of this Convention to prefer & prosecute mentioned Petitions to the Hon^{ble} Gen. Court of the State of New Hampshire & that they pursue the same so far as shall be reasonable, in order to obtain the prayer thereof

And that each of said ^{two last mentioned} Committees take the earliest opportunity to ~~publish~~ give Notice of the same they shall respectively meet with in their said undertakings

voted also that it shall be in the Power of y^e sd. Two last mentioned Committees, or y^e Major part thereof, jointly to Notify a meeting of the Committee or agents of the Towns & Districts now present & such others as shall upon having Notice ^{thereof} see Cause to join, to be held at this place at any future Time when they shall judge the same expedient

Resolved That this Convention be adjourned for one hour & adjourn accordingly ^{per} vote

P. M. Convention opened. Then returned the Consideration of the affair of Mr. Edward Jewett agent in behalf of several Towns in y^e back part of the State of New Hampshire and it was moved that the ~~Committee~~ Major Bancroft & others being the Committee appointed by this Convention yesterday to ^{take} the premises under Consideration be desired to make report upon the hearing of which reports & the said ^{requesting} ~~Committee~~ ^{Committee} account of affairs, the Convention express their opinion ^{thereof} as follows, viz. That ~~the~~ ^{Committee} having deliberated the matters of Grievance complained of by Mr. Jewett Agent in behalf of sixteen Towns in the back part of the State of New Hampshire, setting forth that many of those Towns are deprived of an equal & fair representation in the General Assembly of that State, [but ^{of consequence} ~~and consequently~~ ^{themselves} ~~unauthorized~~ ^{unauthorized} to give advice in matters of such a nature at this time] Can only in their several private Capacities say, that we applaud the vigilance of those Towns in endeavoring to procure a just fair & equal representation of all parts of the State to which they belong, and allowing no such representation of facts to be set, we do by no means become or disapprove of y^e Conduct of those Towns in that behalf so far as it has been made known to us — & then

voted That this Convention be adjourned without day & adjourn accordingly J. John Bowdell Ch^m

Attest Nath. Leabody Ch^m

Proceedings
of
Carthage
at
D.
Nov 1776