

necessary for the recovery and establishment of American Rights and Liberties, and for restoring harmony between Great-Britain and her Colonies.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Congress be given to the rev. Mr. Duché, for performing Divine Service agreeable to the desire of the Congress, and for his excellent prayer so well adapted to the present occasion.

Ordered, That Mr. Bland, Mr. Willing, and Mr. Sullivan, be a committee to wait upon Mr. Duché, and return the thanks of the Congress, agreeable to the above Resolution.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That the doors be kept shut during the time of business, and that the members consider themselves under the strongest obligations of honour to keep the proceedings secret, until the majority shall direct them to be made public.

Note.—All the members attended except those marked thus *.

A circular letter from the Agents William Bolland, Benjamin Franklin, and Arthur Lee, Esqrs. directed to the Speakers of several Assemblies, and sundry papers therein referred to, were laid before the Congress and read; the letter is as follows:

SIR,

London, Feb. 5, 1775.

OUR last letter informed you, that the King had declared his intentions of laying the Petition before his two Houses of Parliament. It has accordingly been laid before each House, but undistinguished among a variety of letters and other papers from America.

A motion made by Lord Chatham to withdraw the troops from Boston, as the first step towards a conciliating plan, was rejected; and the ministry have declared in both Houses the determination to

enforce