

the adjoining houses, and raged with incredible fury over that part of the town, till five o'clock next morning, when they partially subsided. At this time the fire had consumed ninety houses, two churches, and a large charity school. The fire was so violent that the poor people lost almost all their effects; and the little which they had been enabled to save from the flames by the most perilous exertions, had most inhumanly been stolen from them by some villains more bent upon rapine than in arresting the fury of the flames. The number of poor occasioned by this unfortunate accident was very great, the most part of the sufferers being tradesmen, and people who had already been burnt out in the last fire: Some persons imagined, that this misfortune was owing to the malice or carelessness of an Indian servant-girl.

As the American Revolution forms one of the most important æras in the history of this continent, and as its effects had the ultimate tendency of bringing the American Colonies into an immediate contact with Canada, both in a political and hostile capacity, we cannot forbear to enter into the history of the period; in so far as the latter country is interested, more, perhaps, than, strictly speaking, it is our duty; but, we hope, not beyond that anxious solicitude which must ever prevail with us while tracing those events which give interest or importance to any particular country or city:

It was on Monday the 5th of September, 1774, that the first general Congress was held at Philadelphia. The first public Act of the Congress was several Resolutions declaratory of the sentiments which they entertained relative to the treatment which they were then experiencing from the Mother Country. But of all the papers published by the American Congress, their Address to the French inhabitants of Canada discovered the most dextrous management, and the most able method of application to the temper and passions of the parties, whom they endeavoured to gain. They stated the right they had, upon their becoming English subjects, to the inestimable benefits of the English Constitution; that the right was further confirmed by the Royal proclamation in the year 1763, plighting the public faith for the full enjoyment of those advantages. They imputed to succeeding Ministers an audacious and cruel abuse of the royal authority, in withholding from them the fruition of the irrevocable rights, to which they were justly entitled. That as they had lived to see the unexpected time, when ministers of this flagitious temper had dared to violate the most sacred compacts and obligations; and as the Canadians, educated under another form of government, had artfully been kept from discovering the unspeakable worth of that, from which they were deprived, the Congress thought it their duty, from weighty reasons to explain to them some of its most important branches. After quoting passages on government from the Marquis Beccaria, and their countryman Montesquieu—stating those rights by which alone a people can be free and happy—reminding the Canadians that they were entitled to those rights—pretending to point out numberless deformities in the Quebec Act—and declaring that they did not require them to commence acts of hostility against the government of their common sovereign, they concluded by informing them, that the Congress had with universal pleasure, and by an unanimous vote, resolved, that they should con-