

1 We, his Majesty's most loyal subjects, the Delegates of the several colonies of New-Hampshire,
2 Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the
3 Three Lower counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North
4 Carolina, and South Carolina, deputed to represent them in a Continental Congress, held in the
5 City of Philadelphia, on the fifth day of September, 1774, Avowing our allegiance to his Majesty,
6 our affection and regard for our fellow-subjects in Great Britain and elsewhere, affected with the
7 deepest anxiety, and most alarming apprehensions at those grievances and distresses with
8 Which his Majesty's American Subjects are oppressed; and having taken under our most serious
9 deliberation the state of the whole continent, find that the present unhappy situation of our
10 affairs is occasioned by a ruinous system of colony administration, adopted by the British
11 Ministry about the year 1763, evidently calculated for enslaving these colonies, and, with
12 them, the British empire. In prosecution of which system, various acts of parliament have
13 been passed for raising Revenue in America, for depriving the American subjects, in many
14 instances, of the Constitutional Trial by Jury, exposing their lives to danger by directing a new
15 and illegal trial Beyond the seas for crimes alleged to have been committed in America;
16 and in prosecution of The same system several late, cruel, and oppressive Acts have been
17 passed respecting the Town of Boston and the Massachusetts-Bay, and also an act for
18 extending the province of Quebec, so as to border on the western frontiers of these colonies,
19 establishing an arbitrary government therein, and discouraging the settlement of British
20 subjects in that wide extended Country; thus, by the influence of civil principles and ancient
21 prejudices, to dispose the inhabitants to act with hostility against the free Protestant Colonies,
22 whenever a wicked ministry shall chuse to direct them.
23 To obtain redress of these grievances, which threaten destruction to the Lives, Liberty, and
24 Property of his Majesty's subjects in North-America, We are of the opinion that a Non-Importation,
25 Non-Consumption and Non-Exportation Agreement, faithfully adhered to, will prove the most

1 speedy, effectual, and peaceable measure; And, therefore, we do, for ourselves, and the
2 inhabitants of the several colonies whom we represent, firmly agree and associate, under the
3 sacred ties of Virtue, Honour and Love of our Country, as follows:

4 1. That from and after the first day of December next, we will not import into British America,
5 from Great-Britain or Ireland, any Goods, Wares, or Merchandise whatsoever, or from any other
6 place, any such Goods, Wares, or Merchandise, as shall have been exported from Great-Britain
7 or Ireland; nor will we, after that day, import any East-India tea from any part of the World; nor
8 any Molasses, Syrups, Paneles, Coffee, or Pimento, from the British Plantations or from
9 Dominica; nor wines from Madeira, or the Western Islands; nor Foreign Indigo.

10 2. We will neither import nor purchase any Slave imported after the first day of December next;
11 after which time we will wholly discontinue the slave trade, and will neither be concerned in it
12 ourselves, nor will we hire our vessels, nor sell our Commodities or Manufactures to those who
13 are concerned in it.

14 3. As a Non-Consumption Agreement, strictly adhered to, will be an effectual security for the
15 observation of the Non-Importation, we, as above, solemnly agree and associate, that from this
16 day we will not purchase or use any Tea, imported on account of the East-India Company, or
17 any on which a Duty bath been or shall be paid; and from and after the first day of March next
18 we will not purchase or use any East-India Tea whatever; nor will we, nor shall any person for
19 or under us, purchase or use any of those Goods, Wares, or Merchandises, we have agreed not to
20 import, which we shall know, or have cause to suspect, were imported after the first day of
21 December, except such as come under the rules and directions of the tenth Article hereafter
22 mentioned.

23 4. The earnest desire we have not to injure our fellow-subjects in Great-Britain, Ireland, or the
24 West-Indies, induces us to suspend a Non-Exportation, until the tenth day of September, 1775;
25 at which time, If the said Acts and parts of Acts of the British parliament herein after

1 mentioned, are not repealed, we will not, directly or indirectly, export any Merchandise or
2 Commodity whatsoever to Great-Britain, Ireland, or the West-Indies, except Rice to Europe.
3 5. Such as are merchants, and use the British and Irish Trade, will give orders as soon as
4 possible to their Factors, Agents and Correspondents, in Great-Britain and Ireland, not to ship
5 any Goods to them, on any pretence whatsoever, as they cannot be received in America; and if
6 any merchant, residing in Great-Britain or Ireland, shall directly or indirectly ship any Goods,
7 Wares or Merchandizes for America, in order to break the said Non-Importation Agreement, or in
8 any manner contravene the same, on such unworthy conduct being well attested, it ought to be
9 made public; and, on the same being so done we will not, from thenceforth, have any commercial
10 connexion with such Merchant.

11 6. That such as are Owners of vessels will give positive orders to their Captains, or Masters, not
12 to receive on board their vessels any Goods prohibited by the said Non-Importation Agreement,
13 on pain of immediate dismission from their service.

14 7. We will use our utmost endeavours to improve the breed of Sheep, and increase their number
15 to the greatest extent; and to that end, we will kill them as sparingly as may be, especially those
16 of the most profitable kind; nor will we export any to the West-Indies or elsewhere; and those of
17 us who are or may become overstocked with, or can conveniently spare any Sheep, will dispose
18 of them to our neighbours, especially to the poorer sort, on moderate terms.

19 8. We will, in our several stations, encourage Frugality, Economy, and Industry, and promote
20 Agriculture, Arts and the Manufactures of this country, especially that of Wool; and will
21 discountenance and discourage every species of extravagance and dissipation, especially all
22 horse-racing, and all kinds of games, cock fighting, exhibitions of plays, shews and other
23 expensive diversions and entertainments; and on the death of any relation or friend, none of
24 us, or any of our families will go into any further mourning-dress, than a black crepe or ribbon
25 on the arm or hat for gentlemen, and a black ribbon and necklace for ladies, and we will

1 discontinue the giving of gloves and scarves at funerals.

2 9. That such as are venders of Goods or Merchandizes will not take advantage of the scarcity of

3 Goods that may be occasioned by this Association, but will sell the same at the rates we have been

4 respectively accustomed to do, for twelve months last past. -And if any vender of Goods or

5 Merchandises shall sell such goods on higher terms, or shall, in any manner, or by any device

6 whatsoever, violate or depart from this Agreement, no person ought, nor will any of us deal with

7 any such person, or his or her Factor or Agent, at any time thereafter, for any commodity

8 whatever.

9 10. In case any Merchant, Trader, or other person, shall import any Goods or Merchandise, after

10 the first day of December, and before the first day of February next, the same ought forthwith,

11 at the election of the owner, to be either re-shipped or delivered up to the Committee of the

12 Country or Town wherein they shall be imported, to be stored at the risque of the importer,

13 until the Non-Importation Agreement shall cease, or be sold under the direction of the

14 Committee aforesaid; and in the last-mentioned case, the owner or owners of such Goods shall

15 be reimbursed out of the sales the first cost and charges, the profit, if any, to be applied

16 towards relieving and employing such poor inhabitants of the Town of Boston as are immediate

17 sufferers by the Boston Port-Bill; and a particular account of all Goods so returned, stored, or

18 sold to be inserted in the public papers; and if any Goods or Merchandizes shall be imported

19 after the said first day of February, the same ought forthwith to be sent back again, without

20 breaking any of the packages thereof.

21 11. That a Committee be chosen in every County, City, and Town, by those who are qualified to

22 vote for Representatives in the Legislature, whose business it shall be attentively to observe the

23 conduct of all persons touching this Association; and when it shall be made to appear to the

24 satisfaction of a majority of any such Committee, that any person within the limits of their

25 Appointment has violated this Association, that such majority do forthwith cause the truth

1 of the case to be published in the Gazette; to the end, that all such foes to the rights of British
2 America may be publicly known, and universally contemned as the enemies of American liberty;
3 and thenceforth we respectively will break off all dealings with him or her.

4 12. That the Committee of Correspondence, in the respective Colonies, do frequently inspect the
5 Entries of their Custom Houses, and inform each other, from time to time, of the true state
6 thereof, and of every other material circumstance that may occur relative to this Association.

7 13. That all Manufactures of this country be sold at reasonable prices, so that no undue advantage
8 be taken of a future scarcity of Goods.

9 14. And we do further agree and resolve that we will have no Trade, Commerce, Dealings or
10 Intercourse whatsoever, with any Colony or Province in North-America, which shall not accede
11 to, or which shall hereafter violate this Association, but will hold them as unworthy of the
12 rights of freemen, and as inimical to the liberties of their country.

13 And we do solemnly bind ourselves and our constituents, under the ties aforesaid, to adhere to
14 this Association, until such parts of the several Acts of Parliament passed since the close of the
15 last war, as impose or continue Duties on Tea, Wine, Molasses, Syrups Paneles, Coffee, Sugar,
16 Pimento, Indigo, Foreign Paper, Glass, and Painters' Colours, imported into America, and extend
17 the powers of the Admiralty Courts beyond their ancient limits,⁶ deprive the American subjects of
18 Trial by Jury, authorize the Judge's certificate to indemnify the prosecutor from damages that
19 he might otherwise be liable to from a trial by his peers, require oppressive security from a
20 claimant of Ships or Goods seized, before he shall be allowed to defend his property, are
21 repealed.-And until that part of the act of the 12 George III. ch. 24, entitled "An act for the better
22 securing his Majesty's Dock-yards Magazines, Ships, Ammunition, and Stores," by which any
23 persons charged with committing any of the offenses therein described, in America, may be
24 tried in any Shire or County within the Realm, is repealed-and until the Four Acts, passed in the
25 last session of parliament, viz. that for stopping the Port and blocking up the Harbour of Boston- that

1 for altering the Charter and Government of the Massachusetts-Bay -and that which is entitled "An
2 Act for the better Administration of Justice, &c." -and that "for extending the Limits of Quebec, &c." A
3 are repealed. And we recommend it to the Provincial Conventions, and to the Committees in the
4 respective Colonies, to establish such farther Regulations as they may think proper for carrying
5 into execution this Association.

6 The foregoing Association being determined upon by the Congress, was ordered to be subscribed
7 by the several Members thereof; and thereupon, we have hereunto set our respective names
8 accordingly.

9 IN CONGRESS, PHILADELPHIA, October 20, 1774

10 Signed, PEYTON RANDOLPH, President.

11 New Hampshire: Jno. Sullivan, Nathel. Folsom

12 Massachusetts Bay: Thomas Cushing, Saml. Adams, John Adams, Robt. Treat Paine

13 Rhode Island: Step. Hopkins, Sam: Ward

14 Connecticut: Elipht Dyer, Roger Sherman, Silas Deane

15 New York: Isaac Low, John Alsop, John Jay, Jas. Duane, Phil. Livingston, Wm. Floyd, Henry

16 Wisner, S: Boerum

17 New Jersey: J. Kinsey, Wil: Livingston, Stepn. Crane, Richd. Smith, John De Hart

18 Pennsylvania: Jos. Galloway, John Dickinson, Cha Humphreys, Thomas Mifflin, E. Biddle,

19 John Morton, Geo: Ross

20 The Lower Counties New Castle: Cæsar Rodney, Tho. M: Kean, Geo: Read

21 Maryland: Mat Tilghman, Ths. Johnson Junr., Wm. Paca, Samuel Chase.

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