

sent) was read, and he was informed by the Chairman that the Committee would hear any thing he had to say in Negation or Mitigation of said Offence; the said M^r Robert Gassaway acknowledged the Allegations to be substantially true, and offered nothing in Mitigation of the Charge.”

“The Committee then taking into Consideration the Charge exhibited and proved against M^r Robert Gassaway by his own Confession, and being of Opinion that his Offence is of a high and dangerous nature, and that his Behaviour tended as far as his Influence would extend, to disunite the Inhabitants of this Province in their present Opposition.”

“Resolved That the said Robert Gassaway be immediately sent to the Council of Safety at Annapolis under a Guard of four men, and that Cap^t Philip Smith and three men to be procured by him, be a Guard for that Purpose.”

“p^r Order John Hanson j^r Chairman ”

The following is the Charge exhibited against him.—

“On the twenty sixth Day of February One thousand seven hundred and seventy six, at a meeting of Capt. Valentine Creagar and Philip Smith’s Companies of Militia, the said Robert Gassaway when at Exercise as a private man in Cap^t Smith’s Company, stepped out of his Rank, and publicly and loudly declared before the aforesaid two Companies, and in the Presence of several other Spectators, that it was better for the Poor People to lay down their Arms, and pay the Duties and Taxes laid upon them by the King and Parliament, than to be brought into Slavery and to be commanded and ordered about as they were, he was asked who he meant had brought the People into [slavery, he said it] was a Parcel of great men. That at first, they destroyed the Tea at Boston, and then knowing they had done wrong, did not know what they should do to save themselves, therefore ordered all America to be brought under Arms, and say now my brave Boys fight away (clapping his Hand to his neck) for Fear their necks should be stretched, That this is as only done to save themselves, when they had done wrong, and were in Fear of suffering for it. M^r Gassaway was told, that this was only his own Opinion and that he had better keep it to himself. He Gassaway said he was satisfied he was right, and further said, the best way was for the People to lay down their Arms, and petition the Congress to petition the King and Parliament, and if the Congress would not do it, then the People ought to petition the King and Parliament themselves, letting them know that they had laid down their Arms; that this was the best Method of having a Reconciliation.

And further said that he wished the Eyes of the Multitude