

P. S. Order the Boat which will deliver you this to speak c. s. c. the Vessels on their Way down the Bay & let them know when to join you.

[Virginia Convention to Council.]

Virginia May 22<sup>d</sup> 1776.

I am honored with the Commands of the General convention of this colony to transmit you the inclosed resolutions, which they have thought it indispensably necessary to enter into at this important crisis; requesting you will communicate their contents to the convention of your County for their consideration. I have the Hon<sup>r</sup> to be Sir Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Servant  
Edm<sup>d</sup> Pendleton President

[Resolutions of Virginia Convention.]

Virginia. In Convention Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Present 112 Members: For as much as all the endeavours of the united colonies, by the most decent representations and petitions to the King and Parliament of Great Britain, to restore peace and security to America under the British Government, and a reunion with that people upon just and liberal terms, instead of a redress of Grievances have produced from an imperious & vindictive administration, increased insult, oppression, and a vigorous attempt to effect our total destruction. By a late act, all these colonies are declared to be in Rebellion, and out of the protection of the British Crown, our properties subjected to confiscation, our people when captivated, compelled to join in the murder and plunder of their relations and countrymen, and all former rapine and oppression of Americans declared legal and just. Fleets and armies are raised, and the aid of foreign troops engaged to assist these destructive purposes. The Kings representative in this colony hath not only withheld all the powers of Government from operating for our safety, but having retired on board an armed ship is carrying on a piratical and savage war against us, tempting our slaves, by every artifice to resort to him, and training and employing them against their masters. In this state of extreme danger, we have no alternative left but an abject submission to the will of those overbearing tyrants, or a total separation from the crown and Government of Great Britain, uniting & exerting the strength of all America for Defence, and forming alliances with foreign powers for commerce and aid in war, Wherefore, appealing to the searcher of hearts for the sincerity of former declarations, expressing