

men, and especially *Dickinson*, the author of the celebrated '*Farmer's Letters*', was decidedly of opinion that the measure was yet premature. He was the leading speaker in congress, in opposition to the Declaration. John Adams was the principle speaker in its support. The question was as to its expediency—When determined, none joined with more zeal in the pledge for its support, than those who had opposed its adoption.

On the 25th of June, 1776, we find the following entry recorded amongst the proceedings of congress:

"A declaration of the deputies of Pennsylvania met in provincial conference, was laid before congress, and read; expressing their willingness to concur in a vote of Congress, declaring the united colonies free and independent states."

On the 28th of June, we find recorded the instructions to the delegates of New Jersey, in the following words:

"Francis Hopkinson, Esq. one of the delegates of New Jersey, attended, and produced the credentials of their appointment, which was read as follows: viz:

*In Provincial Congress, New-Jersey, Burlington,  
June 21, 1776.*

The congress proceeded to the election of delegates to represent this colony in continental congress, when Richard Stockton, Abraham