

APPENDIX E.

[PAGE 56.]

THE following is a copy of these resolutions, probably from the pen of Dr. Cotton Tufts: —

TO JAMES HUMPHREY, ESQ.

Sir: We the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Weymouth are assembled together at a time when the voice of distress is heard not only from every part of this province but from the continent in general; the burdens we feel and the greater we fear force out our groans and lead us to lay before you the distresses of our hearts with whom we have intrusted our most important Interests. And we have the highest assurance from your past integrity that no exertion of your abilities will be wanting to effect the removal of these evils. When we consider the difficulties and encumbrances on trade and decay of it brought upon us by some late act of Parliament together with the load of debt under which the Province labors we behold poverty rushing in upon us like an Armed man; but when we take under consideration the Stamp Act, with all its consequences, we can see nothing but misery and ruin in the province resulting from the execution of it and a fatal wound to the trade and interests of our Mother Country. The King our father whom we have always esteemed and revered will forgive us if we do not consent to our own ruin. We will presume upon their clemency that they will not insist upon our destruction; and therefore we do recommend to you decently and steadily to oppose any measures in the General Court that shall interest the province in any concern with the Stamp Act, or stamp papers, either directly or indirectly by the payment of any charges that may have arisen on their account, or by giving any orders for, or consent to the distribution of said papers inasmuch as the house of Representatives has no warrant, orders, or authority so to do; and we presume upon it that the

house will not be so imprudent as to undertake a business "to which they have no appointment." They are deposited (as we are informed) in the castle "there to be defended with all the force of that fortress," and we imagine they need no other protection, and trust that no one will offer so high an insult on the King as to meddle with them in any shape. We take it for granted that no man on earth is perfect, and that no body of men can lay claim to infallibility, that so wise and great a body as the parliament of Great Britain is, have been mistaken that what has been may be again; that men have natural rights, that they have also rights as members of human Society, that to assert explain, & vindicate them, is but acting up to the character of men and of rational Beings. We do therefore instruct you, upon all occasions to assert & vindicate the rights and priviledges of free born British subjects and the rights and priviledges delivered to us by Charter from a King of Great Britain, acknowledged & consented to, really or virtually by the parliament thereof, and to use your best endeavor in the General Assembly to have these clearly stated and left upon the records of the province that posterity may know that we never did or could voluntarily Submit to Slavery & ruin. We cannot but complain of the hardships to which we are exposed by the enlargement of the Court of Admiralty an enlargement which takes from us one of the most essential rights of Englishmen, that is of being tried by Juries, those several acts afforementioned are so many tax acts by which money must be drawn from us and we suppose without our consent having no idea or the least remembrance of our having been represented in parliament and we really look upon these taxations, and the extraordinary power of the admiralty Judges as so many novelties that time itself will never reconcile us to, that they are subversive of the happiness and welfare of the province, destructive to the interests of the Mother country, that they not only involve in them the destruction of our particular rights and priviledges, but also strike at the very foundation of the English Constitution, in short if they are not repealed we fear such prejudices will arise in the minds of the people, and their affections to the Government at home be so weakened that it will be a very long time before the former can be removed, or the latter renewed.

If the Parliament of Great Britain which cannot be immediately acquainted with our abilities & necessities shall from time to time tax us and the province tax us at the same time from these two taxations great inequalities and injustice will arise, and consequently the end of Government be destroyed so that even allowing the parliament's right to tax us (which at present we are not convinced of) yet we imagine with submission to that august Body it would not be wisdom in 'em to execute it. We have ever supposed our charter the Greatest security that could be had in human affairs, this was the sentiments of our forefathers, they have told us they never should have left the land of their nativity and fled to these ends of the earth, triumphed over dangers, encountered difficulties innumerable, and suffered hardships unparaled but for the sake of securely enjoying civil and religious liberty and that the same might be transmitted safe to their posterity; they it is well known settled this country at the expense of their own blood and treasure. The country has risen, grown and been defended without any expense to the Government at home, till within a few years past, and besides defending ourselves we have several times saved some of his Majesties provinces from destruction; and once at least given peace to Europe. The profit of our labour has from time to time centered in Great Britain by which her riches, her revenues & inhabitants have increased mightily; we are (notwithstanding the assistance granted us in the last war) far from thinking that there is any just reason for laying such heavy burdens on us; and if it is necessary in this time of peace to raise a sum of money for the defence of our frontiers (it being said for our comfort) the money raised by the Stamp Act is to be applied partly to that end, we had much rather be at our proportionable expence of forever defending our frontiers than to comply with that Act, and in any Constitutional way, we shall ever be ready to contribute our utmost to the assistance of our mother country: —

We further instruct you to use your utmost endeavor to promote publick frugality to prevent any unconstitutional grants and any unaccustomed draughts upon the treasury of the publick money be only applied to the purposes to which it is from time to time appropriated.

Whilst with pleasure we behold a general sense of liberty and those essential Constitutional rights, freedom of speech and of the press now prevailing we do at the same time entertain a just abhorance to any violence committed upon any person or persons whatsoever. As to any other affairs we leave their management to your noted prudence and judgment in which we place the highest confidence.

[No. 2.]

WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

TOWN OF WEYMOUTH,

MASSACHUSETTS,

FROM 1622 TO 1884.

COMPILED BY

GILBERT NASH,

**RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MEMBER OF THE NEW
ENGLAND HISTORIC, GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, AND OF THE
WEBSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

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